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Sravana 17, 1917 (Saka)

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(Tenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, August 8, 1995/ Sravana 17, 1917 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Mid-Day Meal Scheme

+

*121. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States where facility of mid-day meal is being provided in the schools;

(b) whether the Union Government provide financial assistance to such schools every year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

[*English*]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) According to the information available, programmes of nutritional support to school children are under implementation in the State of Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal and UTs of Chandigarh, Daman and Diu, Delhi and Pondicherry. However, the coverage and modalities vary from state to state.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. However, a National Programme of Nutritional support to Primary Education has been formulated which would be implemented from August 15, 1995.

DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the programme of Mid-Day Meal is welcomed and appreciated by everybody. According to our experience in Gujarat where this scheme was implemented during the last few years we are spending one rupee per student. Out of this one rupee, sixty paise are spent for the maintenance and 40 paise are going to the students.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the schemes they are going to implement so that maximum benefit goes to the students.

KUMARI SELJA : Sir, under this new scheme that we are envisaging, we are going to provide in the next three years hot-cooked meal or pre-cooked meal to all the children in the primary schools all over the country. But we are giving a transitional

period of two years by which it will be operationalised as the local bodies want. But, at the moment, we propose that we will be giving at the rate of 100 grams of foodgrains per child to all the children in the primary schools and it will be in a phased manner.

Now, if you like, I can point what we are going to do this year. In 1995-96, we are going to cover about 2,368 Employment Assurance Schemes under the revamped PDS blocks and 40 low female literacy blocks in the State of Punjab and primary schools in notified urban slums in Goa, Delhi, Pondicherry and Chandigarh. In 1996-97, we are going to cover all the other local illiteracy blocks which comes to the figure of 2,005. By 1997-98, all the other primary schools in the country which numbered 828 blocks, and 3000 odd nagar palikas will be covered under the next three years.

DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL : My second supplementary is : After the bitter experience in Gujarat during BJP rule we have brought out a scheme where we are giving 10 kilogram grains per student and that was very successful. The strength of the students has also increased and there was no malpractice in that scheme. Will the hon. Minister think of this scheme also?

KUMARI SELJA : Sir, what we have envisaged is for the whole country. If any State wants to supplement this, it would be very welcome.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must also, at the very outset, welcome the scheme about which the hon. Minister has mentioned in her reply. Sometimes the best of the schemes initiated by the Government falter for the simple reason that the implementation at the grass-root level is defective. In this case, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether steps would be taken to involve the voluntary organisations and the Panchayats in the villages to see that the scheme really achieves the objective which the Prime Minister wants from the scheme, that is, to promote education and to check the drop-out rate from the schools.

KUMARI SELJA : Sir, actually, the objective of this scheme is to give boost to universalisation of primary education and to increase enrolment, retention and attendance in primary classes. It will also have an impact on the nutrition of the students. It is for this purpose that the Mid-day Meal scheme was envisaged by the Prime Minister and it is going to be launched soon, on the 15th of August.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : What about the involvement of voluntary organisations?

KUMARI SELJA : Definitely we shall envisage the involvement of voluntary organisations. It has its

element of flexibility and this nutritional support can be organised by the NGOs or the women's groups or any other local groups that the local bodies want.

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has not given state-wise details of expenditure. Therefore, I would like to know as to what amount has been spent on this scheme in Bihar state during the last two years and as to whether Bihar has been neglected in this regard?

KUMARI SELJA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stated that this scheme has not been launched by Central Government so far and the state, which I have mentioned, have themselves spent their own funds.

SHRI RATI LAL VARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government has received any report from the states, which have implemented this "Mid-Day Meal Scheme", about its failure and foodgrains being provided under this scheme are so substandard that most of the children do not like to eat it, as a result thereof it goes waste and children are not found present in the schools in the afternoon? If the Government has received any such report is it considering to launch any new scheme in place of the "Mid-Day Meal Scheme?"

KUMARI SELJA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have already said that various schemes are being launched by all the states but this will not be done in future. We have, therefore, involved local bodies, women groups and local educational institutions in this scheme so that such complaints are not received.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as has been stated by the hon. Member that the porridge which was provided to the children in primary schools earlier under this scheme, was not served in a proper manner and many scandals have come to light. Some children do not eat it and throw away such kind of meal. My question is whether it will be run smoothly under this new scheme?

The second thing which the hon. Minister has said is that this scheme will be handed over to private agencies. All of us know about functioning of private agencies very well-will the Government exercise control on these agencies?

KUMARI SELJA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Member that for the smooth functioning of this scheme, we have involved panchayats, women groups, village education committees, ward committees or Gram Sabhas on local level in this scheme so that no complaints are received.

[English]

That is why we want community participation in this programme to make it successful.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the other members said, I have also been a teacher for 20 years. There are some reasons behind the failure of this scheme. In several places a student has to take with him his utensil to school alongwith books and note books, to eat the mid-day-meal that is being provided under this scheme. I would, therefore, like to ask to hon. Minister as to whether the Govt. would make certain provisions for the children of down trodden, exploited classes and tribals under this new scheme so that they may avail themselves of special facilities. Although unanimity is there, yet would you like to provide any special facility to the children of Dalits, exploited and backward people studying in the schools located in villages, hill areas, Jhuggies and Jhopries and other such colonies?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It covers everybody. I do not think a reply is necessary.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is for all.

DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM : Respected Speaker Sir, our Government of Tamil Nadu have not only been implementing the mid-day meal scheme but also implementing a nutritious meal scheme for the past 20 years. I want to ask the hon. Minister through you, whether the funds will be provided to the State Government or the Centre will directly implement the scheme. The State Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing this scheme successfully by not only providing noon meal but also nutritious meal by providing egg and vitamin content foods. I want to know whether the Central Government will consider the demand of the Government of Tamil Nadu to give assistance as announced by the hon. Prime Minister of Rs. 6,000 crore for this scheme. According to the population ratio at least 10 per cent of the funds should be provided to the Tamil Nadu Government. I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you whether the Central Government will consider our Tamil Nadu Government's demand regarding this nutritious meal scheme.

KUMARI SELJA : Sir, the scheme, as planned, would be that we would be giving the grains from the F.C.I. We will be paying the F.C.I. directly, as I said, at the rate of 100 grams per day per child. The Central Government will also provide assistance for lifting these grains from the nearest FCI godown to the school and that will be at the rate of Rs.25 per quintal which is the standard. This is how we envisage it. We will also be paying labour charges for cooking the food and this will be done under our rural development schemes from the J.R.Y. and N.R.Y. and Urban Area programmes etc.

This is the way we are going to implement it from the Centre. If the State Government wants to provide anything additional they will do it on their own and this is going to be the uniform pattern all over the country which we are going to provide.

DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM : No, Sir. In the question it was asked whether the Union Government will provide financial assistance to such schools every year. It is not replied to.

MR. SPEAKER : In this fashion they are going to contribute towards mid-day meal scheme in all the States.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : Sir, can I just clarify? There would be a saving on the part of the State Government because we would be looking after the full cost of supply of foodgrains like rice or wheat and we will also be paying the transport cost as the hon. Deputy Minister has said at the rate of Rs. 25 per quintal. Later, when the transition is over and when cooked food is supplied, we will be paying labour charges also from one of the Central schemes. There will, therefore, be a saving. But it is our earnest appeal to the State Governments that whatever saving is made, rather than transfer it and allocate it to another Head, let them spend it on education. That will be our fervent appeal.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Hon. Speaker, Sir, actually this scheme of mid-day meal is very laudable and I must congratulate the Government for this. But, at the same time, I want to know from the hon. Minister who said that 100 grams of rice or wheat per child per day will be made available under this mid-day meal, whether they are going to include the preparation of rice and *dal* — *kichuri* — and I also want to know what is the calorific value a kid will get by getting one single meal.

KUMARI SELJA : Sir, right now we are only talking about foodgrains that will be supplied. This will be roughly for about 200 days in a year depending on the attendance of the children.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I am asking about the calorific value of *kichuri* wherein you will get much more calorific value than from rice and wheat alone.

MR. SPEAKER : This is a technical thing and the Minister can collect and pass on the details to the hon. Member.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, I can give a rough indication. As I said, when the transition period is over and when the local bodies have made the arrangement for cooked or pre-cooked food and normally learning from the experience of Gujarat the calorific value of a pre-cooked or cooked is approximately 350 to 450 calories per child.

Incidentally I may tell that Gujarat is spending, according to our information, Rs. 1.50 and not one rupees per child.

SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the State of Maharashtra, this Mid-day meal is provided in the form of boiled eggs and *sukhdi*. The eggs are procured from the cooperative societies and the *sukhdi* is obtained from women's informal groups which are below the poverty line. Now, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, while launching this scheme from the 15th of August, whether the Government would consider this Maharashtra pattern so that employment opportunity can be made available to many informal women's groups.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, it will be very difficult to make variations in an all India scheme.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this scheme is to be implemented after one week, i.e. from 15 August. Government has launched an scheme, named as Anganwadi, under I.C.D.S. Under this scheme children are provided meals items like gram, porridge etc. In this regard, complaints have been received that the children are not given their share and if they are given at all, it is in a very less quantity. The hon. Minister has studied status scheme but I would like to ask whether he has gone through the I.C.D.S. scheme also under which, in Anganwadi, children are given some help and if yes, will the Government try to implement this scheme after removing all the drawbacks in it?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think the questions are going off the tangent.

KUMARI SELJA : Yes, Sir.

World Bank Assistance for Earthquake Victims

*122. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has decided not to release fresh instalments for rehabilitation of the people affected by earthquake in Latur and Osmanabad districts of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total amount received in instalments from World Bank and the amount utilised so far; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to ensure expeditious utilisation of the instalments already received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) and (d). The World Bank loan assistance for the Maharashtra Earthquake Rehabilitation Project is in the nature of reimbursement of expenditure incurred by the State Government from its budgetary allocations. By June, 1995 the Government of Maharashtra has spent Rs. 193.49 crores and received reimbursement of Rs. 113.73 crores, which makes it clear that, already the utilisation is more than the instalment received.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in your constituency, earthquake with unprecedented intensity came during October, 1993 which was considered as the most devastating earthquake in the history of our country. Thousands of people were died in the earth quake and there was a loss of property worth thousands of millions of rupees. State Govt. had assured all kinds of help. The Central Govt. had also assured all kinds of help to rehabilitate the people but today the position is such that we have to build 25 thousand new houses in 52 villages out of which seven thousand houses have been built in 16 villages by voluntary organisations. Govt. has not built any house in any village so far. We have just come to know the condition of the World Bank that the amount to be given for help out of Rs. 1 crore and 86 thousand will be in the form of reimbursement. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to whether it will be right to let the World Bank put a condition and the same be accepted by the Central and State Government?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Are you asking for the opinion?

SHRI RAM NAIK : No, I am asking whether they have accepted it?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is correct.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Why the Central Government has accepted it? If the Govt. wants to rehabilitate the people on the basis of reimbursement, how many years it will take to build 25 thousand new housing units?

Because it was earlier stated here that the rehabilitation work would be completed within two years.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : It is correct that voluntary organisations had owned their responsibility and they have built seven thousand houses. State Governments are also building new housing units. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know that...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : I know quite a lot on this issue.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Administrative formalities take some time but voluntary organisations do not have to complete all such formalities. That is why some delay has been caused. But the taking up of construction has been on a very large scale. We have received information from the State Government that all the remaining housing units will be built within the target period of two years.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir you have said that you know quite lot but you cannot ask any questions here.

MR. SPEAKER : I can guide at least.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I think that no Member of that area of Marathwara is present to ask this question.....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is wrong. This is Politics. We should not do that.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : No, Sir, they also knew it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us not try to drive benefit out of a catastrophe.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : That is right and that time we had received foreign help on a very large scale. It was stated here that the Central Government has received more than Rs. one thousand crore approximately from foreign countries in the form of aid. My question is whether the Central Government has released that amount to the state Government so that this task could be accomplished at the earliest? How much was the amount actually received from foreign countries and how much of it has been given to the state Government so that this work may be completed within two years?

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Member has said that total amount of help, whether it has been received from foreign countries, from Government of India or it is in the form of budgetary support of the State Government itself, comes to Rs.1087 Crore and this much*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : That is World Bank's loan.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : No, I am saying 'total amount'. We have received Rs. 816 crore from World Bank, Rs. 130 crore from Govt. of Maharashtra, Rs. 5.5 crore from Govt of India and about Rs. 135 Crore from individual donors. We have to spend this amount

on rehabilitation work and we hope that we will be able to achieve all targets if the State Government does this job committedly and actively.

MR. SPEAKER : Will the Government transfer the entire amount to the State Government?

[English]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Yes Sir,

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : No, Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was as to why the money was not given?

MR. SPEAKER : Is the money to be given after it has been spent.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us understand that you spend and you get the money.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : No, I can understand that condition has been imposed by the World Bank.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before he asks another question, I would like to say that the World Bank team which visited India recently has submitted its report on 9th June from which I would like to read out the relevant para. According to them, the work was satisfactory and they also held a meeting with the Urban Development Ministry who is entrusted with the responsibility of rehabilitation. They say :

[English]

"The repair and strengthening of 210,000 houses by beneficiaries has got off to a good start after the first year, with about 30,000 houses currently under repair, reconstruction and strengthening. The current pace needs to be maintained and multiplied to meet the completion target of June 30, 1997. The re-allocation of 52 villages is progressing reasonably well."

That is how the things are going on. But I need more. You also need more efforts by the State Governments and whatever reimbursement is needed that will be made available.

[Translation]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, sir, it is said in reply that Government of Maharashtra has spent Rs. 193.49 crore and received reimbursement of Rs. 113.73 crore.

[Translation]

According to my information, the Government of Maharashtra has so far spent Rs.300 crore and

received Rs.164 crore only. Rs. 136 crore is still outstanding. According to the hon. Minister it is Rs.80 crores and according to my information it is Rs. 136 crore. What is the correct figure and what measures will the Government take to reimburse it soon.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may be the hon. Member is saying so on the basis of latest information available with him but according to the information received from the Government of Maharashtra Rs. 193 crore have been spent and we have no difficulty in reimbursing whatever amount has been spend.

[English]

SHRI MURLI DEORA : The hon. Minister has said that it was clear that the utilisation was more than the instalment received. The utilisation will always be more than the instalment received. The problem is that you are not utilising it very speedily. Sir, we went there and you yourself were there. We found that the work which is going on, whether it is the rehabilitation programme or the construction of houses, is very slow. On the other hand, as rightly stated by my friend, Shri Ram Naik, the work undertaken by the voluntary organisations, the private sector organisations like HDFC, Tatas, Wadias, Reliance, R.S.S., and that Hyderabad institution has been speedily over. The work of construction of shelters or houses by them is over. So, why is there delay in the work undertaken by the Government?

MR. SPEAKER : He has explained that it is because of tendering and other procedural things.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Several agencies like the Overseas Development Agency (ODA) had given funds for specific purposes; it is meant not only for construction of shelters but also for construction of hospitals, rehabilitation centres, welfare centres etc. What is the latest position so far as the Government is concerned? How these monies are being utilised? How much money is being utilised for housing, how much money is being utilised for rehabilitation and how much money is being utilised for other projects like hospitals etc.?

[Translation]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that voluntary organisations have done an excellent work. For this, we congratulate them. Besides housing, about Rs.298 crore have been spent in other sectors and the work is in progress. the infrastructure has been developed. Rs. 18 crore have been earmarked for economic rehabilitation, Rs.32 crore for social rehabilitation, Rs.30 crore for community rehabilitation and Rs.66 crore for technical assistance training and equipment. Hence, provision has been made for different sectors.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Has it been utilised?

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : The money can be utilised within two years if the State Government speeds up the work. We will convey your sentiments to the State Government.

MR. SPEAKER : Only sentiments?

[English]

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL : How much amount was sanctioned by the World Bank and how much amount has been utilised so far? I am told that about Rs. 1,200 crore were sanctioned while even Rs. 300 crore have not been spent. Why is there such delay in spending?

[Translation]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier, the World Bank has given a total of about Rs. 816 crore. Housing is the main component. The State Government has started work on it. It is true that there has been delay. The work was started one year late due to financial crunch and we hope that it will be completed in two years and the whole amount will be utilised.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : It has often been observed that the Government does the work on a slow pace. The people of Latur whose houses have not been constructed are putting up on the roads. In this connection, I obtained information from women's voluntary organisations working there. The hon. Minister gave reply to Ram Naik ji about how will the State Government work. Will the Central Government take some concrete steps to co-operate with the State Government in formulating a time bound programme so that the work is completed in two years?

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : The whole project has to be completed by June 1997. It is 1995 now. The State Government is doing the work. There has been some delay but the work has started. Besides Housing, the work has been taken up on other components. We hope that it will be completed well on time.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Some days ago, a meeting was held with the Urban Development Ministry and it was decided that there should be no delay. The World Bank is also in favour of spending the money speedily so that the people are benefited. Therefore, some new steps have to be taken for speeding up the work. They have said that they are doing the work. We also want the same. This is why we have talked to the Department of Urban development and asked them to expedite it in a proper manner.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : What is the Committee doing now? It is doing nothing. ATR will come up for discussion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Is it possible for the Government to discuss this matter with the State Government and try to see that it is expedited?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I will surely ask the Urban Development Authorities.

Capital Intensive Projects

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*123. DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM :
SHRI K. PRADHANI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have invited investors in their capital intensive and long gestation projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response received from the private investors and whether the Government consider it to be encouraging?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). With a sharp reduction in budgetary support for their development plans, the Railways have decided to undertake some of the works through investment by private sector under Build - Own - Lease - Transfer (BOLT) Scheme. In this Scheme, private entrepreneurs and financial institutions are invited to build/manufacture and lease the constructed asset to the Railways. Railways would pay, to the entrepreneurs, the lease charges for the asset, as mutually agreed upon, during the period of lease. On the expiry of the lease period, the asset is transferred to the Railways. Under the BOLT Scheme, entrepreneurs and financial institutions are selected after inviting open bids for the projects to be executed. Over 24 projects have been identified for taking up under BOLT Scheme.

Bids have been received for some of the projects and are under evaluation. The outcome will be known after finalisation of the same.

DR. (SHRIMATI) K. S. SOUNDARAM : Due to shortage of wagons in the Railways, a number of essential commodities like wheat, rice and coal etc. are not available freely in the market leading to price rise. I would like to know from the hon. Minister

through you whether top priority will be given for manufacturing wagons and, in this direction, whether the railways have given any permission till now to provide investors to start production of wagons and, if so, whether they have given any expected time of wagons coming out of the factories.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : So far as the wagon requirement is concerned, every one of us is also concerned and so far under this scheme of BOLT 4,000 wagons will be given to the private investors i.e., about 10,000 units and so far no bids have been invited. They will be invited and later as per the procedure, they will be processed.

DR. (SHRIMATI) K. S. SOUNDARAM : In his answer the hon. Minister has said that 24 projects would be taken up. I would like to know through you what are the 24 projects to be taken up and what is the development regarding actual execution. Since the underground Metro Railway involves huge investments and Railways are not able to take up this type of projects, why not the Government invite private investors like NRIs and others to provide underground Railway system in cities like Madras, Bombay and Delhi in order to avoid pollution and overcrowding in Metro Rails? I would also like to know from the hon. Minister the steps taken to attract investors for these projects.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : These 24 projects which have been identified are for gauge conversion, doubling, electrification and rolling stock. But so far as the suggestion of the hon. Member to take up the underground railways is concerned, that proposal has not yet been considered.

SHRI K. PRADHANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, tribal and backward areas are full of raw materials for many industries to come up. But the railway line being one of the main infrastructures for the construction of industries, they have not been able to come up. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government would consider to give railway line in backward and tribal areas on priority basis and under the BOLT Scheme, and invite investors from outside, the NRIs or any private sector people.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : So far as the backward and tribal areas are concerned, it is the concerted effort of the Government to see how best the infrastructure is developed. If you permit me, I will just reveal to the august House the schemes taken up at the moment and out of the schemes, the hon. Members will be able to come to the conclusion on which Railways actually the schemes have been taken up.

[Translation]

DR. SATYNARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the construction of Rail lines is very important for the country and its progress but it is being said that

this is not the opportune time for making provision for the new rails in the Railway budget. That is why new investors are being invited. Through you, I would like to say that there is no progress in the work of gauge conversion and dismantling of lines initiated at different places. In my constituency, the work is proposed to be undertaken at Ujjain, Agar, Jhalawar and Ramganj Mandi. The Ujjain-Agar narrow gauge line has already been dismantled. There is a long standing demand of completing this line as a broadgauge line and extending it from Ujjain to Kota. Through you, I would like to know the time schedule of completing such work and the new projects to be undertaken so that we may come to know on which lines the work will be started soon? The Government's policy will be clarified and people will be relieved if information in regard to these main projects is made available...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No. It is confined to the constituency. This question is disallowed. We take up Next Question.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to Universities and Colleges

*124. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :
SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise total grants-in-aid provided to Universities and Colleges during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) whether the grants-in-aid thus provided are adequate to meet the expenses of the Universities and Colleges; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to augment the grants-in-aid to the Universities and colleges and to ensure that the amount thus provided is properly utilised by them?

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Annexure is attached.

(b) and (c). The Central Universities are established by Acts of Parliament and their entire

maintenance and development expenditure is met by the Central Government through the UGC. State Universities are set up by Acts of State Legislatures and their maintenance and development expenditure is met by the respective State Governments. The UGC provides only development grants to the eligible State Universities and Colleges, in accordance with the prescribed norms, and that too only for a part of their requirements. It is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments/Agencies to provide reasonable level of plan and non-plan grants to the universities/colleges established by them. The UGC has liberalised the scale of plan assistance to the universities in the 8th Plan. The non-plan grants provided by the Government to the UGC have also been steadily increasing over the years.

Grants to the universities and colleges are provided by the UGC in suitable instalments depending on the progress of implementation of various projects/schemes, and after receipt of utilisation certificates and other documents relating to the grants paid to them earlier.

Annexure

Grants paid to Universities/Colleges during the year 1993-94

(Rs. in lakhs)		
Name of State	Universities	Colleges
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	2966.08	311.12
Delhi	7465.76	7305.98
Arunachal Pradesh	-	2.89
Assam	167.67	85.92
Bihar	924.89	96.49
Haryana	109.11	114.75
Gujarat	688.33	77.06
Goa	37.69	1.80
Himachal Pradesh	48.68	8.51
Jammu & Kashmir	78.80	4.73
Karnataka	707.33	161.09
Kerala	318.54	112.24
Manipur	52.84	10.21
Meghalaya	1687.12	7.95
Madhya Pradesh	414.74	380.77
Maharashtra	1047.65	384.32
Orissa	139.25	120.43
Punjab	484.10	113.11
Pondicherry	661.76	3.13
Rajasthan	418.56	137.16
Tamilnadu	1087.20	640.67

1	2	3
Tripura	11.54	2.52
Uttar Pradesh	14037.87	755.01
West Bengal	2490.86	177.85

Grants paid to Universities and Colleges during the year 1994-95

(Rs. in lakhs)		
Name of State	Universities	Colleges
Andhra Pradesh	2911.59	460.05
Delhi	5024.98	8172.83
Meghalaya	1653.10	-
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-
Assam	623.09	162.47
Bihar	1031.66	291.22
Haryana	232.43	231.82
Gujarat	926.68	92.45
Goa	59.21	29.62
Himachal Pradesh	102.13	55.20
Jammu & Kashmir	217.95	1.57
Karnataka	753.73	353.38
Kerala	387.63	167.00
Manipur	44.55	13.69
Madhya Pradesh	708.49	347.67
Maharashtra	989.71	637.67
Nagaland	90.05	-
Orissa	385.20	242.13
Punjab	486.24	222.38
Pondicherry	537.91	0.19
Rajasthan	263.19	250.13
Tamilnadu	1404.44	498.16
Tripura	29.48	1.61
Uttar Pradesh	15261.92	601.61
West Bengal	2703.56	362.36

Grants paid to Universities/Colleges during the year 1995-96 (upto 31st July, 1995)

(Rs. in Lakhs)		
Name of State	Universities	Colleges
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	920.59	65.57
Arunachal Pradesh	5.00	-
Assam	254.35	38.28
Bihar	269.58	99.74
Union Territory of Delhi	7391.06	3720.79
Haryana	8.73	22.35
Gujarat	148.02	33.60

1	2	3
Goa	6.27	-
Himachal Pradesh	5.50	9.09
Jammu & Kashmir	17.39	-
Karnataka	191.63	36.97
Kerala	26.71	30.78
Manipur	22.84	-
Meghalaya	708.75	-
Madhya Pradesh	208.47	30.41
Maharashtra	215.45	83.27
Orissa	29.87	32.19
Punjab	80.33	33.50
Rajasthan	115.00	20.29
Tamilnadu	250.04	42.20
Tripura	10.22	1.25
Uttar Pradesh	9402.06	126.66
West Bengal	905.48	52.62
Pondicherry	268.03	-
Nagaland	60.00	-

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN MISRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the grants-in-aid being made available to the colleges by the University Grants Commission since 1991-92 is inadequate whereas the expenses of these Colleges have doubled during the past three years. The Government is giving away grants to these colleges only as per the norms fixed in 1991-92. The educational environment/level of the colleges is falling due to this approach of the UGC and the shortage of teachers is hampering imparting of education properly. Some new curricula like Computer Course etc. are proving futile in the absence of grants because these colleges are in dire need of specialised teachers. Less number of students are being enrolled as compared to the last year. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether grants will be provided to the colleges as per their real requirement in 1995-96.

KUMARI SELJA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to explain it that the UGC is responsible for total funding of Central Universities with the help of grants. So far as other Universities and Colleges are concerned, they are funded under a different criteria.

[English]

The primary responsibility lies with the State Governments which have set them up. We give them these grants under section 12 (b) of the U.G.C. Act if the colleges are found eligible. But it is a mere nominal amount. It varies from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs.3 lakh or Rs. 1 lakh to Rs.5 lakh. so, actually I cannot really say that we can increase it very substantially. But as the hon.

Member knows, even the U.G.C and the Government are facing some kind of a financial crunch. So, all these things are reflected in these things.

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN MISRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chairman of UGC Shri Rama Reddy has expressed concern that the educational level of the colleges and the Universities will fall down if the Government does not give funds to the UGC. My submission is that this fall in the educational level will have its adverse effects on the country's development. Will the Government extend development grants as per their requirements to the colleges and universities in different states particularly in Uttar Pradesh which are pending in the grant-in-aid list and are recognised under the UGC Act 2(f) and 12(b)?

MR. SPEAKER : This has already been replied to. You may ask any other question.

KUMARI SELJA : I would like to clarify that Prof. Rama Reddy is no more the Chairman of UGC now. It is Shrimati Alwati Desai... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as hon. Seljaji said just now, the responsibility of funding the state universities lies on the respective State Governments. We are primarily responsible for the Central Universities and to some extent for the deemed universities. As regards his mention of economic resources we do feel that there is an economic resources crunch and it is our endeavour to augment these resources by mobilising more and more funds so that our universities are funded. In this connection, we have written a letter to the Ministry of Finance and demanded additional financial assistance to the tune about Rs. 110 crore under non-plan and Rs.120 crore under the plan expenditure. The first batch of supplementary has not been included in the supplementary Budget. I have decided once again to urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to do the needful.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when was the criterion for making available UGC Grants to the Colleges and Universities fixed and whether the Government will consider the revision of that criterion? Part 'B' of my question is that the UGC has enhanced the amount of grants to the Universities of Uttar Pradesh in 1994-95 as compared to that given in 1993-94 but the grants to the colleges were reduced. I would like to know why it was so?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, the criteria are reconsidered and amended as per the need of the hour by the UGC from time to time. As it is an ongoing process, the former criteria have been liberalised. Formerly, financial assistance was extended to the Universities for construction of

Library building, womens' hostel and for extension programmes etc. Now it is given on cent percent basis, whereas it was only on 75 per cent basis earlier. Besides in the 7th Plan period, grants were given on 50 percent basis for laboratories class rooms, mens' hostels etc. whereas 75 percent grant is given now. Every aspect of it is being reconsidered and it is a continuous process, as ideology and is subject to consideration and change. Besides, UGC grants have been given to the colleges to the tune of Rs. 121 crore in 1994-95 whereas only Rs. 110 crores were given in 1993-94.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the figures provided in the statement are different. According to the figures of the statement, Rs.755 lakhs were given in 1993-94 and only Rs.601 lakh were given in 1994-95 to the colleges and it depicts a reduction of Rs.155 lakh. I would like to know why was the amount reduced?

KUMARI SELJA : It is not a reduction. Allocation of funds is made for 5 years and funds are augmented as per the utilization by the college.

[English]

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA : Whatever enhanced allocation has been made to UGC this year is not for the existing colleges and universities, but it is in fact need by a number of newly set up Central universities. Recently a circular has been sent by UGC to various departments and faculties in the universities to find out ways of resource mobilisation for themselves. No doubt, some funds will be generated in this way but if the universities and colleges have to go around looking for funds from private sources, then what would happen is that industries would not be interested in basic research nor in the production of knowledge which has no immediate market use. As such, basic research and certain areas in the production of knowledge are going to suffer. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Ministry would consider enhancing resource allocation in areas where it is not likely that industries are going to invest.

MR. SPEAKER : You have again to explain what portion of the responsibility is borne by the State Government and by the Union Government.

KUMARI SELJA : Sir, as far as the States are concerned, in respect of the universities and colleges, from the whole UGC budget we gave about 40 per cent to the States for different purposes. As far as what the hon. Member has said about the new universities is concerned, amount for that is not really very substantial. It is about Rs. 30 crore ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA : I know that. It is not enough for the new universities even, on the other hand, there are no funds for the existing colleges even.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, may I just clarify that the guidelines and the recommendations have been sent to the universities to try and raise their own resources also. But, it is not as a substitute to what the Government's prime responsibility is. We are fully aware of this and we are fully committed to fulfilling our responsibilities. Whatever the universities are able to raise would be by way of additionality. Therefore, if you raise something for a particular project, it would not eat into already existing budget, which may be allocated for some other research programme. Earlier when any university or college raised funds from other sources, it was deducted from the budget allocation. This is now being clarified that this is no longer going to be deducted. This would be an additionality in addition to what the Government is giving. Not only that, we will match it with a hundred per cent extra grant equivalent to that amount, by the Government.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister said in his reply that the Government is responsible for giving full grants to the Central Universities alone and it has no responsibility for the colleges. But the UGC divided the colleges of the state in two categories during the seventies—the Affiliated and the constituent colleges.

The responsibility of the constituent colleges was taken by the UGC with the concept that it would improve the standard of education. 10-15 per cent of the total expenditure was thrust on the State Governments and the rest of the responsibility of the expenditure was shouldered by the UGC and it was said that it would soon increasing by 20 percent in each subsequent year. You have said that it is an on going process. Add a new point in the ongoing process but today on what basis you are talking about curtailing the grant being given to these constituent colleges.

KUMARI SELJA : It has not been curtailed.

[English]

I will certainly check up this point which the hon. Member has raised and we will clarify this.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : It is a fact that so many colleges which have received UGC grants for their building, for their library, for their science laboratories or for other purposes have not submitted utilisation certificates. Because of this reason, the second or the final instalment has not been released and therefore the project could not be completed. What is the guideline to submit the utilisation certificate? Is there any device to know whether the project has been completed or how far it has been completed and how much money would be released after that?

KUMARI SELJA : This is a very detailed question.

MR. SPEAKER : You can send a written reply.

KUMARI SELJA : Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has replied that the grant to the Universities will be increased and its proper utilisation would be ensured. I would like to know from the Government, through you, that the Kashi Hindu Vishwavidyalaya has been functioning for around 26 years on the basis of an ordinance. Whether a Bill regarding Kashi Hindu University will be presented in the Parliament so that the grant can be arranged for it and the mismanagement breeding over there can be checked.

[English]

KUMARI SELJA : I will need a separate notice for this question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Government through you if the Central universities are likely to be set up in the States, where these could not be set up till date; for example, Bihar is a backward state and the demand for the universities is going on there.

MR. SPEAKER : This question is regarding the UGC's grants.

[English]

DR. SUDHIR RAY : Less than 40 per cent of the colleges in India receive grants from the UGC. It is a fact that most of the colleges are of substandard nature or there is no standard at all and they are not receiving the grants. We urged upon the Chairman of the UGC many times to please set down some guidelines, so that there may not be mushroom growth of colleges and universities. I would like to ask to Minister whether the UGC would set certain guidelines, so that the mushroom growth of colleges and universities can be checked.

MR. SPEAKER : Does it really come out of this?

KUMARI SELJA : The State Universities are set up by the State legislatures.

Import/Export of Sugar

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*125. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN :

SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loss incurred as a result of import/export of Sugar during 1994-95 upto June, 1995;

(b) the names of the countries, the quantity of Sugar and the rate at which it was imported;

(c) the foreign exchange spent on it during the said period; and

(d) the action taken against the persons responsible for the loss incurred?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

In the financial year, 1994-95 and upto June, 1995, 9.77 lakh tonnes of sugar was imported. This became necessary to meet the shortfall in the 1993-94 sugar production season and the consequent less availability of supply under the Public Distribution System. The question of fixation of responsibility for the loss therefore, does not arise. The dollar value of import works out to \$ 37.93 crores. While the accounts are yet to be finalised, so far Rs.591 crores have been paid by way of subsidy to cover the differential between the cost of import and distribution on the one hand and the price realisation through the Public Distribution System on the other hand. The names of countries, the quantity of sugar and the rate at which the import was made, are given at Annexure.

As regards the export of sugar during the financial year 1994-95 and upto June, 1995 according to Indian Sugar and General Industry Export Import Corporation Ltd. (ISGIEIC) 19,336 tonnes of sugar has been exported to EEC and USA under preferential quota and no loss has been incurred on these export.

ANNEXURE

Names of the countries, the quantities of Sugar and the rate at which it was imported referred to in reply to part (b) of the question.

	Country	Quantity (MT)	Average rate (per metric tonne)
1	2	3	4
STC	Thailand	10,034	Rs.13,235 PMT/CIF
	Netherland	19,890	
	U.K.	11,091	
	Poland	13,557	US \$ 402.50 PMT/CIF
	France	13,000	US \$ 399.00 PMT/C&F
	USA	14,000	US \$ 396.00 PMT/C&F
	Brazil	3,89,113	US \$ 389.73 PMT/CIF/C&F
		4,70,685	

1	2	3	4
MMTC	Brazil	4,51,661	At a weighted average price of about US \$ 383.04 PMT Indian Ports.
	Turkey	14,000	
	Belgium	14,000	
	Columbia	14,000	
	Poland	11,600	
		5,05,261	

SHRI AJIT SINGH : I would like to make a clarification. In the first line of the Statement it says that in 1994-95 and up to June, 1995, 9.77 lakh tonnes of sugar was imported on Government account. Because the question relates to imports, sugar was also imported under the OGL the tune of around 10 lakh tonnes. But that has not been included in this figure.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has stated that due to less production, sugar has to be imported. I would like to know the reasons of lesser production and why it was not estimated in advance? Secondly, the country has suffered a loss worth crores of rupees due to the delay in the import of sugar. Who is responsible for it and what action has been taken against those found guilty for it?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Please repeat the first question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The reason why the production has gone down.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT SINGH : There are so many reasons for more or less production of sugar. It depends on the factors such as yield of sugarcane and whether the farmers are getting remunerative price or not. Otherwise they will not grow sugarcane next year. Irrigation also affects it much and monsoon also plays a vital role. Sometimes when more price is offered by jaggery industry, only then the sugarcane growing farmer sells his yield to it. As far as the question of delay is concerned report of Gyan Prakash Committee about it has come. CBI enquiry was conducted for the year 1989-90. It has been stated in it that there was no malafied intention in it and therefore, there is no need at all of taking any action. The committee had also given some suggestions so that there may not occur any problem in future. It also suggested as to how to monitor it and how the production of sugarcane can be estimated. We monitor the production of sugar. We have taken action

on the suggestions of the committee and some of the suggestions are under consideration.

SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN : How much the Government has earned through the export of sugar during 1994-95 and the target of sugar production of the Central Government for 1995-96?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Sugar has not been exported during 1994-95. Sugar was exported in the month of May and June, and on around 37-38 crore rupees were earned on account of it. It is expected that during the current year, the production of sugar will exceed the target by 143 lakh tonnes.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister hails from a sugarcane growing area. We have to import sugar every year. Whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that only 32 percent sugarcane out of the total production of sugarcane of Uttar Pradesh is supplied to sugar mills as per the Government data. If the production capacity of sugar mills is increased from 1200 to 800 tonnes to two and half to five thousand tonnes, then 75 percent sugarcane will be supplied to the sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh. Will the hon. Minister make such an arrangement in future so that the capacity of mills is increased and the mills get sugarcane directly, the production of sugar increases and we need not import sugar?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : The hon. Member is rightly stating that around 37 percent sugarcane is utilised for producing sugar in Uttar Pradesh. Last year 24 sugar mills were issued licences in Uttar Pradesh and licences have also been given to increase the capacity of existing mills. The hon. Member is talking about the mills, having the capacity of less than 2500 tonnes and most of which are very old and are either in public sector or in co-operative sector. We grant permission immediately to the proposals relating to increase of the capacity to 2500 tonnes.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has said that a loss of crores of rupees have been suffered and none is responsible for it. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the lacuna in sugar policy which proved it a loss making policy and how these could be removed so that there may not be any loss in future.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Since it is a commodity trading, therefore it is in a way a national loss. At that time it was the procurement price of sugar. Besides, the sugar was distributed under P.D.S. There is a difference in the import price and distribution price of sugar. In P.D.S. sugar is sold at a low price than the Government price. Therefore, the loss occurs.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that the percentage of jaggry output of old crushers is less but with the use of modern machines this percentage has increased. Uttar Pradesh had sought licences for

setting up 45 sugar mills and licences for 24 mills have since been given. Whether the licences for the remaining 21 mills will also be given so that the modern sugar mills could be set up? What is the policy of the Government in this regard? Why this policy of liberalisation is not implemented in case of the yield of the farmers? Mr. Speaker, Sir, their question is why it is not being made licence free?

MR. SPEAKER : It is a vital question and the cabinet will have to take a decision on it.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, either he should say no or he should say that the Cabinet will take a decision in this regard. My submission is that the licence system depends on the production of the farmers.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are so many arguments suggesting benefits of this liberalisation policy to the farmers and as you have said that it is a vital question and what is the opinion of the co-operative sugar mills. The farmers are involved in it and different people have different opinions on it. The Government is pondering over it. I would like to assure the hon. Members that the decision of the Government will safeguard the interests of the farmers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Prices of Foodgrains

*126. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry are favouring a cut of 25 per cent in the prices of foodgrains in the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) as compared to PDS Prices;

(b) whether the concerned Ministries are sharply divided over the issue of slashing foodgrains prices in the RPDS;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what would be the likely differential between the present Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of foodgrains and the RPDS prices?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (d). Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) with a reduction of Rs. 50/- per quintal in the Central Issue Price (CIP) of wheat, rice and coarse grain was started in 1992. Final decision to

change this differential of Rs. 50/- per quintal between Central Issue Price in Revamped Public Distribution System and Public Distribution System (PDS) blocks has not yet been taken.

National Gallery of Modern Art

*127. DR. G.L. KANAUJIA :
SHRI P. KUMARASAMY :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether priceless works of art including paintings of Tagore, Roerich, Raja Ravi Verma and Thomas Denial at the National Gallery of Modern Art, are facing slow death due to lack of infrastructural facilities for their proper preservation;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any measures for their preservation and restoration;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there are any guidelines for the loaning of these art works for exhibitions abroad and in India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Guidelines for Sending of Exhibition of Classical Indian Art Abroad

Reciprocity

It is customary for Museums of repute to exchange exhibitions, each side projecting the best objects of the country's cultural heritage. As far as possible the best of what represents our culture will be sent for exhibitions abroad.

The exchange of exhibitions should be, as far as possible, on the basis of reciprocity. Formal agreements will be entered into reflecting the terms and conditions including the time schedule of the exhibitions.

Art objects to be sent/Not to be sent abroad

(i) Objects which are very fragile or unique or too precious to part with even temporarily will not be sent. A compendium of such objects will be prepared by a committee of Experts and will be updated periodically.

- (ii) Works of art having religious sentiments will not be sent. Objects of worship will not be sent.
- (iii) Recently excavated works of art will be sent abroad only after they are after they are documented and exhibited in the country.
- (iv) Unframed paintings will not be sent.
- (v) Each object will be examined by an Expert Evaluation Committee which should take into account the conservation reports and advise whether or not specific objects should be sent abroad.
- (vi) If an object has been particular sought by the receiving country, it will be the endeavour to oblige to the extent possible, unless the object is so fragile or unfit for sending.
- (vii) The final decision in these matters will rest with the Government.

Committees for exhibitions abroad

- (i) An Expert Evaluation Committee will be constituted by Government including Director, National Museum, Director General, Archaeological Survey of India and some experts in the field.
- (ii) The Expert Evaluation Committee will examine each art object and also make an objective assessment of the insurance value.
- (iii) The Expert Evaluation Committee's evaluation of the objects to be exhibited should be objective and their recommendations will be respected. However, final decision on their recommendations will rest with the Government.
- (iv) The Conservation Committee will examine each art object from the conservation angle and its report will be submitted to the Expert Evaluation Committee.

Selection of the art objects for exhibitions abroad

- (i) The selection of art objects to be shown in an exhibition abroad should be made by the Director of the National Museum in India in consultation with experts or scholars as may be considered necessary. In making the selection, the wishes of the lending and recipient institutions should be kept in view.
- (ii) The handling, packing and despatching of the art objects will be the responsibility of

the technical and curatorial unit set up by the National Museum which could be augmented as may be considered necessary.

- (iii) With a view to minimise the movement of works of art the National Museum should select 3 to 4 good exhibitions which can be rotated as is being done by some other countries.
- (iv) Selection of art objects may be made as far as possible from the collections of the National Museum, Archaeological Survey of India and Central and State Museum under the administrative control of the respective Governments.
- (v) In the selection of gems and jewellery, the experts of the Reserve Bank of India and Intelligence Bureau may be associated.
- (vi) Negotiation for direct lending of art objects by Museum Directors should not be allowed. Director General, Archaeological Survey of India will exercise due caution under the Antiquities Act.

Security of the art objects

An exhaustive list of steps in regard to the security and despatch of art objects is observed and the same is placed at Annexure.

Responsibility of Indian Missions Abroad

Indian officials abroad should extend all facilities to the couriers in regard to transport, hotel accommodation etc.

The officials should scrupulously observe all the clauses of agreements governing the exhibition abroad.

The officials should abide by the views of the accompanying experts in so far as the safety of art objects is concerned.

Responsibility of Museum officials

While accepting the fact that despite extraordinary professional care, a work of art can still be damaged, each case of loss/damages to art objects will inquired into with a view to fix responsibility, if any, on the officials concerned.

ANNEXURE

Security of art objects

1. Great caution should be exercised by the National Museum and the leading museums and institutions in the country in the packing of the art objects.

2. The art objects which are being brought from different museums/institutions in India should be generally accompanied by two or three officials of the National Museum as well as Armed Guards.
 3. Armed Police guards will be divided in three groups/shifts for round-the-clock vigilance over the antiquities which are being packed and stored in the National Museum. In addition to Armed Guards strict vigilance will be exercised by the Chowkidars of the National Museum.
 4. The art objects should be packed in the National Museum in fully secured wooden boxes with all modern methods of packing including items like thermocole sheets quilts etc.
 5. Before packing each art object it should be cleaned and strengthened by the experts in the National Museum Laboratory. The condition report of each art object should also be prepared.
 6. Each art object should be photographed from different angles for proper record at each stage.
 7. Customs examinations should be arranged in the National Museum. The consignments of art objects should be taken to airport under escort of armed guards.
 8. The value of each art object should be assessed by the Expert and Evaluation Committee constituted by the Department of Culture.
 9. The art objects should be insured with insurance companies in New Delhi as advised by the Ministry of Law on a 'Wall to Wall' basis.
 10. An agreement format shall be prepared by the Department of Culture in consultation with the Ministry of Law and the National Museum should also take appropriate steps to get it signed by the museum concerned.
 11. No consignment of art objects shall be despatched before the agreement is signed by both the parties.
 12. Each consignment when transported abroad shall be accompanied by atleast one officer of the National Museum. They will be met at the destination by the representatives of the hoste country for safe transportation of the consignments from the airport to the museums.
 13. During the entire duration of a particular exhibition abroad one responsible officer shall be deputed by rotation for ensuring that the recipient Museum takes all steps necessary for the safety of the art objects and reporting to Director, National Museum any incidents requiring corrective action.
 14. All due precautions shall be taken by the recipient Museum when the art objects are repacked to brought to India after the exhibition is over. The official deputed from India will be responsible for over seeing this. The expert shall be invariably present to supervise packing and shipment.
 15. The art objects should be returned to respective Museums/Institutions after the exhibits are received back from the host countries.
 16. Art objects should be sent as far as possible through Air India flights to safeguards against any pilferage.
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- "Naturally Fallen Sandalwood"**
- *128. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA :
 PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :
- Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :
- (a) whether the State Governments are prohibited from auctioning naturally fallen Sandalwood Trees;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
 - (c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to rationalise the rules;
 - (d) whether there is a demand for allowing export of the naturally fallen Sandalwood, and;
 - (e) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?
- THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No, Sir.
- (b) and (c). Do not arise.
- (d) Yes, Sir.
- (e) Under the Export-Import Policy, 1992-97, the items of sandalwood in any form, but excluding fully finished handicrafts made out of sandalwood and machines finished sandalwood products is included in Part I of the Negative List of Export. The demand for allowing export of naturally fallen sandalwood is being examined against the background of this Policy.

[Translation]

Uniform Weight and Measurement

*129. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to introduce uniform weight and measures rule is under consideration of Government keeping in view interests of the consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c). The Central Government have framed Rules under the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976, which are uniformly applicable throughout the country.

Under the Standards of Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1985, however, some State Governments have not framed Rules although they were provided with copy of the model Rules, framed by the Central Government. The matter is being pursued with these States.

[English]

Production of Jute

*130. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the production and consumption of Jute in the country at present;

(b) whether production of Jute is decreasing;

(c) if so, the quantity of decrease registered in the production of Jute this year in comparison to the previous year and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are considering to give any special facility to Jute farmers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the production of Jute?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) The production and consumption of Jute during 1994-95 in the country is 82.72 lakh bales and 88.2 lakhs bales of 180 Kg. each respectively.

(b) and (c). The production of Jute is likely to be more during 1994-95 than the previous year (1993-94).

(d) to (f). Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Special Jute Development Programme with the twin objective of increasing the production and improving the quality of Jute on cent percent Central assistance. The programme is being implemented in 8 Jute/Mesta growing States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Meghalaya, Orissa, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Under the scheme, major components of assistance provided are distribution of seeds, implements, essential nutrients, Minikits, fungal culture, foliar spray of urea, demonstration, farmer's training.

[Translation]

Transportation of Coal

*131. SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI :
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether more wagons are required for achieving the target of transportation of the goods fixed in the budget for the year 1995-96;

(b) the number of wagons required for the transportation of Coal;

(c) the number of wagons as on June 30, 1995; and

(d) the details of the arrangement being made for the supply of wagons?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) The required number of wagons are being procured.

(b) The demands of all the sectors including coals are met from a common pool of wagons.

(c) The number of wagons as on 28.2.95 was 466,959 in 4 wheeler units.

(d) Apart from the planned procurement of wagons as required, the Railways have taken steps to improve the availability of wagons by intensive monitoring of the fleet, upgrading the pattern of train examination, improving maintenance practices, optimising efficiency at terminals, etc.

[English]

Foodgrains Stock

*132. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether with the recent spurt in international prices making Indian wheat competitive, global traders have set their eyes on the huge stocks available here;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of Wheat available for sale at present;

(c) the foreign firms that have approached the Government of India for the bulk purchase of Wheat;

(d) the stage at which the matter stands at present and the prices at which it is likely to be sold; and

(e) whether the Government have assessed the national requirement of foodgrains stock during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b). In April, 1995 the Government have fixed a ceiling of half a million tonnes of durum and 2.5 million tonnes of non-durum wheat for export during 1995-96.

(c) and (d). Various foreign firms are in touch with the Food Corporation of India for importing wheat from India. The FCI has not exported/sold for export any wheat so far.

(e) Yes, Sir. It is only after assessing the national requirement of foodgrains that the ceilings for export of wheat for 1995-96 have been fixed.

Financial Irregularities in IGNOU

*133. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the teaching and non-teaching staff of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) have alleged regarding the financial irregularities being committed by the authorities;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to probe the financial irregularities of IGNOU through CBI/Intelligence Agencies; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the complaints relate to alleged irregularities in maintenance of stock registers, wasteful expenditure on (i) printing, jobs (ii) in purchase of papers and (iii) in works undertaken by the CPWD, and unauthorised diversion of funds.

(c) and (d). The matter is under consideration.

Agricultural Research and Development

*134. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take steps to ensure greater Public Sector spending on Agricultural Research and Development so as to trigger rapid growth in productivity;

(b) whether the Government propose to allow private sector participation in Agricultural Research and Development; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c). Yes, Madam.

(i) Private sector has been actively involved in development of improved varieties of various crop plants.

(ii) Private sector is contributing substantially as far as seed industry is concerned.

(iii) Subsidy on micro irrigation has facilitated rapid expansion in drip and sprinkler manufacture and supply in the country.

(iv) Subsidy on small agricultural tractors has been allowed @ 30% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 30000 which promote sale of tractors by the private sector.

[Translation]

"Study on Air Pollution"

*135. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the outcome of the study undertaken recently by the National Environmental Engineering Institute (N.E.E.T.) regarding Air Pollution in the country;

(b) the percentage of increase in Air Pollution registered in Delhi and other Metro cities during 1993 and 1994;

(c) whether any monitoring is being done in Delhi regarding the study being undertaken on medical examination of the residents in context with the purity of ambient air and the effect thereof on the human health; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d). The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is routinely carrying out ambient air quality monitoring of critical pollutants in Delhi. A study earlier undertaken in Delhi the CPCB on "Ambient Air Quality Monitoring in relation to Human Health" in collaboration with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, concluded that most of the health effect were due to multiple factors and any single factor did not reflect a direct relationship with community health.

STATEMENT

According to NEERI, the annual averages in respect of sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and suspended particulate matter (SPM) for Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta, in micrograms per cubic meter and the percentage increase (+)/decrease (-) over the previous year are given below :

City	SO ₂			NO ₂			SPM		
	1993	94	% change	1993	94	% change	1993	94	% change
Delhi	20	40	+100	28	60	+114.3	494	589	+19.0
Bombay	24	33	+37.5	29	40	+37.9	269	204	-27.2
Calcutta	45	24	-47	45	20	-55.5	543	266	-51.01

[English]

World Bank Loan for Primary Education

*136. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has provided loan to India for the spread of Primary Education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the amount thus provided during 1994-95;

(c) details of the progress made in this regard, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that State Governments utilises the financial assistance properly?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The World Bank is providing a credit of approximately Rs.800 crores spread over seven years for implementing the District Primary Education Programme in 23 districts of six states namely Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. A similar credit of approximately Rs.728 crores is provided for implementation of Uttar Pradesh Basic Education Project covering 10 districts in Uttar Pradesh.

World Bank funds are made available on a reimbursement basis. Implementation of the District Primary Education Programme commenced only in December, 1994. Under the Uttar Pradesh Basic Education Project, Rs. 3839 crores has been reimbursed by the World Bank against 1994-95 expenditures.

The District Primary Education Programmes was launched in December, 1994. All arrangements are in place to monitor the programme. The programme has commenced well. Detailed financial and

administrative guidelines for the programme have been drawn up and circulated to all the states. periodic reviews of the Uttar Pradesh Basic Education Project have reported satisfactory progress in implementation.

Natural Calamities

*137. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several States have been hard hit by the recent heavy rains, cyclones and floods and a lot of damage to crops, human life and livestock etc. has caused thereby;

(b) whether the Union Government has sent any team of experts and officials to the affected States to assess the extent of damage caused;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the extent of damage reported by the team, State-wise;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to extend substantial assistance out of the National Calamity Fund to the State Governments for rendering relief in the affected areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) According to reports received from the State Governments, depressions in the Bay of Bengal in May and South-West Monsoon in June and July, 1995 have caused heavy rains and floods in varying degrees in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal.

(b) and (c). Government of India deputed Central teams to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Mizoram and Orissa to assess the situation caused by heavy rains

and floods during May, 1995. The teams have reported the following damage in the above states :-

S. No.	Items	Andhra Pradesh	Mizoram	Orissa
1.	No. of Districts affected	10	3	22
2.	No. of villages affected	*363	175	31796
3.	Cropped area affected (in lakh ha.)	3.20	1.50	1.98
4.	No. of Houses damaged	42665	3804	149542
5.	Human lives lost	26	41	45

* Mandals

(d) and (e). There is no decision, yet, for providing additional assistance to the States from the "National Funds for Calamity Relief" on the basis of the recommendations of the Central Teams.

[Translation]

Dry Farming Areas

*138. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether dry-farming areas are on the increase;

(b) if so, whether the Government have introduced National Catchment Area Development Project in these areas;

(c) if so, the amount spent under this project so far in Country; and

(d) the details of various measures adopted so far for the development of dry farming areas, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) The dry farming areas are not on the increase since the net un-irrigated area is decreasing over the years.

(b) to (d). This Ministry has not introduced National Catchment Area Development Project. However, in order to increase the moisture content of the soil, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA) has been introduced in 2497 Blocs in 25 States and 3 Union Territories. An amount of Rs. 571.54 crores has been utilised under the project upto March, 1995 since the commencement of the Project.

Measures have also been taken for the development of these areas on watershed development basis through Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development

Programme (DDP). The State-wise number of blocks and micro-watershed projects are contained in statement-I and II.

STATEMENT-I

Dry Farming Areas

No.	State/UTs	No. of Blocks	No. of Micro-watershed Projects
1.	Andhra Pradesh	94	94
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	3
3.	Assam	110	110
4.	Bihar	178	178
5.	Goa	4	4
6.	Gujarat	168	168
7.	Haryana	5	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	58	58
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	44	44
10.	Karnataka	85	85
11.	Kerala	114	114
12.	Madhya Pradesh	385	385
13.	Maharashtra	266	266
14.	Manipur	5	5
15.	Meghalaya	8	8
16.	Mizoram	20	20
17.	Nagaland	28	28
18.	Orissa	258	258
19.	Punjab	13	13
20.	Rajasthan	204	204
21.	Sikkim	12	12
22.	Tamil Nadu	88	88
23.	Tripura	17	17
24.	Uttar Pradesh	204	204
25.	West Bengal	119	119
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3	3
27.	Andman & Nicobar	4	4
28.	Daman & Diu	-	-
Total		2497	2497

STATEMENT-II

Dry Farming Areas

No.	State/UTs	No. of Blocks		No. of Microwatershed projects	
		DPAP	DDP	DPAP	DDP
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	94	16	527	96
2.	Bihar	121	-	449	-
3.	Gujarat	52	47	269	279

1	2	3	4	5	6
4. Haryana	-	44	-	107	
5. Himachal Pradesh	9	3	33	80	
6. Jammu & Kashmir	22	10	99	96	
7. Karnataka	80	22	453	130	
8. Madhya Pradesh	134	-	702	-	
9. Maharashtra	148	-	859	-	
10. Orissa	47	-	209	-	
11. Rajasthan	32	85	173	841	
12. Tamil Nadu	80	-	294	-	
13. Uttar Pradesh	91	-	397	-	
14. West Bengal	36	-	128	-	
Total	946	227	4592	1629	

[English]

Navodaya Vidyalayas

*139. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the monthly expenditure incurred on the Students of Navodaya Vidyalayas;

(b) whether this amount is sufficient to meet the requirements of the Students; and

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to increase this amount?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The expenditure incurred on a student in 1994-95 by the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti is Rs.4237.00. It does not include expenditure on furniture, equipment, salaries etc.

(b) and (c). The Samiti monitors the requirement and expenditure per student closely and revises them whenever necessary. The allocation per student for diet was last revised in July, 1995.

Capitation Fees

*140. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved Supreme Court's guidelines on the Capitation Fees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the Government would ensure the implementation of these guidelines by the States?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b). In pursuance of the Supreme Court Judgement of 4/2/93 for regulating admissions and fees in private professional unaided technical institutions. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Regulations have been issued on 26/5/94. According to the Regulations, 50% seats will be free seats and the remaining 50% seats will be payment seats. The admissions will be based on a common merit list. The tuition and other fees to be charged by a professional college will be determined by the State Level Committees.

(c) These Regulations provide that if a professional college contravenes any of the provisions of these regulations, the Council may consider appropriate and after making such enquiry as it may consider appropriate and after giving the professional college an opportunity of being heard.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to Cultural Organisations

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1180. SHRI N.J. RATHAVA* : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received from various Cultural Organisations of Gujarat and other States for financial assistance during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of such proposals approved or are under consideration, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have since released to the amount of assistance sought for;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which these grants are likely to be released?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Protection of Farmers

1181. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the measures being adopted by the Union Government to give protection to farmers from unstable prices of agricultural products;

(b) whether the farmers are getting full protection through these measures;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether the Government propose to take any other concrete measures in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The Government announces minimum support prices of major agricultural commodities each seasons and organises purchase operations through cooperative and public agencies. All the foodgrains and other agricultural commodities conforming to fair average quality specification offered for sale by farmers at minimum support prices and bought by the public procurement agencies. For this purpose a wide network of purchase centres is operated throughout the country. A Control Room is set up in the Ministry of Food and also at FCI's headquarters to monitor procurement operations. The Government also undertakes market intervention operations for horticultural commodities not covered under minimum support price scheme of the Government.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e). Do not arise.

Passenger Trains

1182. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to connect all the District Headquarters of the country by introducing passenger trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, all the District Headquarters in the country having rail heads are served by passenger carrying trains.

(c) Constraint of resources and lack of traffic justification.

Supply of Essential Commodities

1183. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether supply of essential commodities through Public Distribution System has collapsed in some of the Tribal areas of Andaman and Nicobar Island; and

(b) if so, the arrangements the Government propose to make to ensure the supply of essential commodities to these areas?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). Public Distribution System (PDS) is the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments/UT Administrations. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and bulk allocation of six key essential commodities distributed under PDS. The operational responsibility of implementing the PDS vests with the State Governments/UTs. The Government has not received any specific report of collapse of PDS in tribal areas from the UT Administration of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Two ITDP blocks in A&N Islands are already covered under Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) and are eligible for specially subsidised foodgrains. The Central Government has also been extending financial assistance to A&N Islands for construction of godowns and purchase of vans to improve the reach of the PDS commodities to the tribal areas.

Biography of Abul Kalam Azad

1184. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any biography of the herald of Indian Independence, Mohammad Abul Kalam Azad has been published by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to publish it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Stoppages of Express Trains in Kerala

1185. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of stoppages of Express trains provided at any of the Railway Stations in Kerala during 1994-95;

(b) whether representations have been received for more stoppages of Express trains in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) The following stoppages were provided during 1994-95 in Kerala :

1. 6349/6350 Mangalore-Trivandrum Parasuram Express at Kannapuram.
2. 6041/6042 Madras-Alleppey Express at Turavur.
3. 6305/6306 Nagercoil-Guruvayur Express at Turavur, Punnamm and Irinjalakuda.
4. 6303/6304 Ernakulam-Trivandrum Vanchinad Express at Chengannur.

(b) and (c). A number of representations for stoppages are received at different levels of Railway administrations which are duly examined and action as found feasible and justified is taken.

Frequency of Rajdhani Express

1186. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS :
SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the assurance to increase the frequency of Guwahati Rajdhani Express from 1.7.95 has not been implemented;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). The proposed increase in frequency of 2423/2424 New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express from weekly to tri-weekly from July'95 has been postponed due to certain operational constraints.

(c) As on as it becomes operationally feasible.

Construction of Stadium

1187. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANALOSE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for financial assistance for construction of stadium in Alleppey;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(c) the amount allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is not in the prescribed format and requires the endorsement of the State Government.

(c) Does not arise at present.

Ancient Idols

1188. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ancient stolen Idols which were recovered have been kept in different police stations in the country including Biharsharif Police Station in Nalanda District in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any plan to preserve all such recovered ancient Idols in the respective museum of the area concerned; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

The Police authorities, have to retain in their custody antiquities till such time the case remain in the Court of Law in order to produce the same as and when required by the court, as case property.

(b) Recovered antiquities are handed over to Archaeological Survey of India after the cases are finalised in the court. The ASI distributes and antiquities to appropriate Museums all over the country.

(c) The Police authorities, have handed over eleven idols to the ASI, and these have been preserved in Nalanda Museum.

Teak Plantation

1189. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total area covered under Teak Plantation in the country;

(b) whether Teak Stocks in the country are declining sharply; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to protect and increase the Teak Plantation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Social Forestry Projects in Bihar

1190. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Social Forestry projects launched in Bihar;

(b) whether foreign assistance has also been received for any of these projects; and

(c) if so, since when and the details thereof, project and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c). A Social forestry project was implemented in Bihar with the financial assistance from the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) from 1985-86 to 1991-92. The total expenditure on this project was Rs. 48.60 crores of which the assistance received from the Government of Sweden was approximately 70%.

Social Forestry in Gujarat

1191. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Social Forestry Project launched in Gujarat;

(b) whether foreign assistance has also been received for any of these projects; and

(c) if so, since when and the details thereof, project and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c). A Social Forestry Project entitled National Social Forestry Project was launched in Gujarat in 1985-86 with the assistance of the World Bank. This project was completed in March 1993. The total expenditure incurred on this project was Rs.203.66 crore and the financial assistance received from the World Bank was approximately 70% of the project expenditure. The total area covered was 9.72 lakh hectares.

[Translation]

Central State Farms in Bihar

1192. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area of land under Central State farms in Bihar;

(b) the area of land being utilized for production of the seeds of various foodgrains; and

(c) the quantity of seeds produced in these farms during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI), a public sector undertaking under the control of this Ministry, is not having any Central State Farm in Bihar.

(b) and (c). In view of the position indicated above, the question does not arise.

[English]

Indoor Stadium in Colleges

1193. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether grant for construction of indoor stadium was sanctioned to St. Peters college in Kolenchery in Ernakulam District of Kerala;

(b) if so, whether the amount has not been released so far; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). First instalment of Rs. 12.50 lakhs out of sanctioned grant of Rs.25.00 lakhs has been released in March, 1994. Second instalment of the same is to be released on submission of Utilisation Certificate/completion Certificate by the College to the University Grants Commission. These documents are still awaited.

Self-Sufficiency in Foodgrains

1194. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the foodgrains items in which the country has achieved self-sufficiency at present;

(b) whether any of those foodgrains is being exported now; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and annual export position of those items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The country has achieved self-sufficiency in foodgrains except in the case of pulses.

(b) and (c). A quantity of 468.70 thousand tonnes of Rice Basmati, 422.73 thousand tonnes of Rice

(other than Basmati), 59.50 thousand tonnes of Pulses, 58.21 thousand tonnes of Wheat and 68.60 thousand tonnes of other cereals is provisionally estimated to have been exported during 1994-95.

Technical Courses

1195. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the sanctioned capacity for admission of students to various technical degree courses, course-wise, State-wise and year-wise during the last three years alongwith percentage growth;

(b) the policy of the Government for developing, maintaining and upgrading technical standard for degree and post degree education in the country and details of action plan formulated, if any;

(c) the details of the proposal received, cleared and pending for permission to start technical degree courses State-wise during 1994-95 and status of pending proposals particularly for Maharashtra and Goa States;

(d) the projections regarding growth of technical graduation courses during the last three years, discipline wise and State-wise;

(e) whether the Government are planning to provide special assistance for the growth of technical education in the Backward regions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (f). The requisite information sought for is being obtained from the All India Council for Technical Education and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Extension of Singareni Express

1196. SHRI RAMCHANDRA GHANGARE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Wardha-Ballarpur-Kagaznagar day time passenger trains has been stopped to run beyond Ballarpur for the last one month causing great inconvenience and hardships to the passengers travelling between Ballarpur and Kagaznagar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and what alternate arrangements have been made for the travelling passengers between Ballarpur and Kagaznagar;

(c) whether there is any proposal to extend Singareni Express upto Kagaznagar; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). The run of 395/396 Wardha-Sirpur Kaghaznagar passenger has been curtailed on Balharshah-Sirpur Kaghaznagar section due to poor patronage and serious operational constraints.

(c) and (d). 323/324 Singareni Fast passenger is already running between Bhadrachalam Road and Sirpur Kaghaznagar.

Principals in Kendriya Vidyalayas

1197. SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of those candidates of reserved categories who have been selected as Principals of Kendriya Vidyalayas early this month through Direct Recruitment; and

(b) the details of vacancies available at the time of interviews for general and different categories of reserved sections?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b). As per information furnished by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, the details are as under :

Candidates of reserved category who have been selected as principals

SC	-	12
ST	-	Nil
OBC	-	25

Vacancies at the time of Interview

Gen	-	46
SC	-	14
ST	-	07
OBC	-	25

Social Forestry in Rajasthan

1198. SHRI KUNJEE LAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Social Forestry Projects started in Rajasthan;

(b) whether foreign assistance is also being received for any of these projects; and

(c) if so, since when and the details of such assistance, project and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c). Three forestry projects are under

implementation in Rajasthan with the assistance of the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan. The details are given in the attached Statement.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of the Project	Year of start up	Total cost in Rs. Cr.	External assistance	Assistance received till March 1995. (Rs. Crore)
1.	Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana	1990-91	107.50	85%	35.78
2.	Aravalli Hills Afforestation	1992-93	166.00	85%	58.97
3.	Rajasthan Forestry	1995-96	139.00	85%	Nil

Kumarghat-Agartala Railway Line

1199. SHRIMATI BIBHU KUMARI DEVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the stage at which the work on Kumarghat-Agartala Railway line in Tripura stands at present;

(b) whether survey report has been received by the Government;

(c) if so, the details of the report;

(d) whether any assessment has been made about the villages to be affected, land to be acquired and the families to be displaced in execution of the work; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to rehabilitate the affected families and to adequately compensate the loss suffered by the Villages and the landholders?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c). Final Location Survey report has been received from the Railway. On finalisation of survey results, it will be sent to Planning Commission for their approval.

(d) The land acquisition plans and papers with the details asked will be worked out after the work is sanctioned.

(e) The compensation will be paid as per the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act.

[Translation]

Railway Stations

1200. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Railway Stations in Madhya Pradesh where the sanitation responsibility has been handed over to the private parties and the terms and conditions thereof;

(b) the action taken for rehabilitation of the lower category staff of Railways who have become surplus due to handing over the said work to the private parties; and

(c) the scheme formulated by this Ministry for entrusting this job to private sector in ensuing year?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). The work relating to cleanliness and sanitation only at Raipur station in Madhya Pradesh has been given to a private party on 22.1.1993 after calling for open tenders. 18 safaiwalas who were rendered surplus have been suitably redeployed by the railway. The agreement was for a period of one year and renewed from year to year. The Railway reserves the right of terminating the contract without assigning any reason by giving seven days' notice followed by 48 hours' notice. contractor provides adequate number of adult labourers with materials, equipment, disinfectants, etc. required for cleanliness at his own cost for performing the cleaning and upkeeping of the station complex including the station building, yard and attached offices of Raipur station. The contractor is under obligation to increase the number of labourers on the demand of the Railway Administration for maintaining the level of cleanliness at a satisfactory level. The contractor has to indemnify to Railways Administration for and against all claims and penalties which the Railway Administration may suffer for any work done by a person employed by the contractor or for any default on the part of the contractor, etc.

(c) There is no such scheme at present.

Warehouse Scheme

1201. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken by the National Cooperative Development Corporation for intensive

implementation of the Warehouse Scheme for Agriculture Cooperative Institutions in Purnia (Bihar); and

(b) the time by which the aforesaid scheme is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) is implementing a project entitled the Rural Growth Centres in Bihar with assistance from the European Economic Community (EEC). This scheme covers 26 districts of Bihar which includes the district of Purnia also. Under this scheme, the Corporation has approved a programme for construction of 74 godowns of 100 Mt. capacity each in the above said district. 34 godowns have been completed and the remaining are in various stages of implementation.

(b) The scheme is for a period of 8 years and will end in March, 96.

[English]

National Sugar Institute, Kanpur

1202. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Sugar Institute, Kanpur had conducted visits to the various Sugar Mills in the country and published Research Papers on Sugar industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to implement the suggestion of this Institute to boost the Sugar production?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b). In the last 5 years (1990-91 to 1994-95), 365 visits have been paid by the Institute's Officers to various sugar factories and allied industries for rendering advice on the different problems faced by the factories and 45 visits have been paid to sugar factories on co-ordinated research basis for study purposes. During the same period, 65 research papers have been published on sugar industries in various national/international journals.

(c) All the suggestions given by National Sugar Institute, Kanpur are aimed at improving the efficiency and enhancement of sugar production by the factories. These recommendations and suggestions are given to the factories in the form of reports on advisory basis. The implementation thereof is the responsibility of sugar factories concerned.

Stoppage at New Cooch Behar

1203. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide stoppage of New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express at New Cooch Behar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Lack of traffic justification and operational constraints.

Cultivation of Jojoba

1204. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area of land in desert areas of Rajasthan which have been brought under Jojoba Cultivations;

(b) the amount of the Central assistance sanctioned and released to grow Jojoba in these areas; and

(c) the details of the other agricultural developmental schemes proposed to be implemented by the Government in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) As per information received from the State Government of Rajasthan, the area under Jojoba Cultivation is as under :

1992-93	30.6 hectares
1993-94	71.8 hectares
1994-95	34.4 hectares

(b) Rs. 1.82 lakhs and Rs.300 lakhs were sanctioned in 1993-94 and 1994-95 by the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board under this Ministry to promote Jojoba Cultivations in Rajasthan, however, the State Government did not implement these programmes and no funds were released.

(c) The NOVOD Board has approved programmes for collection of seeds of tree borne oilseeds and plantation programmes for agricultural development of desert areas of Rajasthan during 1995-96 at a total cost of Rs. 49.20 lakhs. The Department of Wasteland Development has proposed to bring about 100 ha. under Jojoba cultivation in a period of 5 years commencing from 1995-96.

Saffron Cultivation

1205. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the saffron cultivation in the country which has a great export potential and medicinal

value and properties and is only grown at some specific areas in Kashmir Valley and Kishtawar in Jammu, has suffered a set back during the last 5-6 years due to militancy in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the area under cultivation, production therefrom, the quantity exported the foreign exchanges earned thereby from 1990 to 1994, year-wise;

(c) whether the price of Kashmiri Saffron has registered an abnormal spur in the internal as well as international market in the recent months;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Kashmiri saffron is having better international market than its only competitor, the Iranian Saffron;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether there is any proposal for conducting research by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research or any other Agricultural University for cultivation of Saffron at places in Himalayan Regions and cool places in U.P. etc. for experimenting with the cultivation of saffron; and

(h) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (h). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Railway Line

1206. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the Rail Route per thousand square kilometre in the Maharashtra State at present;

(b) whether it is adequate;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the Rail Route during the remaining period of the Eighth Five Year Plan in the State?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (d). The rail route kms. of area as on 31.3.94 in Maharashtra was 17.74, which is near to All India average of 19.0.

The following lines are under construction/consideration in Maharashtra State, which when completed, will increase the rail routes in the State:

1. Konkan Railway line
(382 kms. in Maharashtra)
2. Amravati-Narkhed
3. Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vaijnath

4. Jalna-Khamgaon

5. Belapur-Panvel

[English]

Devastation of Forests

1207. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Gypsy borne marauders hold sway in Terai" appearing in the Indian Express, dated June 25, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware of the large scale depredation on wildlife and devastation caused to the forests in Terai region of Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the effective steps taken by the Union and State Governments to protect the ecology of the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The U.P. Forest Department has reported that there is no large scale depredation of wildlife in Terai region. However, sporadic cases of poaching of wild animals have been reported on which action is taken under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(d) On receiving reports about several cases of poaching of wild animals in western Uttar Pradesh, the Central Government took up the matter with the State Govt. to ensure that effective protection is provided to the wildlife and forests to control poaching incidents. The State Govt. have informed that they have identified 17 sensitive forest divisions in th Terai region where the staff have been provided with vehicles for better mobility, wireless sets for better communication and equipped with arms and ammunition. A Forest Protection Force has also been created and deployed for intensive patrolling in the forest areas of these divisions to guard against the cases of poaching and illegal tree felling.

Box Wagons and Box 'N' Wagon

1208. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of BOX wagon and BOX 'N' wagons with the Indian Railways, separately;

(b) the codal life of BOX wagon /BOX 'N' wagon;

(c) whether there is any scheduled programme for the rebuilding of above wagons;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of above wagons rebuilt in mid life during the last three years and the number of wagons due for rebuilding?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Total number of BOX and BOX 'N' wagons on Indian Railways as on 1.3.1995:

Box Wagons	Box 'N' Wagons
37014	42571

(b) 35 years each.

(c) Only BOX wagons are planned for re-building.

(d) BOX wagons are taken up for rebuilding based on need and condition. During 94-95, 900 BOX wagons were rebuilt and during 95-96, 1080 BOX wagons are planned to be taken up for rebuilding.

(e) The number of BOX wagons rebuilt based on condition and age for the last three years are as below :-

92-93	93-94	94-95
194	755	900

Since rebuilding activity of wagons is undertaken on condition and need basis, it is not possible to precisely state number of wagons due for rebuilding.

[Translation]

Edible Oils

1209. DR. P.R. GANGWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start the sale of edible oils in the pouch packing; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor particularly when pouched oil will be costlier to the loose oil in the market?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). Central Government is supplying imported edible oil to States/UTs for the Public Distribution System in bulk and in 15 kg. tins at fixed Central Issue Price. States desirous of getting the oil packed in small punches for distribution under PDS are arranging for the same through Government/private agencies.

Deaths due to Heat Wave

1210. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY :

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether heat wave claimed thousands of human lives in India this year;

(b) if so, the total toll of life claimed by heat wave this year and the comparative figures for the preceding two years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have provided any financial assistance to the affected families;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to avert and prevent heat wave deaths by the Central and the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b). Statistical information about heat wave deaths in various States is not compiled by the Government of India. However, there is no reasons to believe that heat wave claimed thousands of human lives in India this year.

(c) and (d). The State Governments provide exgratia relief to the families of the deceased in case of death as a result of natural calamity, using the corpus of the Calamity Relief Fund, 75% of which is contributed by the Government of India.

(e) Heat wave deaths are not a very widespread occurrence and are caused mainly due to exposure to extreme heat conditions during summer months. The population is advised to avoid exposure and prevent dehydration during that period. Public hospitals and primary health centres are equipped to treat cases of illness due to heat stroke.

Jamrani Dam

1211. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received Jamrani Dam Project in Nainital, UP for environment and forest clearance;

(b) if so, whether the Government have accorded clearance to this project;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Jamrani Dam Project was rejected from the environmental angle in December, 1992 due to non submission of requisite date and environmental plan. The proposal for diversion of 368.39 ha. of forest land in Nainital district was also rejected from the forestry angle in August, 1994.

(d) Does not arise.

Mahila Samridhhi Yojana

+

1212. SHRI N.K. BALIYAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether women belonging to rural areas are not getting benefits of "Mahila Samridhhi Yojana" due to lack of awareness about the Scheme;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to launch any special drive to make people fully aware of the Scheme;

(c) whether there is also a proposal to open separate counters for this purpose in the post-offices located in the rural area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) As part of the scheme, awareness generation campaigns are taken on a continuous basis. Audio/Video spots/films on MSY have been prepared and disseminated including that on Doordarshan. Posters, brochures, pamphlets and folders on MSY have been printed in all the languages and distributed upto the Post Office level. Handbills and wall hangers with MSY messages are also being printed. A budget of Rs. 1.00 crores and Rs. 2.00 crore has been provided during 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively for this purpose.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

[English]

Amendment in the Acts

1213. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Commission for Women has recommended for amendments in the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Laws relating to women are dealt with in different Ministries and Departments depending upon the allocation of subjects. Review of laws is a continuous process. The National Commission for

Women has a mandate to examine various laws relating to women which provide constitutional and legal safeguards to them. The Commission's recommendations are sent to the appropriate Departments/Ministries. The Department of Women & Child Development is reviewing both legislations i.e. the Dowry (Prohibition) Act, 1961, the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987, in consultation with associated Departments/Ministries.

Sugar Muddle

1214. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any action against the persons found responsible for sugar muddle in the country during 1989 and 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to file criminal cases against such persons; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) :
(a) to (d). On the basis of the enquiries conducted by the CBI on the sugar imports in 1989 and by the Gian Prakash Committee on the sugar shortage during 1994, there is no proposal to file criminal cases against any person in this regard.

Anganwadi Workers

1215. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to form a welfare fund for the Anganwadi workers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI) :
(a). No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Vocational Training Centres

1216. SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have implemented any scheme to set up vocational training centres with a view to provide alternative employment to the Educated Unemployed Youths belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, whether sanction granted by the Union Government for opening vocational training centres in Madhya Pradesh is adequate enough to meet the requirement of the existing population of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the State;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government propose to open such training centres in the Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education since February 1988 with the objective of imparting employable skills to students, through need based vocational courses. These courses are offered at the +2 level in schools and are open to all including Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribe students.

(c) to (d). Based on the proposals received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh, so far 1112 vocational sections have been sanctioned in 390 schools under the Scheme.

[English]

Import of Spices

1217. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of spices imported during 1994-95, items-wise; and

(b) the total amount of foreign exchange spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) A total quantity of 20906384 Kgs. (Provisional) of spices was imported during the Year 1994-95. (The item-wise figures have not yet been compiled by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Ministry of Commerce, Calcutta).

(b) A total amount of US \$17.63 million (conversion rate of US \$ 1 = Rs. 31.3986) was spent thereon.

Import of Coconut Oil

1218. SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coconut Oil has been imported;

(b) if so, the quantity imported during the current financial year;

(c) the reasons for such import; and

(d) the impact on the coconut growers due to the import of Coconut Oil?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The import of coconut oil is not permitted under Open General Licence.

(c) and (d). Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Anganwadi Programmes in Bihar

1219. SHRI SIMON MARANDI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the Anganwadi centres being run in tribal dominated areas of Jharkhand region in Bihar and the details of the expenditure incurred on these centres, during the current year;

(b) whether any complaints have been received by the Government in regard to the working of these centres and misuse of funds allocated under the programme in this area;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the the findings thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI) : (a) As on date, 7570 anganwadi centres are functioning in 88 tribal Blocks of Jharkhand Region in Bihar. During the current year i.e. during April-July 1995, an amount of Rs. 2.33 crores has been spent on running these anganwadi centres. In addition, 26,961 bags of Corn Soya Blend and 4,521 bails of oil have been utilised in these centres for providing supplementary nutrition.

(b) and (c). While no complaints have been received regarding misuse of funds, the State Government had received two specific complaints on misuse of food commodities meant for supplementary nutrition. These two complaints pertained to misuse of Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE) food commodities in Chandil Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) project and Adityapur ICDS Project.

(d) On the complaints regarding Chandil ICDS project, an on the spot enquiry was conducted by Director, Social Welfare, Bihar. The complaint in

Adityapur ICDS project was followed by a joint raid by the Block Development Officer (BDO), Gamharria and the local police.

(e) For misuse of CARE food commodities in Chandil Project, action has been initiated against the delinquents on the report of the Director, Social Welfare, Bihar and in case of Adityapur Project, action is being taken against the Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) and the concerned staff, an F.I.R. has also been lodged.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Carrying of Iodised Salt by Railways

1220. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Carrying Iodine Railways Way" published in 'The Times of India', dated July 15, 1995;

(b) whether Iodine is lost when the iodised salt is transported in open wagons;

(c) whether there is a three month gap in making an indent for a wagon and actually getting one for transfer of salt; and

(d) if so, how the Government propose to preserve quality of salt by making the wagons available immediately on demand?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). On certain Zonal railways there is some time lag between demand and supply of wagons for transport of iodised salt. Iodised salt is required to be bagged in HDPE oven sack or jute bags lined with plastic/film of protection. Some transit loss of iodine is possible when transported in open wagons. However, some cushion is provided against such losses by ensuring iodine content of 30 parts per million at production point against the requirement of 15 parts per million at consumption point. Railways endeavour to supply covered wagons during certain periods of rainy season to the extent possible.

Indian Centre for Promotion of Cleaner Technology

1221. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA :
SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Indian Centre for Promotion of Cleaner Technology;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up;

(c) the objectives thereof; and

(d) the amount of aid likely to be received from the World Bank and other agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The objectives of the proposed Centre are to screen, evaluate and prioritise cleaner technologies available within and outside the country, disseminate information and facilitate large-scale adoption of suitable technologies through effective demonstrations. The Centre propose to conduct training programmes for upgradation of skills. A sum of \$ 2 million is to be provided by the World Bank for procurement of Hard-ware and Software. The Centre will become functional after the operational modalities are finalised.

Goshree Island Development Authority

1222. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Environmental Clearance to Goshree Island Development Authority (G.I.D.A.) Project withheld due to the Supreme Court's decision is proposed to be given; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b). the Environmental Clearance to Goshree Island Development Authority's proposal of Integrated Development of Island at Cochin was accorded in May, 1995, stipulating certain safeguards which are required for environmental protection.

[Translation]

Chemical Zone in Ankleshwar

1223. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has obtained Environmental Clearance for creation of a Chemical Zone in Ankleshwar;

(b) whether the Union Government have cleared it;

(c) if so, the terms and conditions laid down in regard to the above clearance; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The proposal would need to be examined as and when referred to the Government for consideration.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

[English]

Disruption of Trains

1224. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the movement of trains in the Sealdah-Lalgola section under Sealdah Division, Eastern Railways was seriously disrupted for three days (26.6.95 to 28.6.95) due to "Rail Roko" agitation at Pirtala Halt Station;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Government had initiated any measure to ensure usual running of trains during that period; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) (a) and (b). There was an agitation at Pirtala Halt on 26.6.95 and 27.6.95. Their demands included stoppage of 301 UP/302 DN trains, provision of certain passenger amenities like high level platform, toilet, platform shed, drinking water, approach road, conversion of Pirtala halt into Flag station, availability of tickets for longer distances, allotment of reservation quotas etc.

(c) The demands have been examined. Provision of stoppage of 301/302 Sealdah-Lalgola Fast Passenger and conversion of Pirtala Halt into Flag station have not been found justified. Eastern Railway has been advised to extend the booking zone of various Halt stations including Pirtala halt to ensure tickets for longer distances. No reservation quota is provided at Halt stations as a matter of policy. As regards various passenger amenities, Pirtala Halt has already been provided with Rail level platform, Urinal and waiting shed alongwith a booking office. These facilities are considered adequate to cater to the present level of traffic. Regarding approach road, action is in hand to provide a suitable road within the Railway land.

(d) and (e). Train services were maintained upto Bhagwangola, 4 Kms. from Pirtala with one DMU rake.

Traveller' Service Agents

1225. SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Traveller's Service Agents for Railway Bookings functioning in the Pune Region;

(b) whether representations have been received to authorise more agents in the Region;

(c) if so, the number of applications received and the number out of them approved; and

(d) the time by which the remaining applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Two Rail Travellers' Service Agents are functioning at Pune.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Six applications have been received since 1991 and instructions for appointment of two of these applicants have been issued. The other applications are not being considered by the railway since the existing facility of Rail Travellers' Service Agents coupled with 2 Rail Tourist Agents and 2 City Booking Offices is considered adequate to meet the requirement of passengers at Pune city.

Research Centres in Madhya Pradesh

1226. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names and locations of the Research Councils, Research Centres and Projects under the Indian Council of Agricultural research in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the amount spent on the said councils, Centres and Projects, separately during the last three years; and

(c) the impact of these research works, on the agricultural production in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b). The names of ICAR Institutes, Projects and their Centres Operating In Madhya Pradesh alongwith their locations and expenditure during last 3 years is given in Statement.

(c) The research undertaken at these centres helped in development of promising varieties of foodgrains and horticultural crops, oilseeds, cotton and also production technology.

STATEMENT

Research Centres in Madhya Pradesh

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the ICAR Institutes/Project/Centre	Location/District	(Investment) Expenditure/Outlay		
			1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1	2	3	4	5	6
A. INSTITUTES					
1.	Indian Institute of Soil Science	Bhopal/Bhopal	105.01	159.25	246.00
2.	Central Institute of Agril. Engineering	Bhopal/Bhopal	18.70	103.68	150.00
3.	Freshwater Fish Farm of Central Institute of Fisheries Education.	Powerkhed/ Hoshangabad		32.21	
				(Expenditure for 3 years)	
4.	Research Centre and Fisheries reservoir of Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute.	Raipur/ Hoshangabad		31.18	
				(Expenditure for 3 years)	
B. NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE					
1.	Weed Science	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	66.69	76.89	120.00
2.	Soybean	Indore/Indore	57.00	56.34	105.00
C. ALL INDIA COORDINATED RESEARCH PROJECT.					
1.	Oilseeds	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	12.00	7.40	8.76
		Chindwara/Chindwara	2.68	1.71	2.31
		Hoshangabad/ Hoshangabad	2.27	1.71	2.31
		Sagar/Sagar	2.12	1.54	2.12
		Indore/Indore	4.28	2.68	3.33
		Raipur/Raipur	4.43	3.39	4.08
		Tikamgarh/Tikamgarh	6.00	3.90	7.76
2.	Soybean	Sehore/Sehore	4.25	5.12	6.35
		Jabalpur/Jabalpur	1.17	1.95	1.98
		Indore/Indore	1.81	1.41	2.05
3.	Arid Legumes	Gwalior/Gwalior	0.76	0.81	1.35
4.	Cotton	Khandwa/Khandwa	5.58	5.98	9.65
		Indore/Indore	3.63	5.44	2.76
		Badnawar/Badnawar	2.06	1.99	1.18
5.	Sugarcane	Sehore/Sehore	2.59	4.66	3.46
6.	Rodent control	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	4.30	4.80	11.22
7.	Nematodes	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	2.91	4.04	3.27
8.	Pesticide Residues	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	3.80	9.04	4.32
9.	Forage Crops	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	3.87	4.16	5.33
10.	Small Millets	Dhindore/Mandla	4.12	4.51	4.95
11.	Pearl Millets	Gwalior/Gwalior	3.39	2.84	3.50
		Rewa/Rewa	4.12	4.51	5.45
12.	Rice	Raipur/Raipur	8.56	11.14	12.41
		Jagdalpur/Bastar	3.37	3.52	3.80
		Rewa/Rewa	6.15	6.18	6.98
13.	Barley	Rewa/Rewa	2.44	1.73	2.23

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Wheat	Bilaspur/Bilaspur	3.21	4.14	4.46
		Sagar/Sagar	6.91	7.15	8.32
		Gwalior/Gwalior	3.46	4.21	4.46
15.	Pigeonpea	Khargoneic/Khargone	4.50	5.27	3.91
16.	Chickpea	Sehore/Sehore	3.02	11.78	6.79
17.	MULLARP	Raipur/Raipur	4.71	5.07	6.03
18.	Groundnut	Khargoneic/Khargone	-	2.23	1.61
19.	Rapeseed & Mustard	Morena/Morena		3.87	3.92
20.	Promotion of Research and development on hybrids in selected crops.	Indore/Indore	2.10	2.20	2.30
21.	Revolving fund for production of seeds of oilseed crops.	Indore/Indore	4.00		
22.	Maize	Powerkheda/Hoshigabad	8.83	7.36	7.72
		Chindwara/Chindwara	5.25	8.46	5.17
		Indore/Indore	10.14	10.18	12.00
23.	National Seed Project (Plant Crops)	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	8.80	12.54	16.51
		Raipur/Raipur	-	3.00	12.28
24.	National Seed Project (World Bank)	Indore/Indore	36.70	18.37	1.40
		Jabalpur/Jabalpur	36.00	20.25	-
		Bhopal/Bhopal	45.00	20.25	-
		Raipur/Raipur	14.00	7.60	-
25.	Breeder Seed Production on Oilseeds	Khargoneic/Khargone	1.17	1.40	1.59
		Indore/Indore	2.14	2.08	2.15
		Sehore/Sehore	1.17	1.40	1.59
26.	Cropping Systems Research	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	30.06	30.61	21.80
27.	Tillage Requirement	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	4.02	3.55	3.63
28.	Weed Control	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	3.28	7.19	5.77
29.	Dryland Agriculture	Indore/Indore	8.46	20.30	10.55
	Dryland (OPR)	Indore/Indore	3.92	5.90	4.25
30.	Agrometeorology	Rewa/Rewa	8.28	10.35	9.20
		Jabalpur/Jabalpur	2.52	28.99	3.00
31.	Salt Affected Soil	Indore/Indore	14.22	8.50	11.10
32.	Water Management	Bilaspur/Bilaspur	6.81	7.54	8.38
		PowerKheda/Powerkheda	8.55	12.40	9.30
33.	Wells & Pumps	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	4.47	6.58	5.04
34.	Biological Nitrogen Fixation	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	3.00	3.18	2.37
35.	Micro & Secondary Nutrients in Pollutant Elements in Soils & Plants.	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	4.80	5.45	5.70
36.	Soil Test Crop Response	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	6.07	7.62	7.21
		Raipur/Raipur	3.50	4.86	3.12
37.	Long Term Fertilizer Expts.	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	1.55	1.58	1.97
38.	Agroforestry	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	3.28	5.10	5.25
39.	Sub-tropical Fruits	Rewa/Rewa	3.56	5.32	-
40.	Vegetables	Jagdalpur/Jagdalpur	3.01	3.49	3.56
41.	Patato	Chindwara/Chindwara	5.07	4.90	4.11
42.	Medicinal & Aromatic Plants	Mandsore/Mandsore	2.86	7.54	10.58
		Indore/Indore	3.15	7.63	10.42

1	2	3	4	5	6
43.	Tuber Crops	Jagdalpur/Jagdalpur	-	1.03	2.05
44.	Providing irrigation facilities under BSP	Raipur/Raipur	6.00	-	-
45.	Production of ground nut seed	Khargone/Khargone	3.00	-	-
46.	Palms	Jagdalpur/Jagdalpur	0.93	1.99	1.70
47.	Mushroom	Raipur/Raipur	4.01	6.57	4.44
48.	Betelvine	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	0.99	5.65	3.46
49.	Cashew	Jagdalpur/Jagdalpur	-	-	3.00
50.	National Seed Project (Vegetables)	Jagdalpur/Jagdalpur	-	1.57	3.57
51.	Farm Implements and Machinery	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	1.68	1.90	0.98
52.	Post Harvest Technology	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	7.59	8.80	11.04
53.	Renewable Energy Source	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	2.96	1.25	1.37
54.	Energy Requirement in Agriculture sector	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	9.20	8.70	8.67
55.	Agril. Drainage	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	4.92	7.64	7.81
56.	Network Project on Pig	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	7.99	12.37	7.09
57.	Poultry	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	8.06	4.47	9.00
58.	Network Programme on Micronutrient in Animal nutrition and production.	Jabalpur/Jabalpur	-	-	7.53
59.	Network programme on Embryo Transfer Technology	Durg/Durg	-	-	2.75
60.	High Security Animal Diseases Laboratory	Bhopal/Bhopal	30.05	221.13	335.90
61.	Developmental grants Released	Jabalpur/Jabalpur Raipur/Raipur	27.00 54.00	- 50.00	83.00 -
62.	Grants under national agricultural products.	Jabalpur/Jabalpur Raipur/Raipur	179.48 25.00	248.37 60.53	167.64 48.50

[Translation]

Industrial Pollution

1227. SHRI LALL BABU RAI :

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of norms and rules fixed by the Government to check the industrial pollution;

(b) the details of complaints received by the Government regarding violation of these norms during the last three years, Statewise;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Government propose to amend the law relating to the industrial pollution control; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) The Government has brought out the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and has also notified Rules under these Acts to check industrial pollution. Rules on environmental related standards have been laid-down which include effluent standards for 37 categories and emission standards for 40 categories of industries. Standards with respect to ambient air categories of industries. Standards with respect to ambient air quality, water consumption, hazardous chemicals and wastes have also been notified.

(b) The details of complaints received during the last 3 years (July, 1992 to June, 1995) statewise are given in the Statement.

(c) Appropriate action under the relevant Act has been taken against the complaints received.

(d) and (e). Steps have been initiated to integrate the different existing acts covering industrial pollution control.

STATEMENT

State-wise complaints received during past three years (July 1992 to June 1995)

State	No. of complaints
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	18
Arunachal Pradesh	0
Assam	11
Bihar	51
Goa	15
Gujarat	29
Haryana	42
Himachal Pradesh	8
Jammu & Kashmir	5
Karnataka	29
Kerala	44
Maharashtra	83
Madhya Pradesh	68
Meghalaya	0
Mizoram	0
Manipur	1
Nagaland	0
Orissa	36

1	2
Punjab	34
Rajasthan	75
Sikkim	0
Tamilnadu	45
Tripura	1
Uttar Pradesh	309
West Bengal	102
Andaman Nicobar	2
Chandigarh	1
Delhi	536
Pondichery	5
Daman Diu & Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2
Total	1552

[English]

Minimum Support Price for Jute

1228. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the MINISTER of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the minimum support price (MSP) for raw jute for 1995 season has been announced; and

(b) if so, the details thereof area-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has announced Minimum Support Price for TD-5 grade of Raw Jute in Assam at Rs.490 per quintal for 1995-96 season. Based on the normal market price differentials the Minimum Support Prices of other grades of raw jute have been fixed by the Government for 1995-96 season as shown in the statement attached.

STATEMENT

Minimum support prices fixed for different varieties and grades of Raw Jute at the up-country markets in different jute growing states for the 1995-96 season

(Rs. per qtl.)

S.No.	Name of the States	Variety	Grades								
			TD-1 W-1	TD-2 W-2	TD-3 W-3	TD-4 W-4	TD-5 W-5	TD-6 W-6	TD-7 W-7	TD-8 W-8	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
1.	ASSAM/MEGHALAYA	Tossa	690.00	640.00	590.00	540.00	490.00	445.00	400.00	355.00	
		White	660.00	610.00	560.00	510.00	460.00	415.00	370.00	325.00	
2.	BIHAR										
	(i) Purnea, Kishanganj, Araria & Katihal districts	Tossa	719.00	669.00	619.00	569.00	519.00	474.00	429.00	384.00	
		White	689.00	639.00	589.00	539.00	489.00	444.00	399.00	354.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7*	8	9	10	11
	(ii) Saharsa, Champaran & other Districts	Tossa	706.50	656.50	606.50	556.50	506.50	461.50	416.50	371.50
		White	676.50	626.50	576.50	526.50	476.50	431.50	386.50	341.50
3.	ORISSA	Tossa	721.00	671.00	621.00	571.00	521.00	476.00	431.00	386.00
		White	691.00	641.00	591.00	541.00	491.00	446.00	401.00	356.00
4.	TRIPURA	Tossa	657.00	607.00	557.00	507.00	457.00	412.00	367.00	322.00
		White	627.00	577.00	527.00	477.00	427.00	382.00	337.00	292.00
5.	UTTAR PRADESH	Tossa	675.00	625.00	575.00	525.00	475.00	430.00	385.00	340.00
		White	645.00	595.00	545.00	495.00	445.00	400.00	355.00	310.00
6.	WEST BENGAL									
	(i) Coochbehar, Jalpaiguri & Darjeeling Districts	Tossa	706.50	656.50	606.50	556.50	506.50	461.50	416.50	371.50
		White	676.50	626.50	576.50	526.50	476.50	431.50	386.50	341.50
	(ii) Dinajpur (North & South) and Malda Districts	Tossa	721.50	671.50	621.50	571.50	521.50	476.50	431.50	386.50
		White	691.50	641.50	591.50	541.50	491.50	446.50	401.50	356.50
	(iii) Murshidabad, Bankura & Birbhum Districts	Tossa	727.50	677.50	627.50	577.50	527.50	482.50	437.50	392.50
		White	697.50	647.50	597.50	547.50	497.50	452.50	407.50	362.50
	(iv) Nadia, Midnapore, Burdwan 24-Parganas (North & South) Hoogly & Howrah Districts.	Tossa	736.50	686.50	636.50	586.50	536.50	491.50	446.50	401.50
		White	706.50	656.50	606.50	556.50	506.50	461.50	416.50	371.50

Worli-Bombay Link Project

1229. SHRI RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received Environment Impact Assessment Statement in respect of Worli-Bombay Link Project from the Bombay Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (BMRDA);

(b) if so, the present status of the project;

(c) the reasons for delay in clearance of the project; and

(d) the time by which it is expected to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b). The Environmental Impact Assessment report for the entire length of the western free-way from Nariman point to Worli which was sought by the expert committee has not been submitted by Bombay Metropolitan Regional Development Authority.

(c) and (d). A final decision on the clearance of a project proposal is taken within a stipulated time period of 90 days from the date of receipt of the requisite information and relevant details from the project proponent.

[Translation]

Doubling of Sonapur-Varanasi Railway Lines

1230. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal for doubling the Sonapur-Chhapra-Varanasi Railway Lines during the

year 1995-96 is pending for clearance with the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Trains in Bombay

1231. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of trains cancelled and the number of new trains introduced in Mumbai for July, 1995;

(b) whether the existing trains are inadequate in view of the increasing number of passengers;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to increase the number of coaches in the trains running at present;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) During July 95, 42 short distance EMU shuttles have been cancelled and 16 EMU services have been added in Bombay area contributing to an overall increase in Suburban Train Kms.

(b) The existing services are by and large adequate. However, during peak time there is overcrowding on trains.

(c) to (e). the EMU rakes are being gradually augmented from 9 car to 12 car ones. A total of 10 rakes have been converted into 12 car rakes contributing to a total of 104 services per day as on July, 95.

[English]

Railway Production Unit

1232. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Production Units engaged to meet the requirements of locomotives, coaches and components of the Indian Railways;

(b) whether the Government have made any studies for their requirement of locomotives for future;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have fixed any target for production of locomotives for the year 1995-96; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) and (c). Requirement of additional locos has been worked out as under :

In 1995-96	- Diesel 110 locos Electric 130 + 16 import from ABB + 10 from BHEL.
In 1996-97	- Diesel 113 locos Electric 115 + 14 import from ABB

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. Following targets for production of locomotives have been fixed for the year 1995-96:

- (i) 130 electric locomotives on Chittaranjan Locomotive Works for Indian Railways.
- (ii) 110 diesel locomotives on Diesel Locomotive Works for Indian Railways.
- (iii) Besides above, 16 High Horse Power electric locomotives will be procured from M/s. ABB and 10 electric locomotives from M/s. BHEL during the current year.

STATEMENT

(a) The names of the Production Units of Indian Railways are as follows :

Name of the Production Unit	Item Manufactured
1	2
(1) Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan, West Bengal.	Locomotives.
(2) Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.	Locomotives.

1	2
(3) Integral Coach Factory, Perambur, Madras, Tamil Nadu.	Coaches.
(4) Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, Punjab.	Coaches.
(5) Diesel Component Works, Patiala, Punjab.	Rolling Stock Components.
(6) Wheel & Axle Plant, Yelahanka, Bangalore, Karnataka.	Rolling Stock Components.

[Translation]

Operation Black Board in Jammu and Kashmir

1233. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :
SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the *Indian Express*, dated June 17, 1995 under the caption "CAG indicts J&K for diverting Operation blackboard funds";

(b) if so, whether the Government of Jammu and Kashmir have diverted the funds meant for the Operation Black Board somewhere else and could not achieve the targets fixed under the said Scheme;

(c) whether the Government have sought information from the State Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). Information is being collected from the State Govt. and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Storage Capacity

1234. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA
SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the foodgrains storage capacity in Gujarat during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the capacity of temporary godowns has been increased in Gujarat;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, and the steps taken to construct more godowns in the State; and

(d) the quantity of foodgrains which was got spoiled in these godowns during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 respectively?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) :
(a) The total foodgrains storage capacity (covered and CAP) available with Food Corporation of India in Gujarat during the last three years was as under:

Year (31/3)	Total Storage Capacity (in lakh tonnes)
1992-93	8.36
1993-94	12.14
1994-95	12.87

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. About 3.2 lac tonnes of CAP storage capacity has been acquired (in Gujarat) during the years 1992-93 to 1994-95.

(d) the quantity of foodgrains damaged in the godowns of FCI in Gujarat during the last three years is as under :

Year	Foodgrains damage (in tonnes)
1992-93	382.433
1993-94	2022.532
1994-95	747.000 (Tentative)

Closure of Polluting Industrial Units

1235. SHRI G. DEVARAYA NAIK :

SHRI MANJAY LAL :

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether notices/orders have been issued for closing down/transferring different industries located in Agra, Delhi and other parts of the country for posing dangers of Environmental Pollution under the Orders of the Supreme Court, High Courts of different States and other Courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the details of such industrial units in each category, State-wise;

(c) the number of industries closed, transferred or likely to be closed, transferred in each category, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have received any memoranda from the State Governments, Industries etc; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in the this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). The information is being collected from different States and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Railway Net-Work

1236. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to expand the Railway net-work in West Bengal;

(b) whether that expansion is required to provide Railway Link to the new industries which are coming up in the State;

(c) whether any Master Plan is being formulated in this regard;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide better railway facilities to the people of Coochbehar District, West Bengal;

(e) whether a direct train is to be introduced between State Capital and district headquarter; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Consumer Welfare Fund

1237. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Consumer Welfare Funds functioning in each State;

(b) the number of Non-Government organisations who have been given help from this Fund, State-wise; and

(c) how far their activities provided beneficial to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Under the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944 (One of 1944), a Consumer Welfare Fund has been set up which is being operated by the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.

(b) Details are given in the statement attached.

(c) As a result of various measures taken by the Government, such consumer organisations are becoming strong and consumer movement is slowly but firmly emerging on Indian scene.

STATEMENT

State-wise Number of Non-Governmental Organisations which have been sanctioned assistance from the consumer welfare fund

S.No.	State/UTs	No. of NGO's
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10
2.	Assam	1
3.	Bihar	1
4.	Gujarat	6
5.	Himachal Pradesh	2
6.	Karnataka	4
7.	Kerala	5
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1
9.	Maharashtra	5
10.	Orissa	6
11.	Rajasthan	4
12.	Tamilnadu	19
13.	Uttar Pradesh	9
14.	West Bengal	2
15.	Chandigarh	1
16.	Delhi	8

[Translation]

Food Corporation of India

1238. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items published in the daily "Jansatta" dated 21 June, 95 captioned "Dhaan Ki Bikri Kar Dotarfa Nuksan Uthaiga Khadya Nigam";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to inquire into the whole matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A quantity of more than 73 lakh tonnes of paddy was procured by FCI and State Govt. of Punjab/its agencies for Central Pool during the Kharif year 1994-95. Out of this a quantity of 28 lakh tonnes of paddy remained unmilled with the FCI/State Agencies.

In view of the need to create storage space, to avoid deterioration in quality of paddy/resultant rice and to reduce the carrying cost of FCI on these stocks, it was decided to sell paddy at a fixed rate of Rs. 442 per quintal and Rs. 422 per quintal for superfine and fine variety respectively. However, a quantity of only 4.62 lakhs tonnes of paddy could be disposed of through open sale. To liquidate the stocks, it became necessary to dispose of paddy through short-term tenders to get the best price. With the result, a quantity of 5.08 lakh tonnes of paddy could be disposed of at a reserve price of Rs.395 per quintal and Rs. 375 per quintal for superfine and fine variety respectively. Had this quantity not been disposed of, the FCI would have spent a substantial amount on carrying cost of these stocks. Therefore, the loss sustained on disposal of paddy is negligible when compared to the savings on carrying cost and other resultant losses.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Anganwadi Functions

1239. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise Anganwadi functions; and

(b) if so, the facts and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI) :
(a) and (b). No, Sir. The Government is, however, making serious efforts for involving competent and motivated Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), active women groups and Mahila Mandals in the implementation of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. And, this is being done to ensure greater and effective community participation under the ICDS Scheme.

Media Production Centre

1240. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether IGNOU has decided to set up a Media Production Centre;

(b) if so, whether this centre will be provided grants by the Japanese Government;

(c) by what time the same is likely to be started and its main purpose; and

(d) whether this will be training ground for media professionals and also a major national resources in the field of education in electronic Media?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d). The Indira Gandhi National Open University has decided to set up a Media Production Centre. The Centre has been provided grants under Japan International Cooperation Agency Programme. The Centre is likely to start functioning from March, 1996. The main purpose of the Media Production Centre will be to augment production facilities for audio and video programmes. This will be used as a major national resource centre in Distance Education for production of Educational Software. It will also provide training for the media professionals working in the Distance Education System.

Pollution Control

1241. SHRI N. DENNIS :
DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increase in the pollution contents in air, water etc. in the country during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the various steps taken by the Government to check the pollution in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The pollution levels in certain areas of the major cities are showing an increasing trend in terms of levels of air, water and noise pollution due to rise in human population, automobile population and industrial activities.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to check pollution in the country include the following :

- (i) Standards for ambient air quality and noise levels for different areas such as industrial, commercial and residential areas of the cities have been notified; water quality for different uses have been prescribed.
- (ii) A network of ambient air and water quality monitoring stations have been set up.
- (iii) Standards for effluents and emissions from major categories of polluting industries have been evolved. Industries have been directed to comply with the prescribed standards on a time-bound basis and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.
- (iv) It has been made compulsory for major specified industrial and other activities to

obtain environmental clearance based on impact assessment studies prior to site selection.

- (v) A scheme for setting up of common effluent treatment plants in clusters of small-scale industrial units has been taken up.
- (vi) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.
- (vii) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of polluting industries from congested areas.
- (viii) The Central Pollution Control Board has evolved codes of practices for controlling noise from sources other than industries and automobiles. These include public address system, air craft operation, railway operation, construction activities and bursting of crackers. State Governments have been asked to implement these codes of practices under the relevant local acts.
- (ix) Noise limits for automobiles, domestic appliances and construction equipment have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.
- (x) Gross and mass emission standards for vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. The Ministry of Surface Transport have advised the concerned State Transport Directorates to enforce the gross emission standards.
- (xi) Stricter standards for emissions from automobiles at the manufacturing stage to be effective from 1.4.96 have been notified.
- (xii) Lead free petrol has been introduced from 1.4.95 in the four metropolitan cities of Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras for use in new cars fitted with catalytic convertors.
- (xiii) Public awareness campaigns on the ill effects of pollution have been launched.

National Service Scheme

1242. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Programme Adviser assisted by a National Advisory Committee looks after the National Service Scheme (NSS) throughout India;

(b) if so, whether for the last one decade National Advisory Committee has ceased to function;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to form an Advisory Committee with experts in the social service; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) to (c). No, Sir. In the organisational set-up of the Ministry and of National Service Scheme, there is no provision of National Advisory Committee to assist the Programme Advisor.

(d) and (e). No, Sir. However, a Committee on National Youth Programme (CONYP) has been set up to advise the Government on Youth Policy, programmes and its implementation.

[Translation]

Accident of Diamond Express

1243. SHRI MANJAY LAL :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Diamond Express met with an accident in Bihar last month;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed and injured therein;

(c) the details of compensation given to the victims;

(d) whether the Government have conducted an inquiry into the causes of this accident;

(e) if so, the findings thereof; and

(f) the action taken against the persons found responsible?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir. 10 coaches of 3318 Dn. Dhanbad-Howrah Black Diamond Express derailed at Kalubathan station on Asansol Division on Eastern Railway on 03.06.95.

(b) No passenger was killed or injured in this derailment.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f). An enquiry into the accident is being held by a Committee of Senior Grade Officers. Necessary action will be taken against those found responsible.

Sub-Way

1244. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work of Sub-Way at

Ramghat Road near railway crossing in Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh has been lying pending for the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

Damage to Foodgrains

1245. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'FCI Foodgrains Stocks may perish in Punjab', appeared in *Indian Express* (Delhi Edition), dated June 21, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The procurement of wheat in Punjab is concentrated within the short time span of 45 days. Similarly, the procurement of paddy also under the Price Support Scheme is restricted for a short period when bulk of the quantity is bought. Usually the paddy is also bought by the millers who deliver levy in the shape of rice to the Govt. agencies. During the last Kharif season the millers desisted from buying large quantities of paddy due to their demand for fixation of lesser out turn ration of rice after paddy milling, compelling the Government agencies including FCI to buy paddy in very large quantities. Most of the millers also did not come forward for undertaking custom milling of paddy resulting in large stock of paddy lying, unmilled even when the procurement of wheat started in the last Rabi season. Punjab being high procurement area, the procured grains could not be moved expeditiously to the consuming areas because of paucity of wagons. As all the covered godowns were already full, FCI and other Government agencies had to resort to storage of both paddy and wheat in open under CAP storage.

FCI has over 2 million tonnes of foodgrains lying in the cover and plinth (CAP) storage. Bulk of this stocks is lying on raised platforms or pucca plinths or rice mill premises and some part of the stocks is also lying on ground level on wooden crates for want of adequate storage space in certain districts as the entire purchases made during the months of

May and June, 1995 cannot be flushed out in such a short period to the consuming areas for want of adequate wagon/truck availability. All possible precautions have been taken by FCI to protect the stocks lying in the CAP storage from the vagaries of the nature.

(c) The action was taken by FCI to move the stock of wheat and rice by rail/road to the maximum extent possible.

Action was also taken to augment the storage capacity both covered as well as open by hiring as many godowns and plinths as possible.

Adequate number of polythene covers were made available to Punjab region even by diverting supply meant for other regions to ensure that all stocks are properly covered.

FCI in coordination with Railways is making all efforts to increase the pace of movement to the consuming areas. Simultaneously, road movement to the nearby destination is also being augmented.

STATEMENT

(a) Emergency quotas available by various trains originating and passing through Surat Station are as under :

Train No.	AC 2-Tier	First Class	Sleeper Class	Chair Car	2nd Seat
2925 Paschim Express	2	-	2	-	-
2955 Dn., Durgapura Express	-	-	2	-	-
2903 Dn. Frontier Mail	2	-	-	-	-
1095 Ahimsa Express	4	-	10	-	-
9057 Valsad Vadodara Exp.	-	2	-	-	10
9058 Vadodara-Valsad Exp.	-	2	-	-	10
2933 Karnawati Express	-	-	-	2	-
2934 Karnawati Express	-	-	-	2	-
9024 UP Firozpur Janta Exp.	-	-	2	-	-
9165 Dn. Sabarmati Express	-	-	2	-	-
39 Dn. Ahmedabad Passenger	-	-	2	-	-
42 Up Viramgam Passenger	2	-	2	-	-
4245 Dn. Tapti Ganga Exp.	2	-	12	-	-
Total :	12	4	34	4	20

The demands of VIPs are met out of this quota.

[English]

Degradation of Soil

1247. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Land Use and

[Translation]

VIP/Emergency Reservation Quota

1246. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of VIP and Emergency quota in Mail/Express trains starting from Surat Railway Station in Gujarat, separately;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the said quota in all these trains; and

(c) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) and (c). A fresh Emergency Quota of 2 Sleeper Class Berths by 2925 Dn., Paschim Express and 2 Chair Car Seats by 2933 Dn., Karnawati Express has been allotted w.e.f. 1.8.95. The reserved accommodation available in other trains is being fully utilised leaving no scope for enhancement of Emergency Quota at Surat.

Conservation Board has prepared nation-wide maps on the land degradation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted with the help of these maps to identify the causative factors effecting the degradation of soil; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

Coconut Oil

1248. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN :
SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to explore possibilities of supply of the Coconut Oil to consumers through Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). Minister (Civil Supplies) has written to Ministers-in-charge of Food and Civil Supplies of all States/UTs on 7.6.95 to consider the possibility of procuring and supplying adequate quantity of coconut oil to consumers through fair price shops/cooperative outlets with a view to popularise the use of coconut oil as a cooking medium.

(c) The response received so far from the States/UTs indicates that the matter is receiving attention.

Indus Valley Civilisation

1249. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indus Valley Civilisation has been deciphered by a farmer in Haryana;

(b) if so, whether authenticity in this connection has been checked; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Indus Valley Civilisation would be re-written on the basis of the deciphering?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ((DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Institution of Engineers

1250. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :
MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Council of Technical Education or any other Apex body overseeing the coordination of technical education has examined the academic curriculum, course structure and examination system of the "Institution of Engineers (India)" to ensure uniformity in the award of engineering Diplomas/Degrees;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any representation about irregularities in the examination system of the Institution of Engineers (India); and

(d) if so, action taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b). The Board of Assessment for Educational Qualifications is set up by the Government of India to consider the recognition of degrees/diplomas awarded by private bodies and institutions. Its functions are to examine the standards of all educational qualifications except concerning health and medical subjects and to advise what recognition, if any, should be accorded for the purpose of recruitment to Government services. The Board has considered the proposal of recognition of qualifications of the Institution of Engineers and have recognised certain qualifications in 1969 which had been notified in the Gazette of India. The Board, in the year 1994, approved the adoption of the new syllabi of the Institution.

(c) and (d). A representation of behalf on students of the Institution of Engineers (India) was received through President's Secretariat on 28/10/94 containing complaints such as arbitrary allotment of examination centres, delay and non-receipt of admission cards, delayed despatch of mark-sheets, delay in despatch of results to centres, declaration of incomplete results, delay in refund, irregularity in sending certificates of pass, intimidating candidates. Comments on the same were called for from the Institution and nothing substantial was found in it.

Production of Fruits/Vegetables

1251. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI :

DR. GUNVANT RAMBHAU SARODE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of fruits and vegetables during 1993-94 and 1994-95 and the area of land under cultivation of these items during that period in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the prices of fruits and vegetables are increasing day by day in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to curb the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Estimates of area and production of some of the important fruit and vegetable crops of banana, papaya, potato, sweet potato, onion and tapioca covered under crop estimation surveys for 1993-94 State-wise are given in the attached Statement - I and Statement - II. Similar estimates for 1994-95 have not yet become due from the States.

(b) Prices of fruits and vegetables are showing a mixed trend, While prices of some fruits and vegetables have recently shown declining trend, there are few others whose prices have marginally gone up which may be attributed to seasonal nature of supply of these commodities.

(c) in order to improve the supply of fruits and vegetables, the Government is implementing various schemes to raise the production of these commodities. For the development of fruits, a scheme for the Integrated Development of Tropical, Arid Zone and Temperate fruits is being implemented in various States. To increase the production of vegetables, the schemes for production and supply of vegetable Seeds and development of Roots and Tuber crops are being implemented.

STATEMENT-I

Area and Production of Fruits and Vegetables for 1993-94

(Area : '000' hec
Prod : '000' tonnes)

States	Banana		Papaya	
	Area	Production	Area	Production
Andhra Pradesh	46.7	740.6	0.4	18.8
Arunachal Pradesh	0.5	8.5	-	-
Assam	41.4	572.7	7.2	106.1
Bihar	14.7	94.0	-	-
Goa	-	-	-	-
Gujarat	20.7	1159.0	4.2	123.3
Haryana	-	-	-	-
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-
Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	-	-
Karnataka	21.0	611.7	0.6	1.5
Kerala	67.5	522.8	12.0	54.8
Madhya Pradesh	15.5	533.1	0.4	17.1
Maharashtra	74.5	2529.3	1.4	9.0
Manipur	3.6	46.3	0.1	1.3
Meghalaya	5.0	62.6	0.5	3.8
Mizoram	2.5	10.7	0.2	1.5
Nagaland	-	-	-	-
Orissa	31.1	292.0	11.2	125.0
Punjab	-	-	-	-
Rajasthan	-	-	0.1	0.2
Sikkim	0.8	13.0	-	-
Tamil Nadu	67.0	1980.5	-	-
Tripura	4.9	33.4	0.5	2.3
Uttar Pradesh	1.2	29.3	0.7	20.0
West Bengal	-	-	-	-
A and N Island	1.6	7.5	0.2	1.8
D and N Haveli	-	-	-	-
Delhi	-	-	-	-
Lakshadweep	0.1	0.2	-	-
Daman and Diu	-	-	-	-
Pondicherry	0.2	6.0	-	-
All India	420.5	9241.5	39.7	486.5

STATEMENT-II

Area and Production of Fruits and Vegetables for 1993-94

(Area : '000' hec
Prod. : '000' tonnes)

States	Potato		Tapioca		Sweet Potato		Onion	
	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	1.0	8.4	16.6	212.7	2.6	20.5	20.0	415.1
Arunachal Pradesh	5.1	37.8	-	-	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Assam	64.0	506.9	2.1	9.1	9.0	29.9	7.1	15.1
Bihar	160.8	-	-	-	20.1	203.1	17.0	149.2
Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gujarat	19.5	455.0	-	-	1.5	34.4	25.8	605.3
Haryana	10.6	178.2	-	-	0.2	3.2	2.4	41.6
Himachal Pradesh	15.5	169.9	-	-	-	-	0.7	1.5
Jammu and Kashmir	1.8	3.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Karnataka	23.7	294.4	1.0	8.9	5.1	37.0	60.2	445.0
Kerala	-	-	1376.0	2596.6	2.4	19.7	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	36.0	487.8	-	-	6.4	38.8	16.8	185.0
Maharashtra	15.2	67.2	-	-	5.9	82.6	62.0	831.6
Manipur	3.9	20.4	-	-	0.2	0.7	-	-
Meghalaya	17.6	119.6	4.0	22.1	5.3	17.3	-	-
Mizoram	0.5	2.5	0.4	7.0	0.6	3.5	-	-
Nagaland	2.0	16.0	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	Neg.	Neg.
Orissa	10.4	117.1	-	-	51.3	397.6	42.3	306.4
Punjab	47.0	823.0	-	-	Neg.	0.2	0.5	10.3
Rajasthan	1.7	19.7	0.2	0.3	2.3	5.1	16.1	122.4
Sikkim	5.2	32.3	0.4	1.0	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	5.8	126.3	82.6	2908.6	2.0	44.0	24.7	217.0
Tripura	3.9	65.5	-	-	1.3	12.3	0.2	0.3
Uttar Pradesh	398.1	7704.0	-	-	30.6	315.4	30.7	370.6
West Bengal	230.9	5171.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
A and N Island	-	-	0.4	3.5	0.1	0.3	-	-
D and N Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Delhi	0.1	0.8	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.9
Daman and Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pondicherry	-	-	0.8	13.8	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	0.2
All India	1080.3	18036.5	246.1	5783.6	146.9	1265.1	326.6	3717.5

Neg. Negligible

N.A. Not Available

- Nil

Exchange of Animals

1252. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :
SHRI TARA SINGH :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the press newsitem captioned "Zoo officials worry about the safety of animals" as appearing in *The Pioneer*, dated 13th June, 1995;

(b) whether exchange of animals from one Zoo to another affects the environmental health of animals;

(c) whether the views of the experts are sought

for the exchange of animals from one place to another; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Animals adapt to the new environment with the proper housing and upkeep.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A Technical Committee having experts as members appointed by Central Zoo Authority approves exchange of animals between zoos.

Weight and Measures Act, 1976

1253. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have been urged to further amend certain provisions of the Weight and Measures Act, 1976 as also the Weight and Measures Rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry has called the reparting and stamping of Standards of Weight and Measures every three years;

(d) if so, whether the Government have set up a National Forum in this regard; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to amend the provisions of the Weight and Measures Act, 1976?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c). Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in a recent seminar held on 14th July, 95 have urged the Government to amend the Standards of Weights and Measures Acts and the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977. The proposals include inter-alia, period of reverification of weight or measure and amendment of definition of the term "pre-packed commodities".

(d) and (e). A Standing National Forum has been constituted on 6th July, 1985 to advise the Government on national policies in respect of legal metrology and to make recommendations, wherever necessary, for amending the provisions of the legal metrology legislations.

[Translation]

Printed Prices on Packed Items

1254. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY :
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to reply given to SQ. No. 761 on May 30, 1995 and states :

(a) whether the Expert Committee comprising of representatives of Government Departments, Trade and Industry Associations and Consumer

Organisations has since submitted its Report regarding maximum retail sale price on pre-packed commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) if so, the time by which the Government expect to receive the Committee's Report?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The report is likely to be submitted by end of September, 1995.

[English]

Expenditure on Research and Development

1255. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent for Research and Development of Agriculture in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of the research being carried out in the different institutes in the country during the current year; and

(c) the achievements thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Expenditure figures in respect of ICAR are not maintained state-wise, however total expenditure under the Plan and Non-Plan during the last three years i.e. 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 are as under:

Year	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
1992-93	176.02	179.44	355.46
1993-94	233.31	208.68	441.99
1994-95	271.14	209.76	480.90

(b) and (c). In the ICAR system, there are 88 Research Institutes/National Research Centres/Project Directorates/National Bureaus. The details of the research undertaken by them and the achievements thereon are contained in the Annual Reports of these Institutes etc.

Betal Leave Growers

1256. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for the benefit of the Betal Leaves Growers of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The Government of India is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on Development of Betelvine with an outlay of Rs. 2.00 crore during Eighth Five Year Plan. Under the Scheme, incentives are provided for construction of conservatories, (assistance limited to 50% of the total cost upto Rs. 750/- per unit), establishment of demonstration plots, (assistance for input limited to Rs. 500/- per plot);, developing of water sources (@ Rs 1500/- per unit) ; and distribution of plant protection equipments sprayers (at 50% subsidy limited to Rs. 500/- per sprayer) for the benefit of betelvine growers in the country.

Amendment in Montreal Protocol

1257. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA :

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether industrialised nations propose to amend the Montreal Protocol imposing ban on the developing nations from exporting Ozone Depleting Substances to other nations; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by India to oppose the move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The proposal of industrialised nations to amend the Montreal Protocol, if adopted, would give them first right of exports of ozone depleting substances (ODS) to developing countries. The developing countries would be able to export ODS only if there is a shortfall in supplies from developed countries and that too upto a ceiling of 15 percent of their 1994 production.

(b) India has proposed that no restrictions be put on exports of ODS from developing countries. The matter is being coordinated with many developing and developed countries, with whom we have taken up the issue, explaining to them that such a proposed amendment would not be in keeping with either the letter or the spirit of the Montreal Protocol and would impede its implementation, rather than accelerate it.

[Translation]

Sugar Mills in Maharashtra

1258. DR. GUNVANT RAM BHABU SARODE :

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a Sugar Mill in Jalgaon District of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in setting up the Sugar Mills;

(c) the steps taken to implement the said proposal;

(d) whether the Government have also any proposal to promote cooperative Sugar Mills in the State; and

(e) if so, the number of Sugar Mills proposed to be set up in the State during the Eighth Five Year Plan on co-operative basis?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c). The Central Government does not set up sugar Mills in any part of the country. It, however, grants letters of intent/industrial licences in accordance with the prevailing licensing policy guidelines for setting up of new sugar Mills. 3 Letters of intent were issued for setting up of new sugar mills in Jalgaon District of Maharashtra during the 7th Plan period (1985-90).

These projects are under the various stages of implementation.

(d) As per the licensing policy Guidelines for the sugar industry announced vide Press Note dated 8.11.1991, other things being equal, preference in licensing will be given to proposals from the cooperative sector and the Public sector, in that order, as compared to the Private Sector.

(e) During the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-93 to 1996-97) i.e., upto 30.6.95, 17 letters of intent have been issued by the Ministry of Industry for setting up of new sugar mills in the Cooperative Sector in the State of Maharashtra.

Committees on Education

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1259. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain sub-committees have been constituted by the Government recently to make the present education system more effective;

(b) if so, the number of sub-committees constituted and the composition thereof;

(c) whether these committees have been requested to submit their reports in a stipulated time; and

(d) if so, the stipulated time fixed in the regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d). Synergy Groups on Education have been constituted to bring

together academics, industry, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and other action groups to make the system more effective in the four thrust areas of Primary Education and Literacy, Vocational Education, Technology Development and Transfer in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Development and Transfer of Management Techniques in Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs). This exercise would be completed during the current year. The composition of the Synergy Groups is given in the attached Statement.

STATEMENT

Composition of Synergy Groups

Apex Synergy Group

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shri Madhavrao Scindia
Minister of Human
Resource Development 2. Kumari Selja
Deputy Minister for
Education and Culture
Ministry of Human
Resource Development. 3. Union Education Secretary
Ministry of Human Resource
Development. 4. Shri R.C. Tripathi
Adviser (Education)
Planning Commission
Yojana Bhawan,
New Delhi-110001. 5. Shri Anand Sarup
Consultant 206, UGC,
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
New Delhi-110002. 6. Shri K.S. Sharma
Director General
Directorate General of
Employment and Training,
Shram Shakti Bhavan,
New Delhi-1. 7. Shri Rajiv Kaul, President,
CII, D.G.-23-26, Institutional
Area Lodi Road, New Delhi-3. 8. Shri A.K. Rungta, President,
FICCI, Federation House,
Tansen Marg, New Delhi-1. 9. Shri Tarun Das CII,
D.G. 23, 26, Institutional Area,
Lodi Road, New Delhi-3. 10. Dr. Amit Mitra
Secretary-General, FICCI,
Federation House,
Tansen Marg,
New Delhi-1. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Shri Jamshyd N. Godrej,
Managing Director,
Godrej and Boyce
Manufacturing Co. Ltd.,
Pirojshanagar, Vikhroli,
Bombay-79. 12. Shri P. Murari,
Adv. to President, FICCI,
Federation House,
Tansen Marg, New Delhi-1. 13. Dr. Nitesh Sen Gupta,
Director General
International Management
Institute, Qutub Institutional
Area, Mehrauli Road,
New Delhi-16. 14. Smt. Mohini Giri,
Chairperson, National
Commission for Women,
4, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg,
N. Delhi-2. 15. Shri Swaminathan S.
Anklesaria Iyer, Editor,
Economic Times,
Times House, 7, BSZ Marg,
New Delhi-2. 16. Shrimati Dharma Kumar,
77-Sunder Nagar, New Delhi-3. 17. Prof. Yashpal,
National Research Professor,
11-B, Super Deluxe Flats,
Sector - 15A, Noida-201203, U.P. 18. Shri Rajesh Shah Managing
Director, Mukand Limited,
Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg,
Kurla, Bombay-400070. 19. Shri A.M. Khusro Consulting
Editor, Financial Express,
Express Building, 9-10,
BSZ Marg, New Delhi-2. 20. Shri Abid Hussain,
Vice-Chairman.
Rajiv Gandhi Foundation,
Jawahar Bhavan,
Dr. R.P. Road, New Delhi-1. 21. Shri Sam Pitroda.
Adviser to the PM on
Technology Mission,
Room No. 213 Sanchar Bhawan,
Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 22. Shri Jairam Ramesh
Adviser, Planning Commission,
E-79, Masjid Moth,
Greater Kailash-III,
New Delhi-48. |
|---|---|

23. Dr. (Smt.) Chitra Naik,
Member (Education) Planning
Commission, Yojana Bhavan,
New Delhi-1.
24. Dr. D. Swaminadhan
Member (Higher and Technical
Education) Planning
Commission, Yojana Bhawan,
New Delhi-1.
25. Dr. (Mrs.) A. Desai,
Chairperson, University
Grants Commission,
BSZ Marg, New Delhi-2.
26. Prof. S.K. Khanna, Chairman,
All India Council of Technical
Education, Indira Gandhi
Sports Complex, IP Estate,
New Delhi-2.

Synergy Sub-Group (Primary Education)

1. Shri Abid Hussain, Chairman
Vice-Chairman,
Rajiv Gandhi Foundation,
Jawahar Bhavan,
Dr. R.P. Road, New Delhi-1.
2. Shri M.V. Subbiah, CEO,
TT Group, 6, Cathedral
Road, Madras-600086.
3. Smt. Manju Bharatram,
Chairperson, The Shri Ram
School, D-3, Vasant Vihar,
New Delhi-57.
4. Shri Arun Purie Editor in
Chief, India Today, F-Block,
Connaught Place, New Delhi-1.
5. Shri Anand Sharma,
47, North Avenue,
New Delhi-11.
6. Ms. Ambika Soni,
201, South Avenue,
New Delhi-11.
7. Shri S.S. Chakraborty,
Director, Ramakrishna
Mission Lokashiksha
Parishad Narendrapur,
South 24, Pargana,
West Bengal-743508.
8. Dr. Promod Kumar,
Associate Professor, XLRI,
Post Box. 222,
Jamshedpur-831001.
9. Shri John Kurien,
Centre for Learning Resources,
8, Deam College Road,
Yerewada, Pune-411006.

10. Prof. A.K. Vasvi, IIM,
Ahmedabad, Vastrapur,
Ahmedabad-380015.
11. Dr. George Mathew, Director,
Institute of Social Sciences,
B. 7/18, Safderjung Enclave,
New Delhi-110029.
12. Dr. Anil Sadgopal,
E.13/Kalindi Colony,
New Delhi-110065.
13. Dr. A.K. Sharma, Director,
NCERT, Sri Aurobindo Marg,
New Delhi-110016.
14. Shri M.P. Parameswaran,
Secretary, Bharat Gyan
Vigyan Samiti, C-18,
DDA Flats (MIG), Saket,
New Delhi-110017.
15. Shri Muniratnam,
General Secretary, Rayalseema
Seva Samithi, 9,
Old Huzur Office Building,
Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh-517501.
16. Shri Vinod Raina,
Eklavya, E-1/208,
Erera Colony, Bhopal-462016.
17. Shri T.S. Bareh,
Agya Cottage,
Lower Lachumiere,
Shillong-793001.
18. Dr. R.V. Vaidyanatha Ayyar
Joint Secretary (DPEP)
Department of Education
Ministry of Human Resource
Development, New Delhi.

Synergy Sub-Group (IITs)

1. Shri Vinay Kumar Modi Chairman
Vice-Chairman and MD
Modi Rubber Limited,
4-7 DDA Shopping Centre,
New Friends Colony,
New Delhi-110065.
2. Shri Subodh Bhargava,
Vice-Chairman and Chief
Executive Eicher Good Earth
Limited, Eicher House,
12, Commercial Complex,
Greater Kallash-II (Masjid Moth)
New Delhi-110048.
3. Prof. V.S. Raju, Director,
IIT, Hauz Khas,
New Delhi-110016.

[English]

Pending Projects of Madhya Pradesh

1261. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of different projects of Madhya Pradesh including the projects which are cleared by the World Bank pending with the Union Government for the Environment and Forest clearance;

(b) since when these projects are pending and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to clear these projects early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) A *Statement* is annexed.

(c) A final decision on the clearances of the project proposals is taken within a stipulated time period of 90 days from the date of receipt of all requisite information and relevant details from the project proponents.

STATEMENT

List of development projects pending with this Ministry for Environmental and Forest clearance

S.No.	Name of Projects	Date of receipt	Reasons for pendency
1	2	3	4
1.	Bulk Drug Project in MPAKVN Industrial Area, Ghirongi Malpur Distt. of M/s. Cardinal Drugs Ltd.	May, 95	Under Process.
2.	Sponge Iron Project at Distt. Bilaspur, M.P. of M/s. Prakash Industries Ltd.	June, 95	Under Process.
3.	Expansion of the Banmore Cement works of M/s. CRC Bhupender Cement Ltd., Gwalior.	June, 95	Project not accepted for non compliance of the existing unit to the prescribed standards.
4.	2x500 MW Power Project at 'Korba, of M/s. Daewoo Power Ltd.	June, 95	Under Process.
5.	120 MW Diesel Power Project at Gwalior of M/s Gwalior Power Pvt. Ltd.	June, 95	Under Process.
6.	Rowghat Iron ore Mine of M/s. SAIL.	June, 95	Under Process.
7.	Baraduar Dolomite Mine of M/s. SAIL.	Sept., 94	Under Process.
8.	Nighai Opencast (Exp.) of M/s. NCL.	Oct., 94	Under Process.
9.	Bauxite Mine of M/s. Hindalco Industries Ltd.	Nov., 94	Under Process.
10.	Dilwadiah underground mining project of M/s. SECL.	March, 95	Under Process.
11.	Amadand and Kewai Project of M/s. SECL.	March, 95	Under Process.
12.	Rajnagar Opencast of M/s. SECL.	May, 95	Under Process.
13.	Kotma West Opencast of M/s. SECL.	June, 95	Under Process.
14.	220 KW D/C Damoh-Tikamgarh transmission line.	July, 95	Under Process.

1	2	3	4
15.	Upper and Lower Bhandora Tank Project.	July, 95	Under Process
16.	Forest land to SECL for mining and rening activity at Sohagpur area in Shahdol.	July, 95	Under process
17.	Construction of Security perimeter wall at CPE Taku.	July, 95	Under Process
18.	Renewal of temporary pattas in forest villages, Bhopal.	July, 95	Under Process
19.	Renewal of temporary pattas in forest villages, Dewas.	July, 95	Under Process
20.	Renewal of temporary pattas in forest villages, Betul.	July, 95	Under Process
21.	Renewal of temporary pattas in forest villages, Sagar.	July, 95	Under Process
22.	Renewal of temporary pattas in forest villages, Raisen.	July, 95	Under Process
23.	Renewal of temporary pattas in forest villages, Tikamgarh.	July, 95	Under Process
24.	Renewal of temporary pattas in forest villages, Raigarh.	July, 95	Under Process
25.	Renewal of temporary pattas in forest villages, Dhar.	July, 95	Under Process
26.	Renewal of temporary pattas in forest villages, Vidisha.	July, 95	Under Process
27.	Renewal of temporary Pattas in forest villages, Guna.	July, 95	Under Process
28.	Renewal of temporary pattas in forest villages, Chhindwara.	July, 95	Under Process
29.	Renewal of temporary pattas in forest villages, Raigarh.	July, 95	Under Process
30.	Renewal of temporary pattas in forest villages, Bilaspur.	July, 95	Under process
31.	Renewal of temporary pattas in forest villages, Sarguja.	July, 95	Under process
32.	Renewal of temporary pattas in forest villages, Durg.	July, 95	Under process
33.	Renewal of temporary pattas in forest villages, Rajnandgaon.	July, 95	Under process
34.	Renewal of temporary pattas in forest villages, Mandsour.	July, 95	Under process
35.	Renewal of temporary pattas in forest villages, Indore.	July, 95	Under process
36.	Renewal of temporary pattas in forest villages, Balaghat.	July, 95	Under process
37.	Renewal of Dolomite mining lease, in favour of Shri Sayed Jamil Raza.	July, 95	Under process

1	2	3	4
38.	Renewal of mining lease in f/o M/s. Swastik bagda Tiles.	May, 95	Undrer Process
39.	Construction of Baiag Padria Road.	April, 95	Under process
40.	Diversion of forest land to M/s. Maihar Cement Co. for renewal of mining lease.	March, 95	Under process
41.	Water tank and drinking water pipeline, Sarguja.	April, 95	Under Process.

[Translation]

Felling of Trees in Kashmir

1262. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Ab Ghati Ki Hariyali Par Bhi Ugravadiun Ka Kehar", appearing in the 'Jansatta' dated July 13, 1995;

(b) whether illegal felling of trees by the militant in Kashmir is continued;

(c) whether trees are being smuggled on large scale and the officers/employees of forest department are also involved therein;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (e). The information from the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production and Export of Flowers

1263. SHRI RAM PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the approximate quantity of flowers produced in the Country annually;

(b) the names of main varieties of flowers being produced at present;

(c) the total quantity of flowers produced in the country during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(d) the assistance provided to each State during 1994-95 for promotion of floriculture and allocated for 1995-96;

(e) whether the Government have formulated any policy for promoting the export of flowers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) According to rough estimates, the annual production of flowers during 1992-93 was about 2 lakhs MT of loose and 45 crore number of cut flowers.

(b) Rose, marigold, Jasmine, Crossandra, Chrysanthemum, among loose flowers and rose, gladiolus, tuberose, orchid and carnation among cut flowers.

(c) The production figures for 1993-94 and 1994-95 are not available.

(d) the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on Commercial Floriculture during Eighth Plan. The State-wise release of funds during 1994-95 and the allocation for 1995-96 are given in Statement-I. In addition, the National Horticulture Board has provided assistance under its various schemes for infrastructure development for horticulture crops including flowers. During 1993-94 and 1994-95, the Board released a total of Rs. 1334.40 lakhs to nineteen (19) floriculture projects in 9 different States under its scheme on participation in soft loan (Statement-II).

(e) and (f). While Government has not formulated any policy to promote exports of flowers, floriculture has been identified as an Extreme Focus Segment for exports and a strategy plan for boosting exports of horticultural crops including flowers has been prepared and is being implemented.

STATEMENT-I

Central Sector Scheme on Commercial Floriculture Assistance Provided to States for Promotion of Floriculture

State/UT	1994-95 Release	1995-96 Allocation
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	1.50	4.00
Arunachal Pradesh	0.50	0.50
Assam	0.00	0.50

1	2	3
Bihar	0.00	1.00
Gujarat	0.65	2.00
Goa	1.00	2.50
Haryana	3.00	5.00
Himachal Pradesh	0.00	2.00
Jammu and Kashmir	7.00	19.50
Karnataka	39.80	16.00
Kerala	12.80	13.00
Madhya Pradesh	1.00	3.50
Maharashtra	9.00	20.00
Manipur	0.50	0.50
Meghalaya	0.50	0.50
Mizoram	1.50	0.50
Nagaland	0.50	1.00
Orissa	2.00	1.00
Punjab	7.00	19.00
Rajasthan	2.00	6.00
Sikkim	11.50	14.00
Tamil Nadu	9.00	21.00
Tripura	0.50	0.50
Uttar Pradesh	34.00	21.00
West Bengal	0.00	22.00
Andaman and Nicobar	0.00	0.50
Chandigarh	-	-
Dadra Nagar Haveli	-	-
Delhi	3.00	2.50
Daman and Diu	-	-
Lakshadweep	-	-
Pondicherry	0.50	0.50
Total	148.75	200.00

STATEMENT-II

Details of floriculture project under the scheme "Development of Marketing of Horticulture produce through Participation in soft loan"

National Horticulture Board
(1993-94 and 1994-95)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. States/location No.	Beneficiary	NHR loan sanction	Amount Released
1	2	3	4
1. Haryana	Cosco Blossoms Pvt. Ltd.	100.00	100.00
	Global Industries Ltd.	76.00	76.00
	Viewa Flora Ltd.	100.00	100.00
	Rosseta Ltd.	67.75	-

1	2	3	4	5
2. Maharashtra	Neha International Ltd.	100.00	100.00	
	Deccan Florabase Ltd.	100.00	100.00	
	Vaiplus Biotech Ltd.	100.00	100.00	
	Ruhna Major Biotech Pvt. Ltd.	93.50	93.50	
3. Punjab	Punjab Blossoms Ltd.	75.50	30.50	
4. Uttar Pradesh	K.S. Unvan Pvt. Ltd.	17.30		
5. A.P.	Jagdambay Agri Genetic Ltd.	100.00	100.00	
	Indus Floritech Pvt. Ltd.	100.00	-	
6. Karnataka	Indo Bloom Ltd.	75.60	75.60	
	Gamsan Agritech	69.00	69.00	
	IDI Chemicals	100.00	100.00	
7. Rajasthan	Worldwide Flori. Horti. Ltd.	47.00	47.00	
	Rozendia	100.00	100.00	
8. Tamil Nadu	Movai Dairy Foods Pvt. Ltd.	42.80	42.80	
9. West Bengal	Kevantor Agro	100.00	100.00	
Total			1564.45	1334.40

[English]

Women in Agricultural Field

1264. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission for women has recently conducted a study regarding the role of women in the agricultural field;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions made therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI) :
(a) to (c). The National Commission for Women has not conducted any study regarding the role of women in the agricultural field. However, the National Commission for Women, jointly with the International Federation for Women in Agriculture and the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management, Hyderabad had organised a Seminar in December, 1993 on "Women in Agriculture-Developmental Issues". The summary of the recommendations of the Seminar is in the Statement. While the Commission has not made any formal recommendations in this regard, the suggestions that were made at the seminar have been forwarded to the concerned Ministries/Departments for appropriate action.

STATEMENT

Major Recommendations Made in the National Seminar on "Women in Agriculture - Developmental Issues" Held on December 28-30, 1993.

FARM TECHNOLOGIES AND TRANSFER MECHANISM :

1. Appropriate farm technologies and improved implements suited to the needs of farm women needed.
2. Promote women's participation in the areas like dairying, sericulture etc.
3. Tree Pattas should be given to farm women.
4. Allot wasteland to rural women for managing common assets through social farming.
5. A cadre of technical women extension workers needs to be developed.
6. Appropriate training programmes suited to the specific needs of women have to be organised.
7. Promote the concept of production-cum-marketing centres on a larger scale.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH HAZARDS :

8. By keeping in view the ergonomics of farm women, agricultural tools need to be standardized in terms of comfort in use, material quality, energy efficiency, cost efficiency, and time efficiency.
9. The farm women should be trained in the proper use of agrochemicals and be provided with personal safety devices.
10. Create awareness among the farm women on food requirements and occupational health hazards.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL PROVISIONS :

11. Agricultural labour inspectors be appointed to counsel farm women in rural areas for getting their due wages.
12. A comprehensive legislation be enacted for safeguarding the interests of farm women.
13. Farm women should be given ownership rights to milch animals and other small livestock.
14. The women members of the panchayats alongwith nominated members be organised into Village Mahila Courts.

15. The Agricultural Census might devote a separate section to women in agriculture.
16. State Governments should promote the idea of organising Mahila Mandals in all villages and panchayats.
17. Appropriate training should be given to farm women for scientific seed production.
18. In order to overcome the difficulties associated with the access of farm women to credit, the alternate channel of credit through Mahila Kosh or Women Bank needs to be promoted in rural areas.
19. SAUs and the State Departments of Agriculture should constitute a Cell in each for promoting and monitoring the work on women in Agriculture.

[Translation]

Stoppage at Ganj Basoda Station

1265. SHRI RAM BADAN :
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide a stoppage of Shipra Express No. 1171/1172 at Ganj Basoda station (Central Railway); and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Stall Contractors

1266. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of items permitted for sale to a Miscellaneous Article Contractor on the platforms at the Railway Stations; and

(b) the details of items permitted for sale by a Chemist Stall Contractor on platforms at the Railway Stations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Travellers, requisites like locks, chains, handbags, water bottles, pankhas, surahis, etc; toiletries like shaving accessories, soap, hair oil, etc; stationery items like pencil, pen, ink, writing pads, picture album, post cards of historical places, etc; toys and curios; articles of local manufactures famous for craftsmanship, Perfumes, Combs, Mirrors, Nirodh, etc.

(b) Medicines, toilet items, soaps, detergents, toothpaste, jam, squashes, thraptin Biscuits, Horlicks, Bournvita, Ayurvedic/Homeopathic medicines, cosmetic items, Nirodh, etc.

J.J. Clusters Under RPDS

1267. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Plea to bring J.J. Clusters under RPDS", appeared in the 'Hindustan Times', dated June 23, 1995.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have considered to provide concessional facility of ration to 40% Economically Weaker Sections living in J.J. Clusters; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item referred to mentions a demand by the Food and Civil Supplies Minister of Delhi to bring jhuggi jhonpri clusters/resettlement colonies in Delhi under the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) for concessional supply of foodgrains.

(c) No such specific proposal is under consideration at present.

(d) As per present policy, coverage under RPDS is limited to the rural areas even in the Blocks identified under the Scheme. Only in Tribal majority States, both urban and rural areas are covered under RPDS.

National Pulse Development Project

1268. DR. K.D. JESWANI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to implement the National Pulse Development Project in all the Districts of Gujarat in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the financial assistance proposed to be provided to the State for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (c). The National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is being implemented in three selected districts of Gujarat. Central allocation of Rs. 96 lakhs has been

made for the year 1995-96. However, there is no proposal to cover all the districts of Gujarat State under National Pulses Development Project.

Vishnu Prayag H.E. Project

1269. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vishnu Prayag Hydro-Electric Project in Chamoli District of Uttar Pradesh is a Run-of-the River Hydel Project;

(b) whether Environment Clearance is required for the above;

(c) if so, whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has forwarded the case to the Union Government;

(d) if so, when;

(e) whether the Environment Clearance has been given;

(f) if so, when; and

(g) if not, the time by which this is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) to (g). The proposal has been received in the Government for environmental clearance in April, 1995. This has been examined and the additional information sought is awaited from the project proponents. A decision will be taken expeditiously on receipt of complete environmental data.

[Translation]

Withdrawal of Trains

1270. SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several trains running between Delhi Junction and Howrah/Sealdah including Janta Express have been withdrawn one by one;

(b) if so the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to replace Janta Express by introducing an express train; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (d). Only 3039/3040 Delhi-Howrah Janta Express has been withdrawn from 1.7.95 and in lieu thereof 3111/3112 Express has been restored between Delhi and Sealdah. There is no proposal at present to introduce any new train between Delhi and Howrah/Sealdah.

CBSE Marking Scheme

1271. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Union Government have been drawn to the news item captioned "Examiners flay CBSE marking scheme", appearing in 'Indian Express', dated July 2, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the Government have reviewed the evaluation system of CBSE and the problem faced by examiners in this regard; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The system of evaluation of answersheets in the Examinations conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has inbuilt mechanism to ensure its efficiency, credibility and objectivity to the maximum extent possible. The Board is continuously making efforts to bring further improvement in the quality of its evaluation.

[English]

Mobilisation of Resources

1272. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have decided to mobilise resources through lease financing; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With a sharp reduction in budgetary support for their development plans, the Railways have decided to mobilise resources through Lease Financing and to undertake some of the works under Build - Own - Lease - Transfer (BOLT) Scheme. In this scheme, private entrepreneurs and financial institutions are invited to build/manufacture and lease the constructed asset to the Railways. Railways would pay, to the entrepreneurs, the lease charges for the asset, as mutually agreed upon, during the period of lease. On the expiry of the lease period, the asset is transferred to the Railways. Under the BOLT scheme, entrepreneurs and financial institutions are selected after inviting open bids for the projects to be executed. Over 24 projects have been identified for taking up under BOLT scheme.

Bids have been received for some of the projects and are under evaluation. The outcome will be known after finalisation of the same.

Compensation to Robbery Victims

1273. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the amount of compensation paid to the affected people in the incident of robbery which took place in Purushottam Express on 21st June, 1995 near Gaya Station in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : Claims are still being filed. Compensation will be paid by the railway when these are decreed by the Railway Claims Tribunal.

Allotment of Land by Sports Authority of India

1274. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sports Authority of India has allotted some land in the plaza of the Indira Gandhi Stadium to the Delhi Stock Exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any open tenders were invited for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the criteria followed in allotting the land to the Delhi Stock Exchange; and

(f) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the persons responsible for violating norms in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : (a) to (f). The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House subsequently.

Correspondence Courses

1275. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any evaluation of the correspondence courses including the charging of fees etc. is carried out by the Universities;

(b) whether UGC propose to make evaluation in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Theft of Coal

1276. DR. SAKSHIJI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about theft of Coal from wagons en-route while being sent to Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any investigation has been conducted into such complaints during the last one year; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No such case has been reported in the recent past.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) However, the following preventive measures are being taken to prevent such thefts :

1. Escorting of block loads of coal from coal fields to various destination points by armed RPF is undertaken as far as possible.
2. Crime intelligence staff of the RPF are engaged in the detection of the activities of coal thieves.
3. Beat-cum-patrolling duties have been introduced in big yards.
4. Frequent raids and searches are conducted by the RPF and Police in vulnerable areas.
5. Surprise checks are being conducted in vulnerable sectors and black spots to catch the criminals red-handed.
6. Dog squads are used to patrol vulnerable yards and affected sections.

Research Work

1277. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ph.D. degrees based on co-joint work are treated as equal to the Ph.D. degrees based on independent research work particularly in respect of the Department of Mathematics, Punjab University;

(b) whether there have been some cases where the guides earlier certified about the independent

nature of Research Work done by candidates but after the acceptance of the thesis and awarding of Ph.D. degree, co-joint Articles have been published out of that very thesis and in the joint names of the same candidates and guides; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in such cases?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) According to information furnished by UGC, 174 Universities/institutions deemed to be universities have informed that Ph.D. degree based on co-joint research by any person has not been considered equivalent to Ph.D. degree based on independent research work.

There is no provision under the regulations/rules of Punjab University to consider co-joint research work by any person as equivalent to Ph.D. degree. As such the co-joint work is not considered for the award of Ph.D. degree.

(b) and (c). The Universities being autonomous bodies take their own decisions and the UGC does not interfere in internal matters of the Universities.

[Translation]

Leasing Government Land for Agricultural Purposes

1278. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to lease out the Government land lying in the country to the industrial organisations for agricultural purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have obtained the information regarding the availability of this type of land;

(d) if so, the names of the States where such land is available indicating the area of such land available in each State; and

(e) the additional percentage of agricultural production likely to be achieved as a result of implementation of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) No, Sir. Administration of land being a State Subject, the Government of India has no competence to take a decision on the issue of providing public land to the industrial organisations on lease basis for agricultural use.

(b) to (e). In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

Voluntary Consumer Action Network

1279. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prescription Audit has been started by the Voluntary Consumer Action Network with the help of Consumer Trust Society, Calcutta as per the news published in "The Hindu", dated May 27, 1995;

(b) the jurisdiction thereof and the names of the agencies co-operating in this regard;

(c) the time by which the said Audit Report is likely to be published; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (d). The subject matter came to the notice of the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution through the news item published in "The Hindu". This Ministry is not participating in the prescription audit campaign of the Voluntary Consumer Action Network.

[English]

Bureau of Indian Standards

1280. DR. R. MALLU : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bureau of Indian Standards is following any applicable international quality system standard for its own functioning; and

(b) if so, the details of the quality system existing in the Bureau of Indian Standards?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Bureau of Indian Standards has taken a policy decision to go in for installation of Quality Management System in the organisation. For this purpose, ISO 9002 Quality Systems-Model for Quality Assurance in Production, Installation and Servicing has been chosen as Bureau of Indian Standards is mainly a service organisation.

Statue of Lord Kartikeshwara

1281. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any report about the stolen silver statue of the "Lord Kartikeshwara" from the village chapel, in the Distt. Chamoli (U.P.) recently; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) No, Sir. the Archaeological Survey of India has not received any such report.

(b) Does not arise.

Edible Oils

1282. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the NDDB holding huge stocks of edible oils in their godown and not releasing the same in the market to contain the rising prices and to meet the gap between the demand and the supply;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to check such hoardings detrimental to the public interest;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra seized stocks of edible oils from the NDDB; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) was authorised in 1994-95 to import three lakh tonnes of edible oils at the concessional duty rate of 20% for augmenting availability of edible oils in the country. NDDB has reported that up to 31.7.95, they had a ctually imported 1.61 lakh tonnes adn sold 1.29 lakh tonnes of edible oil. NDDB has reported that they need to hold at least three months requirement in stock and in the distribution channels for maintaining retail supplies at current levels. Imported edible oils are exempted from stock holding limits prescribed by the Government.

(c) and (d). No such report has been received either from the NDDB or the Government of Maharashtra.

Railway Route

1283. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has requested to realign the Railway Route between Dharwar and Londa to provide railway facilities to Haliyal and neighbouring villages; and

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. The existing metre gauge line between Dharwar and Londa has been converted into broad gauge in the same alignment, without any diversion.

[Translation]

"Environmental and Forestry Projects in Bihar"

1284. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF, FATMI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the projects launched with the Central as well as foreign assistance for the conservation of environment and development of forests in Bihar during each of the last three years;

(b) the achievements made so far in this regard;

(c) the financial assistance provided for each scheme; and

(d) the details of the schemes proposed to be launched during 1995-96 alongwith the assistance involved in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI .KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c). The details of the projects launched with the central as well as foreign assistance for the conservation of environment and development of forests in Bihar during the last three years alongwith achievements both financial and physical are given in the Statement.

(d) The projects are continuing in nature.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in lakhs)						
S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Broad Objective	Extent of funding by Government of India	Status	Achievement during the last three years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95	
					Financial	Physical
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	National Parks and Sanctuaries	Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	100%	Ongoing	85.99	Targets fixed in terms of financial releases
2.	Eco-development around Project Tiger areas	Provide alternative sustenance to communities living on fringes of Tiger Reserves	100% NR 50% R	Ongoing	61.86	2 Tiger Reserves covered
3.	Project Tiger	To ensure viable population of tigers	100% NR 50% R	Ongoing	161.40	2 Tiger Reserves covered
4.	Modern Forest Fire Control Methods	Controlling forest fires to protect and conserve forests	100%	Ongoing	6.07	Targets fixed in terms of financial releases
5.	Paryavaran Vahini Scheme	Create environmental awareness through active participation of public	100%	Ongoing	1.15	Constituted in 6 districts
6.	Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in regeneration of degraded forests	Improving biomass resource base in degraded forests	100%	Ongoing	53.63	NA
7.	Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project Scheme	Augmenting supply of fuelwood and fodder in identified fuelwood deficit districts	50%	Ongoing	529.32	15130 ha. area covered
8.	Minor Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants	Raising of Minor Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants	100%	Ongoing	188.00	4500 ha. area covered

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme	Promote afforestation and Eco-Development	100%	Ongoing	80.00	673 ha. area covered
10.	Ganga Action Plan*	Pollution abatement of river Ganga	100% Phase I 50% Phase II	Ongoing	1481.00	41 Schemes completed
11.	Eco-development around National Parks and Sanctuaries	Provide alternative sustenance to communities living on fringes of National Parks	100% NR 50% R	Ongoing	36.78	Targets fixed in terms of financial releases
12.	Project Elephant	To ensure long term survival of elephant	100% NR 50% R	Ongoing	13.50	Targets fixed in terms of financial releases

Note : * Externally aided scheme
 NA - Not available
 NR - Not Recurring
 R - Recurring

[English]

Transfer of Production Technology

1285. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- the steps being taken for transferring the latest production technology to farmers; and
- the tangible results of this effort?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has established Krishi Vigyan Kendras for transferring the latest production technology to farmers through vocational training, frontline demonstrations, on-farm research/testing and inservice training to extension workers at grassroot level. So far, 183 Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been established in 179 districts of the country. In addition, 78 Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been sanctioned recently and are in various stages of establishment.

(b) The Krishi Vigyan Kendras during the year 1994-95, have conducted 14631 vocational training courses benefiting 262999 farmers, farm women and village youths.

Out of the total trainees, 56025 belonged to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The other

major extension activities include 1000 field days for demonstrating the production potential and 177 kisan melas.

The frontline demonstrations on oilseeds and pulses involved 99159 farmers. The major crops covered under these frontline demonstrations were mustard, groundnut, sunflower, sesamum, safflower, castor, red gram, chickpea, green gram and black gram. Besides this, 271 on-farm trials/testing have also been conducted for technology assessment and refinement for the benefit of farmers. 689 training programmes were also organized for 14,130 grassroot level extension workers.

Forest Cover

1286. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- whether the Government have taken steps to widen Forest Cover throughout India;
- if so, the details thereof and the details of Forest Cover, State-wise during the last two years;
- the States that are lacking in Forest Cover and the reasons therefor; and
- the steps proposed by the Government to widen Forest Cover during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State-wise details of the Forest Cover as

per 1991 and 1993 assessment as reported in the State of Forest Report, 1993 are as follows :

S.No.	States/UTs.	1991 assessment	1993 assessment
(Area in Sq. Kms.)			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	47,290	47,256
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	68,757	68,661
3.	Assam	24,751	24,508
4.	Bihar	26,668	26,587
5.	Goa (including Daman and Diu)	1,225	1,250
6.	Gujarat	11,907	12,044
7.	Haryana	513	513
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11,780	12,502
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	20,064	20,443
10.	Karnataka	32,199	32,343
11.	Kerala	10,292	10,336
12.	Madhya Pradesh	135,785	135,396
13.	Maharashtra	44,044	43,859
14.	Manipur	17,685	17,621
15.	Meghalaya	15,875	15,769
16.	Mizoram	18,853	18,697
17.	Nagaland	14,321	14,348
18.	Orissa	47,205	47,145
19.	Punjab	1,343	1,343
20.	Rajasthan	12,835	13,099
21.	Sikkim	3,033	3,119
22.	Tamil Nadu	17,713	17,726
23.	Tripura	5,535	5,538
24.	Uttar Pradesh	33,609	33,961
25.	West Bengal	8,015	8,186
26.	Andaman and Nicobar	7,622	7,624
27.	Chandigarh	5	5
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	206	206
29.	Delhi	22	22
30.	Lakshadweep	-	-
31.	Pondicherry	-	-
Total		6,39,182]	6,40,107

(c) As per the State of Forest Report, 1993, the States/Union Territories of Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Chandigarh and Delhi have less than 10% Forest Cover. The main reason for less forest cover in these States/Union Territories can be attributed to increase in human and cattle population, urbanisation and overall paucity of funds for afforestation.

(d) The various steps taken during Eighth Five Year Plan by the Government to increase the forest cover are :

- (i) People's participation is being actively promoted for protection and management of forest in all the States/Union Territories.
- (ii) Financial assistance is being provided to the States/Union Territories for rehabilitation of degraded forest through involvement of tribals and rural poor and also for control of forest fires.
- (iii) It is proposed to substantially expand the coverage of afforestation/tree-planting activities during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Calico Museum

1287. SHRI LAETA UMBREY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to declare Calico Museum of Textiles as National Heritage;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision proposed to be taken for rehabilitation of the employees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c). An Advisory Committee has been set up by the Government to examine the problems, including organisational set up of Calico Museum of Textiles.

Area Under Oilseeds/Vegetables

1288. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the areas under Oilseeds and Vegetable cultivation in Orissa;

(b) whether the Government of Orissa has submitted any scheme in this regard to the Central Government and sought Central assistance for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). In view of reply at (b) above, question does not arise.

[Translation]

Train Between Bikaner and Howrah

1289. SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether rail roko agitation is going on at Bikaner for the last fifteen days for introduction of direct train from Bikaner to Howrah; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet this demand?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) There was an agitation at Bikaner for introduction of a direct train from Bikaner to Howrah.

(b) Connection of 391/392 Bikaner-Jaipur Passenger with 2307/2308 Jodhpur-Howrah Express at Merta Road has already been provided and a quota of 2 berths in 1 Class A.C., 6 berths in AC 2 Tier and 72 berths in sleeper class has also been earmarked for Bikaner passengers on 2307/2308 Jodhpur-Howrah Express. However, this issue is being examined afresh and action as found feasible and justified will be taken.

[English]

Over-bridge

1290. SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of the proposed and sanctioned chord over-bridge at Badagara in Kerala;

(b) whether the progress has been going on as per schedule; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c). This work was included in Railway's Works Programme in 1990-91. Ministry of Surface Transport did not approve general arrangement drawing inspite of prolonged correspondence by Railways. Work was therefore, dropped from Railway's Works Programme in 1992-93.

Kothari Commission Report

1291. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the year in which Dr. Kothari Commission submitted its report on education reforms to the Government;

(b) the salient features of the recommendations of Dr. Kothari's Commission's Report; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Sir, 1966.

(b) The Kothari Commission made 230 recommendations. The main recommendations made by the Commission were :

- (i) Science and Mathematics should be taught on a compulsory basis to all pupils during the first 10 years of schooling. Work experience should be integrated as an integral part of all education;
- (ii) An appropriate policy for teaching languages in schools should be evolved. The Commission recommended a scheme of teaching language at various levels;
- (iii) The common school system of public education should be adopted as a national goal and it should be implemented as a phased programme spread over 20 years;
- (iv) Social and national service should be made obligatory for all students at all stages;
- (v) Structure of education should be changed to provide for 10 years of general education followed by 2 years of higher secondary and 3 years of first degree course;
- (vi) The number of instructional days in a year should be increased to about 39 weeks for schools and 36 weeks for colleges;
- (vii) To facilitate implementation of pay-scales of University level, the Central Government should provide 80% assistance and the States should meet 20% of the liability;
- (viii) The employment of women teachers should be encouraged at all stages;
- (ix) The UGC should select, as soon as possible, from amongst the existing Universities, about 6 Universities for development as major Universities. A cluster of advanced centres should be developed in major universities;
- (x) All institutions of engineering education should be improved;
- (xi) Every possible effort should be made to eradicate illiteracy from the country as early as possible and in no part of the country it should take more than 20 years;

(xii) Total expenditure on education should be increased, to reach 6% of the GNP in 1985-86.

(c) The National Policy on Education, 1968 was formulated on the basis of the recommendations of the Kothari Commission. Based on in-depth review of the Indian educational system a new National Policy on Education was formulated in 1986. This Policy has since been updated in 1992.

Grants-in-aid

1292. SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of individuals and institutions to whom grants have been made by the Ministry during the period 1991-94; and

(b) the criteria adopted in selecting the individuals/institutions and also in fixing the amount of grants?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b). The National Policy on Education, 1986 and its Programme of Action, 1992 provides that non-government and voluntary efforts including social activist groups will be encouraged subject to proper management. Accordingly, this Ministry provides Grant-in-aid to voluntary agencies under various schemes. There are inbuilt mechanisms for appraisals of proposals from various agencies prior to sanction and subsequent monitoring. The agencies who have been given substantial grants are listed in the Annual Report of the Ministry.

[Translation]

Electric and Diesel Locomotives

1293. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the annual capacity for manufacturing Electric and Diesel Locomotives in the country;

(b) whether locomotives have been imported during 1994-95;

(c) whether locomotives would be imported during 1995-96;

(d) if so, the value, the horse power capacity and the maximum speed limit thereof;

(e) the number of Electric and Diesel Locomotives among them;

(f) whether such Locomotives cannot be manufactured within the country;

(g) the reasons for importing Locomotives;

(h) whether the country is exporting Locomotives; and

(i) the arrangements made for spare parts and the maintenance of the Locomotives being imported?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) The capacity for manufacture of locomotives depends on the product mix of various types of locomotives to be manufactured in a given year. During 1994-95, the Production Units of Indian Railways produced 150 electric and 150 diesel locomotives.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e). The requisite information about passenger and freight electric locomotives being imported is as follows :

Item	Passenger	Freight
(i) No. of locos scheduled to be shipped during 1995-96	10	6
(ii) Horse Power	5000	6000
(iii) Speed limit (Km./h)	160	100
(iv) Approximate landed cost per loco as per current exchange rates. Rs. in Crores.	22.40	20.50

(f) and (g). The purpose of this import arrangement is to acquire the necessary capability to produce such locomotives through transfer of technology. Towards this objective, 3 phase drive locomotives with micro-processor based control systems are being procured alongwith transfer of technology which would enable CLW to manufacture these locomotives in India.

(h) Yes, Sir. 10 Nos. Diesel Locomotives are being exported to Bangladesh and 2 Nos. to Sri Lanka from Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi.

(i) The supply contract with M/s. ABB includes spare parts for three years' maintenance requirements.

[English]

Joint Forestry Management Scheme

1294. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has issued guidelines to formulate specific schemes regarding the involvement of village communities, voluntary organisations in protection and regeneration of

degraded forests on the basis of sharing of forest produce under the Centrally sponsored "Joint Forestry Management Scheme".

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard by the State Government;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government against the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The National Forest Policy, 1988 envisages peoples involvement in the development and protection of forests. The Ministry of Environment and Forests had issued guidelines for this vide a circular dated 1st June, 1990. Thereafter, fifteen State Governments have issued Government resolutions in this regard. The Government of Kerala and the other State Governments who have not issued such resolutions so far have been repeatedly requested to do so.

Excavations

1295. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the archaeological sites which were excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India during 1994-95;

(b) the budget and the achievement of the excavations, site-wise;

(c) the expenditure to be incurred on excavation during 1995-96; and

(d) the archaeological excavation projects undertaken in the past whose detailed reports are yet to be published by the Archaeological Survey of India and in particular the time by which the final report on the 'Archaeology of Ramayana Sites' project is likely to be published?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b). The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) conducted excavations at 14 sites over 9 States during the year 1994-95. The provisions in the budget for excavations amounted to Rs. 50.25 lakhs and the results were significant as the valuable data on the cultures or periods covering the early, mature, late Harappan Chalcolithic Cultures, Early Historical, Historical, Medieval, Mughal and Colonial periods have been gathered and significant structures and objects found. The details of sites, site-wise break-up of the budget provisions and achievements are given in the attached Statement.

(c) The budget provision for excavations during 1995-96 is estimated to be Rs. 18 lakhs.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of the site	Budget allocation during 1994-95 for Explorations/Excavations (in lacs)	Achievements
1	2	3	4
1.	DELHI		
	Lal Kot, Mehrauli Delhi by Delhi Circle	4.5	Structural remains of Rajput (11-12 A.D.) and Sultanate (12-14 A.D.) periods; antiquities comprising copper coins; terracotta figurines; Chinese celadon; glass; ivory, bone and metallic objects.
2.	GUJARAT		
	Dholavira, Distt. Kutch Gujarat by Institute of Archaeology.	25	The archaeological excavation at Dholavira actually accounted for an amount of Rs. 15.12 lacs and was in fact a major work on an extensive Harappan site and also linked to the training programme of ASI. The excavation has made remarkably outstanding contribution

1	2	3	4
			towards city planning, fortification system, new elements of monumental as well as aesthetic architecture, amazing system, water harvesting and funerary structures of the Harappan Civilization and also provided an almost complete account of the rise and fall of the Harappan urbanization that passed through seven cultural stages successively. Besides, it has yielded an enormous amount of highly valuable as well as other antiquities.
3.	GOA		
	St. Augustine Church, Goa, by Mini Circle Goa.	2.00	The staircase leading to the first floor; Persian tiles; Chinese pottery and a tomb.
4.	KARNATAKA		
	Banvasi, Sirsi, Taluk, Distt. Uttara Kannada, Karnataka by Bangalore Circle.	4.45	The material culture of the Chutu-Satavahana Kadamba periods; lead potin and copper coins, seal and sealings, Kadamba inscriptions, terracotta figurines, metal objects and brick-built stupa.
5.	MADHYA PRADESH		
	(i) Sanchi, Distt. Raisen	0.75	Remains of monastery, fragmentary, votive inscriptions (C. 2nd century B.C.) and Réd Polished Ware.
	(ii) Satdhara, Distt. Raisen		A stone enclosure around ancient brick stupa, copper coin and pottery of 2nd century B.C.
	(iii) Kutwar, Distt. Morena by Bhopal Circle		The pottery, beads, bangles, copper coins and some structural remains.
	(iv) Utwad and Pipri, Distt. West Nimar, by Prehistory Branch Nagpur.	5.00	The chalcolithic culture in the form of dwelling pits with fire places, community halls, antiquities like copper objects and ceramic industry of black and red wares.
6.	MAHARASHTRA		
	(i) Chachegaon, Tal. Karad, Distt. Satara, by Aurangabad Circle.	0.75	A stupa and vihara of 2nd century A.D.
	(ii) Mansar, Distt. Nagpur by Excavation Branch, Nagpur.	1.25	Structures of Gupta Vakataka period, coins, terracotta coins, mould, stone sculptures, iron objects and silver ornaments.
7.	ORISSA		
	(i) Barabati Fort, Distt. Puri, by Bhubaneswar Circle.	2.00	A medieval site with a palace complex and architectural remains.
	(ii) Khalkapatna, Distt. Puri by Bhubaneswar Circle.		A medieval site having maritime contacts; Chinese coins.
8.	TAMIL NADU		
	Gingee, Distt. Villupuram Ramaswamy Padayachiar, by Madras Circle.	1.50	Residential structures within the royal enclosures of Gingee datable to C.16 to 18 century.

1	2	3	4
9. UTTAR PRADESH			
	Mahesh Sravasti, Distt. Baharich by Excavation Branch Patna.	3.50	Early historical and historical structures; remains of fortification; platform; house complex; terracotta objects and beads.

*[Translation]***Train Run Without Engine**

1296. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned 'bina engine ki railgari 13 kilometre dauri' appearing in "Rashtriya Sahara," dated 19th June, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the action taken in the matter; and

(c) the steps taken to bring improvement in this Railway Sector of Kichha Railway Station under the North-Eastern railway?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 17.6.95, 5 coaches rolled down from Lalkua station after these were placed on Line No. 8 and stopped between Lalkua and Kichha. Only one coach was occupied by passengers and 4 coaches were empty. None of the passengers jumped out of the coach. This incident was enquired into by a committee of Officers who held 3 shunting staff responsible for improper securing of coaches. Action under Discipline and Appeal rules is being taken against them.

(c) The following steps have been taken to check recurrence of such incidents and to bring improvement in the section :

- (i) Staff concerned are being counselled, about proper securing of coaches.
- (ii) Frequent inspections and checks are also being made to check such irregularities.
- (iii) Trains are examined before despatch.
- (iv) Night checks and field inspections have been intensified.
- (v) The staff posted in the section has been screened and those found deficient are being trained.

*[English]***Bio-Diversity Convention**

1297. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he expressed India's serious concern

at the inordinate delay in ratification of Bio-diversity Convention adopted at the Rio Summit by U.S. during his last meeting with the U.S. Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the U.S. official thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the visit of the United States Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs to India in April, 1995, it was conveyed to the US side that since India has already ratified the Biodiversity Convention, an early ratification by the US would be conducive to trade, commerce and scientific exchanges between the two countries in areas relating to biodiversity.

(c) The US Under Secretary took note of India's stand.

Theft in Super Bazar

1298. SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the cases of pilferage and thefts in Super Bazar during the last two years;

(b) if so, the steps the Government initiated to arrest this trend; and

(c) the total loss caused as a result of this during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Super Bazar has reported that during 1993-94 and 1994-95 the number of theft cases in Super Bazar were five and six respectively. It has been reported that during 1993-94 there were 91 cases of pilferage. The actual number of pilferage cases during 1994-95 is under verification.

(b) Super Bazar is an autonomous Co-operative Society. The management of Super Bazar has to take the necessary steps to control the incidents of pilferage and thefts. So far, it has not been necessary for the Government to initiate any action in this regard.

(c) It has been estimated by Super Bazar that the loss sustained by Super Bazar on account of theft and pilferage during 1993-94 and 1994-95 is around Rs. 81 lakhs.

Stoppage at Asansol

1299. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand of the people of Asansol to provide a halt at Asansol Court between Asansol-Burnpur section of South-Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal for opening of a halt station at Asansol Court between Asansol Jn. and Burnpur stations has not been found justified either operationally due to line capacity constraints or on passenger amenity grounds as the area is well served by frequent road services.

Extracted Timber

1300. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of timber i.e. Soft Wood, Superior Hardwood, Standard and Ornamental Wood extracted by Forest Departments and Forest Corporations during each of the last three years;

(b) the position of disposal of such extracted timber and the present balance, year-wise; and

(c) the quantity of loss of timber extracted by Forest Departments and Forests Corporations, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Study on Environment in Power Sector

1301. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Vishwa Bank Bijli Kshetra Main Paryavaran Par Adhyayan Karega" appearing in the Hindustan (Hindi Daily), dated July 16, 1995;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the study being carried out by the World Bank on issues relating to Environment in power sector in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar etc;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the objective of the study; and

(e) the contribution of the Government therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (e). Yes, Sir. Government have approved a study of environmental issues in power sector to be carried out by the World Bank. The study is to be conducted in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Bihar. The main objective of the study is to identify the environmental impacts of expansion of electricity generation on environment, including air, water and land and to suggest various mitigative measures. The study would involve the interaction with the concerned officials and experts in the country.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

1302. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to connect Siliguri with Broad Gauge Railway network;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The work is proposed to be taken up as an out of turn work in 95-96, subject to approval of the Planning Commission, to whom the proposal is being sent.

Railway Stations

1303. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to improve the Railway Stations between Kayankulam and Ernakulam Coastal Railway line in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether basic passenger amenities provided at the Railway Stations in this line are inadequate; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (d). All the stations on this section have been provided with adequate basic passenger amenities. Further improvements to stations is a continuous process and the same is taken up whenever so warranted by traffic needs

subject to availability of funds and relative priorities. Accordingly, works of improvement to lighting, provision/extension of platform shelters, replacement of foot-over-bridge and provision of washable apron at Ernakulam Jn.; shelter on platform No. 1 at Alleppey; improvement to station building, provision of waiting hall, extension of platform shelter, etc. at Kayankulam; and raising/extension of platforms at Shertallai have been taken up.

Suburban Railways

1304. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of privatisation of maintenance and beautification of stations on Suburban Railway in Mumbai;

(b) the procedure followed to allot these contracts;

(c) the number of stations on Suburban Trains in Mumbai where privatisation has been completed;

(d) the outcome of the passenger amenities maintained or provided by the the private contractors; and

(e) the machinery created by the Railways to inspect the works carried out by the Contractors?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (e). Contracts for beautification of six stations on Mumbai suburban section, namely, Dadar, Bandra, Khar Road, Andheri, Kandivli and Borivilli in lieu of sole advertisement rights at specified places have been awarded. The Contractors have been asked to beautify the station by painting, white-washing the walls, providing spittoons and benches, maintaining of gardens etc. Besides, the Contractors have been awarded on Single tender basis at Bandra and Dadar and on Open tender basis at the remaining four stations. By awarding the contracts, the railway have saved approximately Rs. 9.60 lakhs. Also, there has been an additional earning of Rs. 18.35 lakhs per annum towards Commercial Advertisements. Inspection of these stations is done by Commercial and Engineering Officials from time to time.

[Translation]

Requirement of Rails

1305. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of requirements and actual availability of Rails in the country during 1994-95 and 1995-96, zone-wise;

(b) the names and locations of the factories manufacturing Rails;

(c) whether the Iron required for manufacturing Rails is entirely produced in India or it is being imported; and

(d) if imported the reasons for importing the Iron?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai.

(c) The entire quantity of Iron required for manufacturing rails is produced in India.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

(a) The zone-wise details of requirements and actual availability of rails in the country during 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as under :

Railways	(In thousand tonnes)			
	1994-95	1995-96		
	Require- ment	Availabi- lity	*Projec- ted requi- rement	Antici- pated Availa- bility
Central	40	45	25	22
Eastern	28	28	40	35
Northern	35	35	74	65
N. Eastern	17	12	24	21
N.F.	13	10	18	16
Southern	40	35	55	48
S. Central	68	70	74	65
S. Eastern	67	70	65	57
Western	33	35	65	56
Total	341	340	440	385

* Being reviewed.

[English]

Consumer Protection Act, 1986

1306. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States where the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 is being implemented successfully; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 is being implemented in all States and Union Territories. The State-wise details are given in the attached Statement.

STATEMENT*Position of Implementation of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986*

State/UT	Position of State Commission	Position of District Forums
Andhra Pradesh	Functioning	22 Functioning
Arunachal Pradesh	Functioning	12 Functioning
Assam	Functioning	23 Functioning
Gujarat	Functioning	20 Functioning
Bihar	Functioning	39 Functioning
Goa	Functioning	2 Functioning
Haryana	Functioning	16 Functioning
Himachal Pradesh	Functioning	12 Functioning
Karnataka	Functioning	20 Functioning
Kerala	Functioning	14 Functioning
Madhya Pradesh	Functioning	45 Functioning
Maharashtra	Functioning	31 Functioning
Manipur	Functioning	8 Functioning
Meghalaya	Functioning	7 Functioning
Mizoram	Functioning	3 Functioning
Nagaland	Functioning	7 Functioning
Orissa	Functioning	13 Functioning
Punjab	Functioning	13 Functioning
Rajasthan	Functioning	30 Functioning
Sikkim	Functioning	4 Functioning
Tamil Nadu	Functioning	22 Functioning
Tripura	Functioning	3 Functioning
Uttar Pradesh	Functioning	63 Functioning
West Bengal	Functioning	17 Functioning
A and N Islands	Functioning	2 Functioning
Chandigarh	Functioning	1 Functioning
D and N Haveli	Functioning	1 Functioning
Delhi	Functioning	2 Functioning
Daman and Diu	Functioning	2 Functioning
Lakshadweep	Functioning	1 Functioning
Pondicherry	Functioning	1 Functioning

No. of State Commission Functioning : 31

No. of District Forums Functioning : 457

In addition, one State Commission and two Divisional Fora are functioning in the State of Jammu and Kashmir where they have enacted a separate Jammu and Kashmir Consumer Protection Act, 1987.

Vacancies in the Ministry

1307. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts lying vacant in his

Ministry, Departments and Subordinate Offices and since when these posts are laying vacant, category-wise; and

(b) the reasons for keeping these posts as vacant and by when these are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) The total number of category-wise posts lying vacant as on 31.7.1995 in the Ministry proper was 78. As on 31.3.1995, the number of vacancies in its Subordinate Offices excluding Wildlife Regional Offices at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras was 555. The details of vacant posts category-wise are indicated in the attached Statement.

(b) Filling up of the vacant posts will have to take into account the general 10% cut on total number of posts and the results of Work Measurement Studies conducted or being conducted into the working of the Ministry proper and some of its Subordinate Offices. Posts not affected by the Work Measurement Studies have been referred to the Staff Selection Commission, etc. for filling up, subject to the general 10% cut imposed on all posts. It is not possible at this stage, to indicate a definite data by which the vacant posts would be filled up.

STATEMENT*No. of Posts Lying Vacant*

	Group 'A'	Group 'B'	Group 'C'	Group 'D'	Total
Ministry (Including National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board and National River Conservation Directorate)	22	43	5	8	78
Subordinate Offices (excluding Wildlife Regional Offices located at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.	151	75	237	92	555

Research Institute for Spice Crops

1308. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to establish a full-fledged research institute for development of the different spice crops under the control of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating inter-alia the locations, particulars of the spices crops to be dealt with by the proposed institute;

(c) whether the Government also propose to set up regional centre under the aforesaid institute in different regions to tackle the problems of the regional spice crops; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The National Research Centre for Spices, Calicut, Kerala has been elevated and named "Indian Institute of Spices Research" with effect from 1st July, 1995. The Institute at Calicut deals with Black pepper, Ginger, Turmeric and Tree spices. While a Regional Research Centre of this Institute located at Appangala in Karnataka works on small Cardamom.

(c) and (d). The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has already set up Coordinating Centres under All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Spices as per details given below :

Name of the Centre	State	Crops handled
1	2	3
1. Panniyur	Kerala	Black Pepper
2. Pampadumpara	Kerala	Small Cardamom and Black Pepper
3. Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	Coriander and Fenugreek
4. Yercaud	Tamil Nadu	Black Pepper and Tree spices
5. Guntur	Andhra Pradesh	Coriander and Fenugreek
6. Jagital	Andhra Pradesh	Turmeric
7. Chintapalli	Andhra Pradesh	Black pepper

	1	2	3
8. Pottangi	Orissa	Ginger and Turmeric	
9. Mudigere	Karnataka	Small Cardamom and Black Pepper	
10. Sirsi	Karnataka	Black Pepper	
11. Jagudan	Gujarat	Cumin, Coriander, Fennel and Fenugreek	
12. Jobner	Rajasthan	Cumin Coriander, Fennel and Fenugreek	
13. Solan	Himachal Pradesh	Ginger	
14. Gangtok	Sikkim	Large Cardamom	
15. Dholi	Bihar	Turmeric, Coriander and Fenugreek	
16. Hissar	Haryana	Coriander, Fennel and Fenugreek	

In addition four new centres have been sanctioned recently as follows :

17. Dapoli	Maharashtra	Black Pepper and Tree Spices.
18. Pundibari	West Bengal	Black Pepper, Ginger, Turmeric and Tree Spices.
19. Falzabad	Uttar Pradesh	Turmeric, Coriander, Fennel and Fenugreek.
20. Raipur	Madhya Pradesh	Coriander, Ginger, Turmeric and Fenugreek.

[Translation]

Mahila Samridhi Yojana

1309. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has refused to extend Mahila Samridhi Yojana to Urban Areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government propose to reconsider the decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Question do not arise.

[English]

Environmental Clearance to Benzene Unit

1310. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has accorded Environmental Clearance to the proposed Benzene Unit in Mangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the nature of objections raised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) The Government has not received a request for environmental clearance for a proposed Benzene Unit in Mangalore.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

River Pollution in Uttar Pradesh

1311. SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding pollution in water of rivers flowing in Uttar Pradesh especially Bahraich District;

(b) if so, the reasons for pollution;

(c) the action taken by Government thereon;

(d) whether pollution has been checked by the industrial units after the action taken; and

(e) if not, the action proposed to be taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b). A complaint was received regarding pollution of Saryu River in Bahraich District of Uttar Pradesh due to effluents of Co-operative Sugar Mill at Nanpara.

(c) to (e). Directions were given to the industry on 25.9.1994 to furnish relevant information. The information received was forwarded to the Central Pollution Control Board and Uttar Pradesh State Pollution Control Board for comments and inspection.

The inspection report has revealed that the concerned industry has installed effluent treatment plant and is complying with the prescribed standards.

[Translation]

Rice Production Scheme

1312. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the District of Uttar Pradesh included under the Special Rice Production Scheme;

(b) whether any specific assistance has been provided to the farmers of the State under this scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the names of the development blocks in Allahabad District being benefited therefrom; and

(e) the assistance provided so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) For rice development all the rice growing districts of Uttar Pradesh are covered under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes "Integrated Cereals Development Programmes in Rice Based and Wheat Based Cropping System' Areas (ICDP-Rice and ICDP-Wheat)".

(b) and (c). Through the Scheme assistance provided to the farmers includes, incentives on, certified seeds and identified improved farm implements. Besides field demonstrations and farmers' trainings are also being organised in the identified low productivity blocks.

(d) Through ICDP-Rice all the development blocks in Allahabad district are being benefited. However for organising the field demonstrations and farmers trainings, only low productivity blocks of the district viz. Shankargarh, Jasra, Meja, Koraoon, Manda, Uruoa, Manjhanpur, Kaushambhi, Sarsawan and Phoolpur have been identified.

(e) The assistance provided includes incentives on certified seeds, and identified Bullock drawn and manually operated improved farm implements. Besides field demonstrations and farmers trainings are also being organised in the identified blocks.

[English]

"Ecological Management Plan of Tamil Nadu"

1313. DR. SHRIMATI K.S. SOUNDARAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state ;

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has submitted a Management Plan to preserve the ecology of the State, for approval of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government on this plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table on the House.

[Translation]

National Commission for Women

1314. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Commission for Women has given several suggestions in the interest of Working Women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have contemplated to implement those suggestions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI) : (a) to (e). No, Sir. However, the National Commission for Women has sponsored a study on 'Working Women and their Family Perspective'. A summary of the recommendations contained in the study report given in the attached Statement was forwarded by the Commission to the concerned Ministries. The recommendations of the NCW in this regard have not received.

STATEMENT

1. Quality day-care centres i.e. crèches for keeping children during office hours, may be made available near to the working place with adequate equipments and staff.
2. Though, any addition in the vehicular traffic now would lead to congestion and chaos on the city roads, yet immediate initiative is required to provide a good number of "Ladies Special" buses for working women during peak office hours to enable them to save their time and energy for office work and household chores.
3. Working women should be given 'Top-priority' in allotting accommodation on rental basis or under self-financing schemes.

4. Facilities of Ladies common rooms, toilets with hygienic conditions and first-aid kits be provided in each office by the employers.

5. To cope up with the dual responsibilities of the home and the job, there is need to modify certain service rules for the working women. There is need to grant six months maternity leave (twice in a career) to ensure that mothers are able to breast-feed their children. The first six months are considered crucial for child's growth.

6. There should be special consideration with regard to the working hours of women.

7. There is a need to regulate the working days of those women who are at present attending to their duties on 6 days in a week to 5 days a week.

8. Training Programmes and workshops at regular intervals for supervisors and women employees to enable them to understand and adjust with each other and thereby help in maintaining proper culture at office and at home should be organised.

9. Awareness programmes for family members stressing the need of their role in the family management, are required through various media like newspapers, magazines, radio and television.

10. Medicare of women is most essential and it should be the prime objective of each employer organisation to make this facility available to its employees through private clinics, government dispensaries or by reimbursing the medical expenses.

[English]

Railway Bridges

1315. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways are installing Electronic in-motion Weigh Bridges and also replacing Mechanical Weigh Bridges with Electronic Weigh Bridges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the location where the work has been taken up in this regard; and

(d) the amount allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Development Orders for procurement of 16 Nos. Electronic In-motion Weigh Bridges have been placed in the last three years. 2 Nos. prototype units supplied by the firms are under field trial.

(c) Prototype units have been installed at Andal/Eastern-Railway and Viramgram/Western Railway. Other proposed locations are : Andal/Eastern Railway, Tundla and Roza/Northern Railway, Katni-Marwara/Central Railway, Basugaon/Northeast Frontier Railway, West Guntakal/South Railway, Champa/South Eastern Railway and following workshops :

Liluah/Eastern Railway, Jhansi/Central Railway, Perambur/Southern Rly. Jagadhari/Northern Railway, Raipur and Kharagpur/South Eastern Railway and Guntapalli/South Central Railway.

(d) Total Rs. 1.8 Crores approximately for 16 weighbridges.

National Library at Calcutta

1316. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether new controversies have further deepened the already critical situation in the National Library at Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the details of the controversies and the steps taken to resolve them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Voluntary Retirement in FCI

1317. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India have a Voluntary Retirement Scheme in operation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of employees who have taken Voluntary Retirement during 1994-95;

(d) whether there is a move to review it; and

(e) if so, details of such a review?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The provisions are contained in Regulation 22-A of FCI (Staff) Regulations 1971. The details are given in the *Statement* attached.

(c) The information is being collected from Zonal, Regional and District offices of the FCI.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

STATEMENT *

** 22-A Voluntary retirement of employees on completion of 20 years of qualifying service:

- (1) At any time after an employee has completed 20 years of Qualifying Service, he may, by giving notice of not less than three months in writing to the Competent Authority, retire from service of the Corporation.

EXPLANATION :

Qualifying service means service rendered in the Corporation by an employee after completion of 18 years of age except period of service rendered as an apprentice and extraordinary leave without any leave salary.

Service rendered in the Government or any public or private undertaking by an employee before his joining of the Corporation may be declared by the Managing Director to be deemed, in whole or in part, to be qualifying service in the Corporation provided that there was not break in service before joining the Corporation.

For the purpose of pensionary benefits under the Central Government rules and orders, the service rendered in any public or private undertaking would not count towards qualifying service.

(2) The notice of voluntary retirement given under Sub-Regulation (1) shall require acceptance by the Competent Authority.

③ (3) The qualifying service as on the date of intended retirement of the employees of the Corporation under this Regulation shall be increased by a period not exceeding five years, subject to the condition that the total qualifying service rendered by the Corporation employee does not in any case exceed 33 years and it does not take him beyond the date of super annuation.

Provided that the total qualifying service after allowing the increases under the Sub-Regulation shall not exceed the qualifying service, which he would have had, if he had retired voluntarily at the lowest age limit for such retirement prescribed under Sub-Regulation (2) of Regulation 22 of these regulations.

(4) (a) An employee referred to in Sub-Regulation (1) may, make a request in writing to the appointing authority to accept notice of voluntary retirement of less than three months giving reasons therefor;

(b) On receipt of a request under clause (a), the appointing authority, subject to the provisions of sub-

③ Amended vide notification No. 1-15/75-Vol.V dated 26.7.1990 (3rd Amendment of 1990)

regulation (2), may consider such request for the curtailment of the period of notice of three months on merits and if it is satisfied that the curtailment of the period of notice will not cause any administrative inconvenience, the appointing authority may relax the requirement of notice of three months on the condition that the Corporation employee shall not apply for commutation of a part of his pension before the expiry of the period of notice of three months.

(5) The amount of pension/gratuity to be granted under this Regulations shall be subject to other provisions made under the relevant Regulations in this regard. The increase not exceeding 5 years in Qualifying Service shall not entitle an employee of the Corporation retiring Voluntarily to any notional fixation of pay for the purpose of calculating pension and/or gratuity which will be based on the actual emoluments calculated with reference to the date of retirement.

The increase in the Qualifying service shall not also entitle an employee governed by the Contributory Provident Fund Regulations of the Corporation to any contribution by the Corporation towards the Contributory Provident Fund for such increase in the qualifying service.

(6) The employee of the Corporation who is allowed to retire under this Regulation and has given the necessary notice to that effect to the Competent Authority should be precluded from withdrawing his notice except with the specific approval of such authority.

Provided that the request for withdrawal shall be made before the intended date of this retirement.

(7) This Regulation shall not apply to the employees of the Corporation who are on deputation from the Central Government/State Government/Local Bodies/Autonomous Bodies/Public Sector Undertaking or to employees who have gone to such organisations and who propose to get absorbed therein.

[Translation]

Tree Plantation

1318. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SARAN SINGH
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of the trees targeted to be planted during 1995-96, State-wise; and

(b) the total assistance likely to be provided therefor, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Targets for afforestation and tree planting activities are fixed from year to year for (i) "Seedlings Distribution" for planting on private lands, and (ii) "Area Coverage" of public lands, including forest lands. The State-wise targets for 1995-96 are given in the *Statement* attached.

(b) The plantations are undertaken by State Governments/Union Territories from their plan funds, with assistance from Central Ministries, namely Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment and Forests through their Central Sector Schemes, as well as through foreign donors. The quantum of this assistance will depend upon the projects submitted by the State Governments, counterpart funding provided by them, etc.

STATEMENT

Statewise Target for Afforestation/Tree Planting for 1995-96 under 20 point Programme

Area in hectares
Seedlings in Lakhs

State U.T.	Targets	
	Area Coverage	Seedling Distribution
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	45000.00	1100.00
2. Arunachal Pradesh	9078.00	7.00
3. Assam	27500.00	27.50
4. Bihar	55000.00	825.00
5. Goa	2090.00	38.50
6. Gujarat	59400.00	1650.00
7. Haryana	29700.00	250.00
8. Himachal Pradesh	26200.00	22.00
9. Jammu & Kashmir	22000.00	60.00
10. Karnataka	52800.00	495.00
11. Kerala	17600.00	330.00
12. Madhya Pradesh	148500.00	495.00
13. Maharashtra	133100.00	1100.00
14. Manipur	11000.00	33.00
15. Meghalaya	22000.00	82.50
16. Mizoram	19800.00	22.00
17. Nagaland	8250.00	82.50
18. Orissa	79200.00	330.00
19. Punjab	18700.00	49.50
20. Rajasthan	86900.00	330.00
21. Sikkim	10120.00	22.00
22. Tamil Nadu	82500.00	1100.00
23. Tripura	8500.00	23.65
24. Uttar Pradesh	101200.00	2000.00

1	2	3
25. West Bengal	41800.00	833.80
26. A and N Islands	3300.00	5.00
27. Chandigarh	495.00	0.00
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1100.00	15.95
29. Daman and Diu	165.00	1.10
30. Delhi	500.00	15.00
31. Lakshadweep	66.00	4.51
32. Pondicherry	220.00	4.40
Total	11,23,784.00	11,354.91

* - The targets are likely to be revised upward depending on continuation of Externally Aided Projects.

[English]

Import of Sugar

1319. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sugar was imported at \$ 383.50 per tonne;

(b) whether sugar from Brazil was available at \$ 270 c and f per tonne for delivery at that time;

(c) if so, the total amount of loss suffered due to this; and

(d) whether any action has been taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH):
(a) According to State Trading Corporation of India Ltd., two cargoes of sugar were purchased at US \$ 383.50 PMT C and F FO against their tender dated 28.6.1994 during the period July-September, 1994. Further, according to Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation Ltd., 5.05 lakh tonnes of refined/crystal sugar has been imported at a weighted average price of US \$ 383.04 PMT, Indian Port during 1994-95.

(b) As informed by STC and MMTTC, no valid offer was received at price of \$ 270.00 PMT C and F.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

[Translation]

Sale of Sugar

1320. SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI:
Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the mediators and brokers are active in the sale of Sugar by the Sugar mills in the open market in the Northern part of the country;

(b) whether these mediators purchase Sugar directly from the Sugar Mills for the licenced whole sellers of different Districts;

(c) whether these mediators are instrumental in fluctuating the prices of Sugar as a result of which prices of sugar are increasing constantly; and

(d) whether the Government would make arrangement to provide Sugar to the licenses directly from the Sugar Mills?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) :
(a) to (c). The information is being collected and compiled.

(d) The present arrangement for freesale sugar distribution envisages that the monthly released freesale quantity is required to be sold, despatched or delivered by the producer to any sugar dealer licensed to deal in sugar in the country, within the specified validity period as indicated in the Freesale Release Order.

Cash Crops

1321. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme for promoting the cash crops and provide assistance for the purpose in the country especially in Punjab and Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide benefits to the cash crop growers during the ensuing two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b). The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Oilseeds Production Programme and Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System are being implemented in the States of Punjab and Bihar whereas Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme is being implemented in Punjab and Special Jute Development Programme in Bihar only for increasing productivity and production of cash crops. Under the Scheme - Financial assistance is being provided for training of farmers on newly developed production technology, demonstration, quality seed production and distribution of improved implements etc.

(c) The Cash Crop growers will continue to get benefits from above schemes during 1995-96 and 1996-97.

*[English]***Railway Line**

1322. SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Railway has planned to complete entire work for acquisition of necessary land for Panval-Karjat line by March 3, 1995;

(b) if so, whether acquisition work has been completed;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the construction work is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c). Central Railway has planned to acquire the land before March, 1996.

State Government is processing the land acquisition work. There is no delay from Railway's side.

(d) The work is proposed to be taken up in 1996-97, subject to Planning Commission's approval.

*[Translation]***Protection of Temples**

1323. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps have been taken by ASI to verify the revenue data and declare Varahanath and Trilochaneswar temples as Centrally Protected monuments and if so, the outcome thereof;

(b) whether objections from the public through preliminary notifications have been invited and disposed of; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which protection to these temples will be provided?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The revenue data relating to Varahnath and Trilochaneswar temples have been verified by the Archaeological Survey of India for declaring the monuments as centrally protected.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. No objections were however received by the Archaeological Survey of India from the public or any other agency. To declare Varahnath and Trilochaneswar temples as centrally protected monuments, the matter has been referred to the Ministry of Law and Justice for vetting the final

notification.

Shortage of Ghee and Milk

1324. SHRI LALL BABU RAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is still shortage of milk in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantity of milk supplied during each of last six months in Delhi and whether this quantity was surplus or short in comparison to the last year;

(d) whether prices of pure ghee, milk and other milk products during last six months have been very high in comparison to the same period of the last two years;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to keep check on shortage of products and increasing prices;

(f) whether the Government have imported pure ghee, milk and other milk products to remove the shortage in Delhi; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The quantity of milk supplied in Delhi, during each of last six months by Delhi Milk Scheme and Mother Dairy is as per the *Statement* attached. The quantity of milk supplied by private dairies and other unorganised sector is, however, not available. The supply of milk by Delhi Milk Scheme and Mother Dairy was surplus in comparison to the last year.

(d) and (e). There has been an increase in the prices of milk, pure ghee and other milk products during the last six months in comparison to the same period of last two years. This is due to the overall escalation of prices of feed, fodder and other technical inputs which directly contribute to increase in the cost of production. However, there is no increase in price of milk supplied by Delhi Milk Scheme.

(f) and (g). National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) has imported Butter Oil, Full Cream milk powder and skimmed milk powder to assist the dairies including Delhi Milk Scheme and Mother Dairy, maintain liquid milk supply. The quantities received in India so far from August 1994 onwards are as under :

Butter Oil	9215 MT
Full cream milk powder	4500 MT
Skimmed Milk powder	2000 MT

STATEMENT

Quantity of Milk Supplied by Mother Dairy and Delhi Milk Scheme from February to July During 1994 and 1995 Respectively

MOTHER DAIRY		
	1994 (Lakh liters/day)	1995 (lakh liters/day)
February	5.54	7.43
March	5.82	7.41
April	6.39	8.02
May	6.62	8.05
June	6.26	7.70
July	6.44	7.87

DELHI MILK SCHEME		
	1994 (Lakh liters/day)	1995 (Lakh liters/day)
February	3.69	2.96
March	3.75	2.99
April	3.80	3.21
May	3.66	3.18
June	3.74	3.18
July	3.76	3.21

[English]

Enrolment in the Schools

1325. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the children in the age group of fourteen years, getting enrolled their names in the Government run primary schools and the public schools run by the voluntary organisations in the country and the breakup thereof;

(b) the pass percentage of children in the Government and public Schools, separately;

(c) whether the pass percentage of children in the Public Schools is higher as compared to the Government Schools; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures being taken by the Government to increase the pass percentage of children in Government Schools?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) According to Vth All India Educational Survey 96% of children in the age group of six to fourteen years were enrolled in Government schools, schools run by local bodies,

Panchyat Raj Institutions and around 4% were enrolled in schools run by private unaided institutions.

(b) to (d). Public examinations are not conducted in many states either at class V or class VIII level. It is therefore not possible to draw conclusions. However one study in a State had indicated the performance of Government schools to be better than that of the private unaided schools. The schemes of Operation Blackboard, teacher orientation and the Minimum levels of learning approach seek to improve the classroom atmosphere and the quality of learning.

[Translation]

Sugar Price

1326. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to fix the price of Sugar for 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are aware of the inconvenience caused to the General Consumers in absence of any fixed price of Sugar; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (e). There is a uniformly fixed retail price of Rs. 9.05 per kg prescribed for the whole country for the sale of sugar under the Public Distribution System. This was fixed with effect from 1.2.1994 and is continuing for the present. Over and above this, sugar is also available at market prices which are influenced to suit the convenience of customers by carefully regulating releases of free-sale quota.

Issue price of Foodgrains Under PDS

1327. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Some State Governments have requested the Union Government to bring down the Central Issue Prices of food-grains being sold under the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which they have requested to reduce the prices of foodgrains, separately;

(c) whether the prices of these items are also lower in the market; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c). Some of the States have requested for reduction of Central Issue Price of wheat and rice for PDS by 25% as the end retail prices of PDS foodgrains in Fair Price Shops in some parts of the country are more or less equal to the open market prices.

(d) Issue of wheat and rice even at the prevailing CIPs carry a substantial subsidy burden on the Government. The CIPs of foodgrain have not been increased after 1.2.1994.

Aquaculture in Orissa

1328. **SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the assistance provided to rural educated youth for aquaculture in Orissa;

(b) the details of schemes of Fresh Water and Brackish Water Aquaculture undertaken in the State together with the amount of assistance provided in each case during the last two years;

(c) the guidelines laid down for granting assistance; and

(d) the number of demonstration-cum-training Centres working at present in the State for training farmers and youth in the fish/shrimp farming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Assistance is being provided by the Central Government under ongoing schemes of Freshwater and Brackishwater Aquaculture Development to farmers including rural youth for aquaculture activities in Orissa.

(b) Development on Fresh Water and Brackish Water Aquaculture is being implemented by the State under ongoing Centrally sponsored schemes through Fish Farmers Development Agencies. (FFDAs) and Brackish Water Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BFDAs). The agencies provide a package of technical, financial and extension support to fish/shrimp farmers. In Fresh Water Aquaculture, assistance is provided for construction of new ponds, renovation of ponds and tanks, inputs running water fish culture, areators for enhancing production, integrated fish farming, establishment of seed

hatcheries and feed mills, etc. For Brackish Water Aquaculture, assistance is provided for development of shrimp farms, inputs, shrimp hatcheries, etc. Central assistance given to Orissa for FFDA and BFDA programme during the last two years is given below :

Scheme	(Rs. in Lakhs)	
	1993-94	1994-95
(i) Fresh Water Aquaculture Development	76.00	57.00
(ii) Brackish Water Aquaculture Development	71.53	15.90

(c) Central assistance for development of Fresh Water/Brackish Water Aquaculture through FFDAs/BFDAs is released to the State (s) on the basis of physical and financial performance of programmes under the schemes.

(d) Two demonstration-cum-training centres, one each under FFDA Programme and BFDA programme have been sanctioned the Orissa for training of farmers and youth in fish/Shrimp farming.

Milk Production in Maharashtra

1329. **SHRI DATTA MEGHE :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the national average production of Milk in the country at present and the contribution of Maharashtra in it;

(b) the measures being taken by the Government to bring Milk Production in Maharashtra at par with the National average;

(c) whether the Government propose to encourage cooperative societies to increase Milk Production in the above State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) As per the provisional estimates of 1992-93 the milk production in terms of per capita availability in Maharashtra is 138 grams as against the National average of 181 grams per head per day.

(b) Besides State Government programmes following Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented to enhance the milk production in Maharashtra.

(1) Extension of Frozen Semen Technology and Progeny Testing Programme.

(2) Assistance to States for feed and fodder development .

- (3) National project on rinderpest eradication.
- (4) Assistance to States for Control of animal diseases.
- (5) National bull production programme.
- (6) Integrated dairy development programme in non-operation flood, hilly and backward areas.
- (7) Programmes under operation flood-III.

(c) to (e). Maharashtra is covered under operation flood programme since 1993. This has contributed towards increase in milk production in the State. The programme is based on cooperative structure. As on 31.3.95, 11811 Dairy Cooperative Societies with a total membership of about 10.4 lakhs have been organised in the State under operation flood.

[English]

Recommendations of the Women's Organisations

1330. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether around a hundred women's organisations from across the country have recommended to the United Nations in a Joint document titled "Towards Beijing" A perspective from the Indian Women's Movement, to set-up a monitoring body with judicial powers to check the activity of multinationals in relation to exploitation of women and environment;

(b) whether this document has the Government's approval and support; and

(c) if so, the main recommendations made therein and what is the UN response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The views expressed in the document "Towards Beijing A perspective from the Indian Women's Movement", along with the views of other NGOs and individuals have been taken into consideration while finalising the Country Paper. This country Paper will be presented by the Government of India at the 4th World Conference on Women being held at Beijing, China from 4-15 September, 1995. Major recommendations in the document relate to impact of new economic policies; health and population; education; communalism and religious fundamentalism; law; media; family; political participation and violence against women.

Ban on the Export of Sandalwood

1331. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :
SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in 1992, the Union Government imposed a ban on the export of Sandalwood in all forms and the same is now a prohibited item and comes under the negative list of exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether early this year the Government relaxed the ban and permitted a specified quantity of Sandalwood for export to Japan as 'one-time transaction';

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for relaxation of the ban;

(e) whether after the ban on export of Sandalwood, a huge quantity of sandalwood has got accumulated in the godowns of the Forest Departments of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and his Ministry have been approached by these State Governments as well as various Sandalwood Exporters Associations to move and recommend to the Ministry of Commerce one-time relaxation of ban and permission for export of 1500 metric tonnes of Sandalwood;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether in pursuance of the aforesaid-requests, his Ministry have recommended to the Ministry of Commerce for one-time relaxation and permission for export of 1500 metre tonnes of Sandalwood by exporters in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu; and

(h) if so, the reaction of Commerce Ministry thereto indicating the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per Export-Import Policy, 1992-1997, the item of sandalwood in any form, but excluding fully finished handicrafts made out of sandalwood and machine finished sandalwood products, is included in the part I of the Negative List of export. Prior to 1.4.1992, the export of sandalwood was also allowed in the form of chips, powder and flakes but was banned in form of logs. The ban on export of sandalwood even in the form of chips, powder and flakes has been imposed to discourage chipping of logs for the purpose of export and thereby check tendency for illicit fellings.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. An Export of 23 MT of Sandalwood in the form of logs to Japan for carving Buddhist Image in a temple in Japan has been allowed as one-time relaxation.

(e) to (g). On receipt of representations from the State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and some Sandalwood Exporters' Association, Ministry of Environment and Forests have recommended to the Director General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, for one time relaxation of the ban for allowing export of 1500 MT of Sandal heartwood chips, mixed chips and flakes and 500 MT of sapwood powder.

(h) The proposal of Ministry of Environment and Forests is under consideration of the Ministry of Commerce.

[Translation]

Preservation of Nalanda

1332. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme for development of ancient and historical educational heritage in Nalanda (Bihar);

(b) if so, whether the Government have prepared any time bound plan for their development; and

(c) if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) An Institute called Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, dedicated to post-graduate studies in Pali language and literature and Buddology, already exists at Nalanda, in Bihar. This Institute was set up by the Government of Bihar in 1951.

(b) and (c). In order to facilitate its overall development, the Government of India, in consultation with the Government of Bihar, has taken over the administration and management of Nav Nalanda Mahavihara. Since 25.2.94, it is an autonomous Society, registered under the Societies Registration Act, and is fully funded by the Government of India, Department of Culture.

After the take-over, a sum of Rs. 11.59 lakhs has been sanctioned, in the first instance, for the repair of the Institute building.

Further, a Screening Committee has been set up to examine the staff requirement, both teaching and non-teaching, of the Institute.

Sugar Mills in Uttar Pradesh

1333. SHRI N.K. BALIYAN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have already accorded approval for setting up a Sugar Mill in Meerut/Muzaffarnagar District of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the sugar mill is likely to be set up there and starts production?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b). During the 8th Five Year Plan (1992-93 to 1996-97) i.e., upto 30-6-95, 3 letters of intent have been issued by the Ministry of Industry for setting up of new sugar mills in district Muzaffarnagar in the State of Uttar Pradesh, the details of which are given below :

S.	Name of applicant	Location	Sector No.
		Distt. Muzaffarnagar	
1.	M/s. Tikaula Sugar Mills Ltd.	Tikaula	Private
2.	M/s. Monnet Industries Ltd.	Un. Teh. Kairana	Private
3.	Shri Ratan Lal Parasarampuria.	Budhana	Private

No Letter of Intent has been issued for setting up of new sugar mill in Distt. Meerut (U.P.) till yet during the current 8th Plan.

(c) Generally, it takes about 3-4 years to set up a new sugar factory.

[English]

Cotton Production

1334. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cotton production has been projected to be at 18 to 20 million bale by the turn of 2000 AD;

(b) whether any research work is being conducted to bring out new high yielding varieties to achieve the desired targets; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of research institutes engaged therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Cotton production for 2001-02 has been projected as 18.0 million bales of 170 kg. each.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. A number of high yielding varieties/hybrids have been developed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research/State Agricultural Universities and have become popular. Some of them are 'SUVIN', MCU-5 VT, LRA-5166, LRK-516, SAVITHA, HB-224, CICR-HH1.

In addition to this, appropriate production and protection technology for different cotton growing regions have been developed.

Some of the institutes, who are engaged in cotton research are Central Institute for cotton research Nagpur and Coimbatore and State Agricultural Universities located in cotton growing areas.

Synergy Groups on Education

1335. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "synergy groups on education" appearing in "The Hindustan Times", dated June 17, 1994;

(b) if so, whether Government have constituted Synergy Groups on education to make the system more effective;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the terms of reference of these Groups;

(d) the time by which these Groups are likely to submit their Reports; and

(e) the time frame, if any, laid down, for implementation of recommendations to be made in these Reports?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e). Synergy Groups on Education have been constituted to bring together academics, industry, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and other action groups to make the system more effective in the four thrust areas of Primary Education and Literacy, Vocational Education, Technology Development and Transfer in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Development and Transfer of Management Techniques in Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs). This exercise would be completed during the current year.

Canadian College in India

1336. SHRI RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Mahindra to fund Canadian College in India" appearing in the Economic Times (Bombay), dated August 26, 1994;

(b) if so, the factual position thereof; and

(c) aims and objectives of the proposed college?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) The Department of Education has no information on the subject.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Forests in Gujarat

1337. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :

SHRI N.J. RATHVA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the land under forests in Gujarat at the time of constitution of the State and at present;

(b) whether the present area of forest land has reduced in comparison to the area which existed at the time of creation of the State and it does not meet the standard;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps envisaged by the Government during the Eighth Plan to increase the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) At the time of constitution of Gujarat State in the year, 1960, the recorded forest area was 15,430 sq.km. whereas the recorded forest area as on 31.3.1994 is 19,388 sq.km.

(b) The present recorded forest area has not reduced in comparison to the areas existed at the time of the creation of the State. However, it does not meet the goal laid down in the National Forest Policy, 1988.

(c) Increased human and cattle population leading to greater demand for fuel, fodder and timber, paucity of funds for afforestation are some of the reasons for shortfall in achieving the standard of one-third geographical area of the country under forest cover stipulated in the National Forest Policy, 1988.

(d) The various steps taken during 8th Five Year Plan by the Government to increase the forest cover in the Gujarat are :

(i) People's participation is being actively promoted for protection and management of forests in the State.

(ii) Financial assistance is being provided to the State for rehabilitation of degraded forest through involvement of tribals and rural poor and also for control of forest fires.

- (iii) A network of forest mobile squads and check-posts have been established to control forest offences.

'Ecological Product Standards'

1338. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL :
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry have examined the study by the Berlin-based German Development Institute (GDI) titled "Ecological product standards and requirements as a new challenge for developing countries industries and exports;

(b) if so, their reaction thereto;

(c) whether the Government had set up a committee to analyse the impact of environmental and health related issues raised by importing nations on India's overall export performance;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the committee will submit its report;

(e) the reasons why the Indian firms are reluctant to adopt eco-standards and the steps the Government have taken or propose to take to accelerate the process of adjustment by introducing Eco-labels particularly in industries using artificial colours in their products meant for human consumption; and

(f) the other steps the Government are taking in introducing eco-labelling in India which would also contribute to the awareness-building among consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry have examined the study.

(b) The study contains recommendations about international eco-standards regarding leather, textiles and refrigeration industries in India. The recommendations relate both to industry and the Government. The major recommendations to the Government include dissemination of information on standards, education of the technical workforce, minimisation of the environmental impact of manufacturing process, pollution abatement, pricing of natural resources, assistance for establishment of CETPs, promotion of R and D and training.

The Government have taken necessary steps to disseminate information, and impart education to the technical workforce about standards and technological development through the media and various agencies. The Government have launched a

scheme on the labelling of environment friendly products so as to encourage the use of such products. As regards pollution abatement, the Government have notified emissions and effluent standards. With regard to taking steps for more efficient natural resource pricing, the Government have levied cess on water consumption to induce industry to take steps for water conservation. Assistance for CETPs, R and D and Training has been provided under the various programmes of the Government.

(c) and (d). A Technical Committee was constituted on 6th March 1991 to evolve criteria for environment friendly products with following terms of reference :

- (i) Identification of specific products for classifying as environment friendly.
- (ii) Reviewing the existing state of knowledge and the environmental criteria being followed in other countries.
- (iii) Recommend the most appropriate criteria and parameters to designate various products as environment friendly, including the most important criteria for individual products that have been specified for the purpose and their inter-se priority, whenever possible.
- (iv) Review the various technologies available for determining the criteria.
- (v) Recommend various laboratories and analysts for product assessment to the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- (vi) Evaluation of the environmental impact of the products and criteria from time to time.
- (vii) To review from time to time, the implementation of the schemes by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), including the sample inspection done by it.
- (viii) Set up sub-committees for each product category, if so required, including formulation of test programmes for comparative testing of products by consumer organisations.
- (ix) To set up expert panels to advise the Technical Committee for specific products.

The Technical Committee also analyses the issues relating to the impact of the products on the environment and health while evolving criteria for environment friendly products.

(e) and (f). It appears that firms are reluctant to adopt the standards because of additional costs incurred. The Government is notifying the final criteria

for artificial colours in the products meant for human consumption. The Government is also making concerted efforts to overcome the problem of additional cost for eco-labelling and had launched a massive publicity campaign programme on 2nd December, 1992 for awareness building among the consumers.

Withdrawal of the Trains

1339. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the trains running between Tirupati and Howrah have been withdrawn;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether there is an proposal to restore the above trains; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c). Due to poor patronage of 8079/8080 Tirupati-Howrah Express on Khurda Road-Howrah section, the run of this train between Khurda Road and Howrah has been curtailed from 1.7.95. 8079/8080 Express is now running as 8479/8480 Tirupati-Puri Express. There is no proposal at present to restore 8079/8080 Express.

Concession to Handicapped Persons

1340. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any concession is provided to handicapped/disabled persons in Retiring rooms at Railway stations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Integrated Dairy Development Scheme

1341. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether implementation of the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme in the Non-operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas is not being monitored effectively;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the progress made under this scheme during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Implementation of the Scheme started in 1993-94. During 1993-94 fifteen projects with a total out-lay of Rs. 57.06 crore and during 1994-95 six more projects with a total outlay of Rs. 28.22 crore were approved for implementation. A sum of Rs. 10.90 crore was released during 1993-94 and Rs. 24.91 crore during 1994-95 for these projects.

[English]

Development of Sugarcane

1342. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to implement a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on sustainable development of Sugarcane based cropping system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the Scheme is proposed to be implemented;

(d) the funds earmarked under the scheme;

(e) the states where the Scheme is proposed to be implemented; and

(f) the details of the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. For increasing the productivity and production of sugarcane, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme entitled "Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System" is being implemented from the current financial year i.e. 1995-96 on funding pattern of 75 : 25 between Government of India and State Governments. Under the Scheme, emphasis is laid for training to farmers on newly developed production technology, demonstration, quality seed production, distribution of improved implements etc.

(d) Under the scheme, a central assistance of Rs. 30.76 crores has been earmarked for 1995-96.

(e) The scheme is being implemented in the 20 States and one Union Territory namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Goa and Pondicherry.

(f) The Administrative approval of Government of India for implementation of the scheme has been issued and funds have been provided for initiating the implementation of scheme.

[Translation]

Production of Sugarcane

1343. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of major Sugarcane growing States;

(b) the total production of sugarcane in the country during the last three years i.e. 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95, State-wise; and

(c) the financial assistance proposed to be provided during 1995-96 to boost the Sugarcane production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Major sugarcane growing States are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) State-wise production of sugarcane during last three years is given in *Statement-I*.

(c) State-wise financial outlays during 1995-96 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System" is given in *Statement-II*.

STATEMENT-I

*State-wise production of sugarcane
(in terms of cane)*

(Thousand Tonnes)

State	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (Likely)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	12163.2	13553.4	13660
Assam	1547.7	1373.9	1500
Bihar	6031.6	4397.9	4398
Goa	30.4	71.4	-
Gujarat	10872.1	10232.1	10210
Haryana	6550.0	6420.0	9000
Himachal Pradesh	28.7	26.1	26
Jammu & Kashmir	11.2	11.2	11
Karnataka	22479.6	20884.1	31215
Kerala	428.3	447.9	500
Madhya Pradesh	1324.6	1725.0	1511
Maharashtra	30853.5	27891.5	42678

	1	2	3	4
Manipur		58.8	58.8	-
Meghalaya		2.2	2.1	-
Mizoram		5.6	5.7	-
Nagaland		200.0	188.0	-
Orissa		754.2	781.0	1309
Punjab		6369.0	4710.0	5100
Rajasthan		1129.0	1020.0	987
Tamil Nadu		23064.2	27574.6	32560
Tripura		69.0	72.0	-
Uttar Pradesh		102929.1	104839.4	102839
West Bengal		888.7	595.4	1183
A&N Islands		5.9	4.4	-
Pondicherry		186.8	172.8	-
Others		-	-	600
All India		228033.4	227058.9	259377

STATEMENT-II

State-wise Financial outlays during 1995-96 under centrally sponsored scheme on "sustainable development of Sugarcane based cropping system
(Rs. in lakh)

State/U.T.	Total
1. Andhra Pradesh	268.725
2. Assam	51.55
3. Bihar	195.50
4. Gujarat	210.525
5. Haryana	137.025
6. Karnataka	313.90
7. Kerala	29.075
8. Madhya Pradesh	108.60
9. Maharashtra	645.325
10. Orissa	62.975
11. Punjab	154.225
12. Rajasthan	69.625
13. Tamil Nadu	281.05
14. Uttar Pradesh	1039.55
15. West Bengal	41.575
16. Manipur	13.95
17. Mizoram	13.80
18. Nagaland	17.075
19. Tripura	13.80
20. Pondicherry	19.675
21. Goa	16.30
Total	3704.725

[English]

Veterinary Council Bill

1344. SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend Veterinary Council Bill;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed amendments; and

(c) the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Improvement in Operating Ratio

1345. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :
MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA
KHANDURI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the operating ratio fixed for different Zonal Railways for the year 1994-95;

(b) whether the Zonal Railways have achieved this operating ratio targets set for 1994-95;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there has been any worsening in the operating ratio due to shortfall in freight traffic and the earnings;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the operating ratio for various Zonal Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (e). The Operating Ratio for Indian Railways as much as registered a sharp improvement from 92.0% in 1990-91 to 82.6% in 1994-95 indicating measure of success of Railways' endeavours in this regard. Excepting Southern and North Eastern Railways, all other railways have surpassed the targets set for operating Ratio for 1994-95 (A statement is attached). The said two railways fell short of targets due to short fall in freight earnings. North Eastern and Southern railways have earned Rs.171.71 cr. and Rs.685.23 cr. as against target of Rs.180 cr. and Rs.725 cr. respectively.

(f) Augmenting earnings and reducing operational costs/expenditure to improve Operating Ratio has been a continuous endeavour on the

Railways. To achieve this, Indian Railways have been taking various measures like aggressive marketing strategies for capturing additional traffic, regular monitoring of classification and rating of commodities, curbing ticketless travel, effecting better realisation of outstanding dues, zero-based review of activities, introduction of cost-centre profit centre approach, energy conservation, improved asset utilisation, cost control/reduction in all on-line and off-line activities etc.

STATEMENT

Operating Ratio, 1994-95

Railways	Targets	Actuals*
Central	80.5%	78.0%
Eastern	96.1%	91.8%
Northern	84.1%	83.3%
Norther Eastern	174.4%	177.4%
Northeast Frontier	189.5%	186.5%
Southern	106.4%	109.5%
South Central	88.0%	84.0%
South Eastern	64.1%	62.7%
Western	69.4%	64.9%
Total (Indian Railways)	84.9%	82.6%

* Provisional

Konkan Railway Project

1346. SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI :
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :
SHRI RAM NAIK :
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oza Committee in their Report had recommended any changes in Goa sector and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it would lead to cost escalation as a result of this alignment;

(c) when this project was anticipated to be completed and the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) The Oza Commission has recommended a slight change in the alignment in the old Goa tunnel, away from the old Chapel by 5 mtrs. In addition they had recommended certain other modifications in the structures and formation on the existing alignment.

(b) the cost of the changes suggested by the Oza Committee was Rs.28 crs.

(c) the project was anticipated to be completed by Oct'94. Project got delayed for completion on account of:

- (i) stoppage of work in Goa sector between Mayem and Bali for 7 months in 1993.
- (ii) adverse geological strata in soft soil tunnels particularly in Goa area.
- (iii) there had been difficulties in fund mobilisation due to adverse market conditions for bonds.

(d) the project is expected to be completed by Dec'95.

Appointment of Vice Chancellor in Banaras Hindu University

1347. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether full time Vice-Chancellor in Banaras Hindu University has been appointed;
- (b) if not, the reasons for the delay; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard and also the measures taken for refurbishing the reputation of the University?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Gajar Ghas

1348. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether "Gajar Ghas" Weed is spreading speedily all over the country during the last few decades and causing several dreadly diseases among human-beings and animals and also polluting the environment;
- (b) whether the sources of sudden spreading of this dreadful Weed all over the country have been found out;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any National policy has been formulated to root out this dreadful Weed from the Country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the measures being adopted by the Government/Scientists of the country to root out this dreadful Weed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) "Gajar Ghas" (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) has established itself in many parts of the country. It is reported to cause allergy in some cases.

(b) and (c). Initial source of entry to the country was with consignments of imported wheat. Due to its high seed producing capacity it has spread to many parts of the country.

(d) to (f). The central Government on the basis of the research findings of ICAR Scientists have advised the State Governments to take up following steps to control this Weed;

1. Distribution of pamphlets for the control of the parthenium weed advocating;
 - (i) Physical removal of weeds soon after the on-set of moonsoon;
 - (ii) Observance of proper precautions while undertaking physical removal of the weeds to reduce health hazards;
 - (iii) Foliar spray of common salt solution, Paraquat and 2, 4-D
2. Mobilisation of community efforts for controlling the weed.

[English]

National Commission for Women

1349. SHRI CHEEDI PASWAN :
SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO
VADDE :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether new National Commission for Women has not been set up even six months after the previous panel's term ended;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reasons for delay in presenting the Annual Report of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI) : (a) and (b). Does not arise. The National Commission for Women is a Permanent Statutory body.

(c) Section 12 of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 provides for preparation of Annual Statement of Accounts by the Commission in such form as may be prescribed by the Central Government in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and Section 13 provides for

preparation of Annual Report in such form as may be prescribed. The National Commission for Women (Annual Statement of Accounts and Annual Report) Rules, 1995 which prescribe the form for preparation of the Annual Statement of Accounts and Annual Report were finalised in consultation with Comptroller & Auditor General and the concerned Ministries and notified on 10.1.1995.

The National Commission for Women submitted the Annual Report for 31.1.1992 in February, 1995. The recommendations made by the Commission relate to various issues falling within the purview of various Ministries/Departments. National Commission for Women has forwarded the recommendations to the concerned Ministries/Departments for examination and necessary action. The concerned Ministries/Departments have been requested to send the Action Taken Report on the recommendations relating to them to the Department of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development for consolidation and lying before the Parliament alongwith the Annual Report.

Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas

1350. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas is in operation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with allocation made for the implementation of the Project this year;

(c) whether any area of Kerala has been included in this Project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of benefits derived therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Project is under implementation in 25 States and 3 Union Territories. A total number of 2497 microwatershed projects have been taken up in as many blocks covering an area of 40.35 lakh hectares with an estimated cost of Rs.1128.50 crores. A sum of Rs. 190 crores has been allocated for the implementation of the project in 1995-96.

(c) to (e). Yes, Sir. The Project has been taken up in 114 micro-watershed in as many blocks of 14 districts covering an area of 88276 hectares at a total cost of Rs. 35.84 crores.

The project has helped in reallocation of the rain water for its utilisation in the winter and summer months, regeneration of natural flora, increasing cropping intensity and better production of bio-mass

by adopting diversified farming systems of optimal utilisation of natural resources. Besides, incentives being given to small and marginal farmers as well as landless labourers to take up various activities under household production systems have helped in raising their income level.

Inclusion of Items Under Public Distribution System

1351. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to include pulses and edible oils under Public Distribution System to meet the hardships of Weaker Sections of the society;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c). Central Government is supplying imported edible oil (RBD Palmolein) to States/U.T.s for distribution through Public Distribution System (PDS) on the basis of demand received and availability of stocks. Central Government has no proposal to make available pulses for distribution under Public Distribution System. State Governments/U.T. Administrations are free to distribute pulses on their own through PDS. In order to ensure easy availability of pulses, the import of pulses have been brought under Open General Licence and import duty on pulses has been reduced to 5 per cent from 10 per cent.

[Translation]

World Bank Aided Projects in Gujarat

1352. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names and location of World Bank Aided Projects under implementation in Gujarat;

(b) the Project cost, effective and closing dates of these Projects;

(c) whether the World Bank officials have reviewed these Projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total amount released to by the World Bank and the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) At present only Integrated Watershed Development (Plains) Project is under implementation in the State of Gujarat. The Project covers four districts viz. Sabarkantha, Rajkot, Baroda, Bhrauch.

- (b) (i) Project Cost : The present project cost relating to the state of Gujarat is Rs.4971.00 lakh.
- (ii) Effective Date 28.02.1991
- (iii) Closing Date 30.9.1997
- (c) Yes, Sir. The World Bank officials are reviewing this project from time to time.
- (d) The periodical reviews conducted by World Bank have rated the progress of the Project as satisfactory. One such mid-term Review (MTR) conducted in 1994 resulted in increase in the total cost of the project from Rs. 4566.00 lakh to Rs. 4971.00 lakh due to appreciation of U.S. Dollar in terms of India Rupee.
- (e) (i) Amount released by the World Bank till date : As per information available total amount of Rs.1247.26 lakh had been released by the World Bank for Project implementation in the State of Gujarat till the end of June, 1995.
- (ii) Physical Progress : Till the end of June, 1995, a total area of 43,428.33 ha. had been brought under the ambit of the project vis-a-vis the target of 137,853.00 ha.

[English]

Railway Line

1353. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have any proposals to lay a Railway Line between Chhatrapur and Talcher and Rayagada to Gopalapur in Orissa;
- (b) whether the proposal have been pending since long;
- (c) if so, the reasons for the delay in constructing these Lines; and
- (d) whether the proposals are likely to be considered during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Food Corporation of India

1354. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "F.C.I. Implicated in transport scam" appearing in daily Tribune, dated June 28, 1995;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in the matter reported therein;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the estimated loss suffered by Food Corporation of India as a result thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken against the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The aforesaid News item has, inter-alia, reported that the Vigilance Cell of the FCI has revealed a loss of Rs. Four crores to the FCI due to the introduction of an ad hoc transport system for carrying foodgrains from Punjab to Jammu & Kashmir. It is alleged that contracts on ad hoc basis had been finalised at exorbitant rates.

(c) to (e). The Vigilance Cell of the FCI has conducted a preliminary enquiry in the matter. A copy of this investigation report has been sent to the CBI.

(f) The scrutiny of the preliminary investigation report has not yet been completed.

[English]

Hazardous Industrial Units in Kerala

1355. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of hazardous industrial unit existing in Kerala; and
- (b) the details of action being taken by the Government against these units producing toxic and/or radio active wastes in the courses of their production process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) As per information made available by the Directorate of Factories and Boilers, Govt. of Kerala, there are 1776 hazardous factories in the State which include 29 major accident hazard factories/installations. The following are the number of units in each factory division :

S.No.	Factory Division	No. of Identified Hazardous Factories
1	2	3
1.	Thiruvananthapuram	41
2.	Kollam	22
3.	Kundara	15
4.	Chengannor	34
5.	Kottayam	45

1	2	3
6.	Alappauzha	33
7.	Idukki	45
8.	Ernakulam	350
9.	Kochi	165
10.	Aluva	203
11.	Irringalakuda	79
12.	Thrissoor	240
13.	Palakkad	115
14.	Ottapalam	39
15.	Malappuram	44
16.	Kozhikode (South)	44
17.	Kozhikode (North)	78
18.	Thalassery	29
19.	Kannur	68
20.	Thaliparambu	47
Total		11776

(b) The Government have notified the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. According to these rules, units generating notified regulatory quantities of 18 categories of waste shall;

- (i) Take all practical steps for proper handling of such wastes, and disposal without any adverse effects;
- (ii) be responsible for proper collection, treatment storage and disposal of such wastes;
- (iii) maintains records of hazardous wastes at the facility, and submit annual returns regarding disposal of hazardous wastes, in the prescribed proforma.

The unit shall also seek an authorisation for handling hazardous waste in Form-1 the concerned State Pollution Control Board. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board is the Concerned authority for the management of radio-active waste which is governed by the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and Rules made thereunder.

Wagon Orders

1356. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :
 MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI :
 SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
 SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :
 SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the wagon manufacturers of Public Sector are in financial crisis due to non-availability of wagon orders;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the total number of industries in Public and Private Sector engaged in manufacturing of wagons in the year 1994-95 and the percentage of production capacity utilised out of their total installed production capacity;

(d) whether efforts were made for the export of wagons in the light of fall in demand of wagons in the domestic market; and

(e) if so, the outcome of such efforts?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. Wagon orders are being regularly placed on them.

(c) There were 11 units (6 in Public Sector and 5 in Private Sector) engaged in wagon manufacture during 1994-95. 35% of their achievable capacity got utilised.

(d) There has been limited success in the last few years on the efforts made by Wagon Industry for export of wagons.

(e) M/s. Braithwaite got small quantity export order this year.

Moderation Committee of Kendriya Vidyalayas

1357. SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the provisions relating to constitution, period, aims, objectives, functions and powers of Moderation Committee in Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) the details of decisions taken by the committee for moderating results of History, Geography and Economics for the annual examination of Kendriya Vidyalaya, INA colony New Delhi, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow and Kendriya Vidyalaya AMC Lucknow for the Session 1994-95;

(c) whether results of some students of class XI had been withheld at the time of declaration of results in these Vidyalayas and some of these students were later declared successful; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, has informed that, as per Article 119 of the Education Code of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, each vidyalaya has set up a Moderation Committee to prepare guidelines for paper setters for tests, examinations, to decide weightage for instructional objectives, nature of

questions to be set and marking procedure to be adopted, to moderate test papers/items set by the examiners, to check sample scripts to ensure uniformity and to decide marginal and other difficult cases before announcement of the results.

At + 2 stage for class -XI the evaluation is done at vidyalaya level and Moderation Committee functions in the light of the provisions of the Education Code.

(b) to (d). The Moderation Committee met on 28.4.95 in Kendriya Vidyalaya INA and decided to promote the students as per rules. No case was withheld and reviewed later. The details of Kendriya Vidyalaya Gontinagar and ABC Lucknow are being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti

1358. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Union Government have been drawn to the news item appearing in Navbharat times, dated June 22, 1995 under the caption "Anadarsh Kamoe mei lipt hai Navodaya Vidyalaya";

(b) whether the Government propose to take any action on the Report given by Controller and Auditor General of India regarding the allaged misappropriation of funds by Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti has been asked to furnish detailed comments on the points raised in the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for enabling the Government to take further necessary action in the matter.

[English]

Pending Projects of Gujarat

1359. DR. K.D. JESWANI :

SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of development projects including irrigation and industrial projects of Gujarat which are held up for want of environment and forest clearance;

(b) the duration for which these projects have been lying pending with the Government and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b). A *statement* is annexed.

(c) A final decision on the clearances of the project proposals is taken within a stipulated time period of 90 days from the date of receipt of all requisite information and relevant details from the project proponents.

STATEMENT

List of developmental projects pending with this Ministry for Environmental & Forest clearance.

S.No.	Name of the Project	Date of receipt	Reasons for pendency
1	2	3	4
1.	Crude Oil Terminal at Vadinar by BPCL.	July, 93	Views of Government of Gujarat awaited.
2.	15 Million Ton Oil Refinery at Vadinar by Reliance Petrochemical (Site approval).	October, 93	Expert committee has recommended for clearance. Views of Government of Gujarat is awaited.
3.	Dahej-Gandhar Baroda pipeline project of IPCL.	May, 95	IPCL advised to identify alternate site for the Jetty.
4.	Pharmaceutical Plant at Sansad, Ahmedabad of M/s. Dolphin Laboratories Ltd.	June, 95	Additional information awaited.

1	2	3	4
5.	Manufacture of Dyes and Dye Intermediates of M/s Metrochem Industries Ltd. Baroda.	July, 95	Under Process.
6.	Expansion of Kandla Fertilizers plant by M/s IFFCO, Gujarat.	July, 95	Under Process.
7.	Setting up a Chlor-Alkali Plant in GIDC Estate in Jagawa near Ahmedabad of M/s United Phosphorus Ltd.	July, 95	Additional information awaited.
8.	Expansion of the Paint Plant at GIDC Industrial Estate, Ankleshwar, Gujarat of M/s Asian Paints.	July, 95	Under Process.
9.	Limestone (Solaj) Mining Project Gujarat Ambuja Cement Ltd.	January, 95	Under Process.
10.	Lignite based power Project at Krimota (2x120mw) by Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation.	July, 93	The proposed site being close to the Sanctuary, project authorities were asked to examine alternate sites atleast 25 km. away from the Sanctuary.
11.	Kawas Combined Cycle Power Project Stage II (650 MW) of NTPC.	July, 95	Under Process.
12.	Construction of an Express-way from Bombay to Vadodara.	June, 95	Under Process.
13.	Expansion of Mangrol Fishing Harbour Stage-II.	July, 94	Under Process.
14.	Construction of a Port terminal at Dahej in the Gulf of Cambay for handling liquid hydrocarbon and other chemicals-proposal of M/s Indian Petrochemicals Corp. Ltd.	October, 94	Additional information awaited.
15.	Proposed LPG and liquid petrochemical product storage facilities by Vadilal Chemicals Ltd. at Sikka, Gujarat.	October, 94	Additional information awaited.
16.	Construction of 4th Oil Jetty at Kandla Port	January, 95	Under final stage of examination.
17.	Proposal for Addl. facilities for handling crude oil at Vadinar in the Gulf of Kutch-Kandla Port Trust.	February, 95	Under final stage of examination.
18.	Proposed project of handling facility of general cargo/LPG/Chemicals and their storage terminal at Navinal Island, Mundra Taluka of Kutch distt. by M/s Adani Ports Ltd.	March, 95	Under Process.
19.	Construction of LPG import terminal at Navalakhi port-Chemicals Ltd.	June, 95	Additional information awaited.
20.	Construction of captive jetty of Kharo creek in Kutch Distt. Proposal of M/s. Sanghi Industries Ltd.	July, 95	Under Process.

1	2	3	4
21.	Permission to build storage tanks at Okha port in Gujarat under ORZ Notification - proposal of Western Petro Diamond Pvt. Ltd.	July, 95	Under Process.
22.	Geophysical survey in Marine National Park and Sanctuary area by ESSAR Oil India Ltd. at Junagadh Distt. (15.500 ha)	June, 95	Under Process.
23.	Construction of soda ash plant at Saturpad village, Junagadh District. (12.55 ha)	July, 95	Under Process.
24.	Laying of pipeline for irrigation purpose at Junagadh District. (0.00645 ha)	July, 95	Under Process.
25.	Laying of pipeline for irrigation purpose, at Junagadh District, (0.0230 ha)	July, 95	Under Process.

Railway Platforms

1360. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether newly constructed Platforms at New Delhi and Kanpur Railway Stations are not being fully utilised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to construct another platform at New Delhi Railway Station; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). Platforms at major terminals are constructed not only for meeting the immediate requirements but also keeping in view the future growth in traffic.

The new Platforms at New Delhi and Kanpur are being utilised effectively to handle trains. 11 trains at New Delhi & 32 trains at Kanpur are scheduled to be handled on new Platforms.

(c) and (d). The work of "New Delhi-Development of Station (Ph.-II)" has been included in the Budget for 1995-96 at a cost of Rs. 13.19 Crores. Detailed planning for the additional facilities has not yet been finalised. However, the work will include additional Platforms also.

National Cooperative Development Corporation

1361. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to expand the activities of National Cooperative Development Corporation in the under developed region of the country;

(b) whether any action plan has been prepared in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Government of India is considering amendments to National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) Act, 1962— so as to expand its activities. This would enable the corporation to assist more co-operative programmes in the country including these in the under developed States/UTs.

(b) and (c). The details of the schemes for assisting the co-operative societies under the new activities will be formulated by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) after these amendments are carried out.

Violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

1362. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the permission of the Government of Orissa to prosecute those officers of the State Government who are responsible for violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Reply from the State Government is awaited.

Fake ISI Mark

[Translation]

1363. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Bureau of India Standards Act, 1986 to take stringent action against unauthorised users of the ISI mark and violators of various quality control orders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said amendments are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c). Consultations are under way with the Ministry of Law for early amendment of some provisions of the BIS Act, 1986.

Introduction of Train

1364. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to introduce 'Marudhar Express' from Lucknow to Jodhpur round about March 1995;

(b) if so the reasons for not introducing it so far; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF) : (a) to (c). A Broad Gauge tri-weekly Marudhar Express between Lucknow & Jodhpur has already been introduced w.e.f. 12.03.1995.

Milk Production

1365. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the per capita products of Milk during each of the last three years;

(b) the actual production and demand of Milk and Milk products in the country during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the long term policy to increase the production of Milk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The per capita production of milk during each of the last three years is as under :

Year	Grams per head/per day
1992-93 (Prov.)	181
1993-94 (Prov.)	188
1994-95 (Prov.)	191

(b) State-wise production and requirement of milk during last three years is given in the attached statement. However, no specific survey has been conducted for estimation of milk products in the country.

(c) Besides various State Schemes for the development of cattle and buffalo, some Central/ Centrally Sponsored schemes in the areas of genetic improvement, feed and fodder and health cover are being implemented for enhancement of milk production.

STATEMENT*Requirement and Production of Milk-1992-93 to 1994-95-State-wise*

S.No.	State/Union Territories	(000 tonnes)					
		1992-93		1993-94		1994-95	
		Requi- rement	Produ- ction (Prov.)	Requi- rement	Produ- ction (Prov.)	Requi- rement	Produ- ction (Target)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
STATES							
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5592	3103	5687	3950	5782	4100
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	74	2*	76	42	78	45
3.	Assam	1905	658	1946	776	1986	820
4.	Bihar	7343	3195	7502	3215	7660	3215
5.	Goa	99	30	101	30	103	30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6	Gujarat	3476	3795	3537	3546	3598	3800
7	Haryana	1400	3715	1429	3740	1458	3885
8	Himachal Pradesh	436	610	444	635	453	655
9	Jammu & Kashmir	657	600	672	630	687	650
10	Karnataka	3761	2590	3817	2736	3872	3110
11	Kerala	2423	1889	2457	2000	2490	2100
12	Madhya Pradesh	5601	4879	5711	4975	5820	5060
13	Maharashtra	6668	4102	6799	4250	6931	4450
14	Manipur	157	83	160	84	164	115
15	Meghalaya	151	52	155	54	158	55
16	Mizoram	60	9	62	12	64	15
17	Nagaland	105	44	109	45	112	45
18	Orissa	2667	542	2715	560	2764	590
19	Punjab	1693	5583	1716	5970	1741	6400
20	Rajasthan	3736	4586	3813	4958	3890	4840
21	Sikkim	35	30	37	30	38	35
22	Tamil Nadu	4603	3468	4648	3524	4691	3965
23	Tripura	235	34	240	35	246	40
24	Uttar Pradesh	11699	10649	11903	10991	12105	11400
25	West Bengal	5715	3023	5812	3095	5907	3095
UNION TERRITORIES							
26	A&N Islands	25	24	26	25	27	25
27	Chandigarh	58	37	60	38	63	40
28	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	12	10	12	4	13	4
29	Daman & Diu	9	1	9	1	9	1
30	Delhi	828	235	858	260	888	270
31	Lakshadweep	4	1	5	1	5	1
32	Pondicherry	68	27	70	28	71	29
Grand Total		71300	57625	72588	60240	73874	63525

Source : State Departments of Animal Husbandry & Dairying

[English]

Export of Pulses

1366. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether sufficient provisions have been made under the National Pulses Development Plan to export pulses; and

(b) if not, the efforts made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b). Sufficient provision has been made under the Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) to boost the production

of pulses to meet the domestic demand. Since pulses are in short supply there is no question of their export and make provision for this purpose under NPDP.

[Translation]

Consumer Fora in Delhi

1367. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has submitted any proposal to the Union Government to establish seven additional consumer redressal fora in Delhi;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(c) the names of the places where these forums are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). At present two District Fora are functioning in Delhi. Under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, as amended in 1993, the State Governments are themselves competent to create additional District Fora. However, the Central Government has received a proposal from Delhi Government for the creation of the posts of the President, the Members and the supporting staff for two additional District Fora as power of creating posts has not been delegated to the Delhi Government. The Central Government has conveyed its approval for creation of the posts of Presidents. For remaining posts, the State Government has been advised to give some additional information.

(c) According to the information given by the Government of National Capital of Delhi, they are arranging for suitable accommodations for the additional District Fora.

[English]

Procurement Agencies

1368. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the reluctance of the Government Procurement Agencies to purchase foodgrains due to insufficient storage capacity and absence of private buyers from other States have rung alarm bells for the Maharashtra farmers during the current Rabi Season; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. Procurement of foodgrains has not suffered in Maharashtra due to insufficient storage capacity or absence of procuring agencies. A quantity of 65,432 MTs. of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) has been procured in Maharashtra upto 31.7.1995 in the current Kharif Marketing Season 1994-95.

Environmental Projects in Karnataka

1369. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have released any amount during 1994-95 to Nilgiri Biosphere Project Elephant and Eco-development Projects in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the total amount released for each project;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether these three schemes are hundred percent Centrally sponsored schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir. A total of the 105.89 lakhs have been released to Karnataka for these projects.

(b) The funds released during 1994-95 to the Government of Karnataka on each of the Projects is as follows:

	(Rs. in lakhs)
1. Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve	22.94
2. Project Elephant	68.88
3. Eco-development around national parks and sanctuaries including Tiger Reserves	14.07

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

Loss Due to Snowfall/Hail Storms

1370. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question no. 208 on March 28, 1995 and state :

(a) whether any Central Government Agency has assessed the damage caused to the crops due to now fall/hail-storms in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the names of such Districts particularly in Uttar Pradesh where assessment has been made; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to obtain information in this regard from all the areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) According to information received from the State Governments, hail storms/rains had affected a crop area of 1.19 hectares in Madhya Pradesh and land area of 43284 hectares in Rajasthan. In Uttar Pradesh, it affected crops from 2% to over 50% in 226 villages in three districts. Crop areas in 79 villages of four districts were affected in Punjab.

[English]

Model Railway Stations

1371. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work for the Model Railway Station at Trivandrum Central has been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a lot of long distance as well as short distance trains are subjected to a halt at the Outer Signal for a long duration due to lack of space at the Station to handle incoming and outgoing trains; and

(d) the remedial measures taken to ease the difficulties of the passengers and when the work on this Model Railway Station is going to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). The 'Model Station' scheme, which was introduced in 1986, has since been discontinued. Under this scheme, the scope of work at Trivandrum Central, inter alia, comprised remodelling of station building including provision of additional facilities; and a new booking office on the Chalai side. The work of booking office on the Chalai side could not progress due to delay in development of approach road by the local bodies. All the remaining works in this regard were completed. The work of booking office will now be taken up, separately, after development of the approach road by the local bodies.

(c) No, Sir. However, when trains are running late or during shunting operations, trains on certain occasions are held up at outer signals for short durations. Some detentions at such busy terminals are unavoidable.

(d) Does not arise.

Environmental Education

1372. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the fund allocated to the Tamil Nadu and other states by the Union Government under 'Environmental Orientation in School Education' during each of the last three years, year-wise?

(b) whether any voluntary organisation is getting financial assistance in Tamil Nadu under this scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) The following funds were sanctioned to Tamil Nadu and other States

by the Union Government under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, 'Environmental Orientation to School Education', during each of the last three years, year-wise:

States	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)		
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Tamil Nadu	4.00	-	-
Others	85.80	30.58	60.02

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Two voluntary agencies, namely, CPR Environmental Education Centre, Madras and Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari, located in Tamil Nadu are getting assistance under this scheme. A sum of Rs.22.53 lakhs has been sanctioned to the aforesaid two voluntary agencies during the last three years.

Claims Tribunals

1373. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of benches of Railway Claims Tribunal in Gujarat, division-wise at present;

(b) the number of posts of judicial members lying vacant in these benches as on date;

(c) the measures taken by the Government to fill up these posts;

(d) the number of claims cleared/still on hearings as on date in each division; and

(e) the time by which the remaining claims are likely to be settled/cleared by the Railway Claims Tribunals in the State?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) One at Ahmedabad.

(b) None.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) As on 31.7.95, 3599 claims cases have been settled and 3004 cases yet to be settled.

(e) With the constitution of the full bench at Ahmedabad, settlement of the remaining claims cases shall get speeded up, though no definite date could be indicated.

[Translation]

Railway Projects

1374. SHRI KUNJEE LAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Projects launched by the Railways in Rajasthan and the prescribed time limit fixed for completion of each of these projects;

(b) the reasons for the delay in their completion;

(c) the revised time-schedule for completion;

(d) the original estimated cost of construction of these projects and the extent of escalation in the cost; and

(e) the measures adopted by the Government to complete these projects within the revised time-schedule?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) The following projects have been launched in Rajasthan in the last four years.

Works	Kms.	Prescribed time limit for completion	Original cost (Rs. in Crs.)	Latest revised cost (Rs. in Crs.)	Escalation in cost (Rs. in Crs.)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NEW LINES						
1. Mathura-Alwar (partly in Rajasthan)	124	1993-94	69.43	71.52	2.09	Completed
GAUGE CONVERSIONS						
1. Rewari-Jaipur	225	1994-95	104.60	110.00	5.40	Completed.
2. Phulera-Marwar-Ahmedabad.	572	(i) Phulera-Ajmer completed.	280.00	456.57	176.57	Completed.
		(ii) Mahesana-Ahmedabad completed.				(Cost escalation primarily due to change in alignment to overcome gradient problem and track upgradation to cater to higher speeds.)
		(iii) Ajmer-Marwar 1995-96				Completed.
		(iv) Marwar-Mahesana 96-97.				
3. Sawai-Madhampur-Jaipur-Phulera	187	1993-94	133.04	133.04	Nil	Completed.
4. Jodhpur-Jaisalmer	297	1994-95	111.18	111.18	Nil	Completed.
5. Phulera-Jodhpur-Lalgarh-Kolayat-Merta Rd.-Merta City.	491	(i) Lalgarh-Kolayat = Nov.'92	258.52	258.52	Nil	Completed.
		(ii) Lalgarh-Merta Road = March'93				
		(iii) Merta Rd.-Merta City = June' 93.				
		(iv) Merta Rd.-Gotan = Dec.'93				
		(v) Gotan-Jodhpur = Jan. '94				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		(vi) Phulera-Degana-Merta Road = March 1994				
6.	Jodhpur-Marwar	104	1996-97	58.00	-	-
7.	Makrana-Parbatsar	21	1995-96	1.22	-	-
8.	Agra-Bandi-Kui	151	1996-97	88.73	-	-
9.	Bhildi-Luni.	306	Due to low operational priority, the project is forzen at present.	185.00		

(b) There has been no delay.

(c) and (d). The date of completion and the original estimated cost have been shown against each in part (a) above.

(e) Materials and funds are being arranged as required for completion of all these projects in time.

[English]

DMU Train

1375. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the running of DMU train between Kantabanji and Khariar in Orissa has been withdrawn;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is a growing demand to restore the above trains; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

1376. SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the Metre Gauge Railway lines in Northern Railway Division have been converted into Broad Gauge Railway lines;

(b) whether Broad Gauge tracks are elevated to 4-5 feet above the height of Metre Gauge track; and

(c) whether all Railway crossings which were working regularly have now been closed due to elevation of Railway track?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c). No, Sir.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

1377. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Gauge Conversion work is going on between Guntakal and Wadi; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir. Guntakal-Wadi section is already a BG line.

(b) Does not arise.

Ammonia Gas Leak

1378. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "30 fall ill after gas leak at Lever Unit" appearing in the 'Business Standard', New Delhi dated July 10, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter;

(c) whether any investigation into this ammonia gas leak from a factory tank in Calcutta has been carried out at the Central level;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the instructions issued by the Government in this Company and other such companies to prevent such toxic gas leakage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. As per information made available by the Chief Inspector of Factories, Government of West Bengal, who is the implementing authority for both the Factories Act, 1948, and the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989, gazetted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 mal-operation of an isolation valve led to the release of ammonia gas on the 7th of July, 1995 at 1100 hrs. in the Hindustan Lever Ltd. Subsidiary Plant at Calcutta.

(c) to (e). No, Sir. The Chief Inspector of Factories, Govt. of West Bengal have conducted their preliminary investigation and are investigating the case further.

(f) The State Factory Inspectorate have instructed the Company to take due care while attending to oil separators. As per the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989, such companies are required to notify their site to the State Factory Inspectorate, prepare an On-site Emergency Plan and help the District Administration in the preparation of an Off-Site Emergency Plan. The companies are also required to inform the neighbouring public of possible accidents.

Support Prices of the Oil Palm

1379. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations urging the Government to take steps for fixing the minimum support price of Oil Palm in the absence of which the farmers are not getting remunerative price for their produces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Unnatural Methods of Animal Breeding

1380. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether animal breedings is being done in enclosures under pitiable conditions by adopting unnatural methods; resulting in animals falling prey to various types of diseases;

(b) whether for treatment of animals and to earn profit, antibiotics and other chemical medicines are being used at large scale which makes the meat of such animals harmful for health;

(c) whether there is any definite procedure, law of control for such method of breeding and for medicines being given to animals;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Legal provisions exist under the various Acts like Indian Veterinary Council Act, Indian Drugs and Cosmetics Act, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, etc. to ensure that unnatural methods of breeding are not resorted to and indiscriminate and improper use of medicines and chemicals are avoided.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Legal provisions exist under the various Acts like Indian Veterinary Council Act, Indian Drugs and Cosmetics Act, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, etc. to ensure that unnatural methods of breeding are not resorted to and indiscriminate and improper use of medicines and chemicals are avoided.

River Dolphins

1381. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Asian River Dolphin Committee, the International Working Group On River Dolphin, have suggested that appropriate changes be included in the Indian Fisheries Act to prevent fishermen from catching the river Dolphins; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Sports Training Centres

1382. SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish training centres for Sports in rural areas for the benefit of youth;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of places identified to locate such training centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a number of training centres under the two schemes, namely, Special Area Games (SAG) and Sports Project Development Area (SPDA), which are being implemented by the Sports Authority of India, have a large number of trainees from rural areas. At present 30 centres under SPDA and 8 centres under SAG are in operation. A list of these centres is given in Statement - I and II.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT-I

Training Centres Under Special Area Games (SAG)

S. No. of the centre	Discipline	No. of trainees		G. Total	
		Boys	Girls		
1. Aizawl	Boxing	21	—	21	
	Judo	10	09	19	
2. Imphal	Boxing	21	—	21	
	Judo	12	—	12	
	Wrestling	10	—	10	
	Wt. Lifting	—	12	12	
3. Ranchi (SAG)	Hockey	27	25	52	
Ranchi (SPDA)				40	
4. Delhi	Archery	19	05	24	
	Cycling	06	05	11	
	Fencing	10	—	10	
5. Alleppey	Kayaking and Canoeing	12	06	18	
	Rowing	04	04	08	
	Gymnastics	10	06	16	
6. Tellicherry				16	
7. Jagatpur	Kayaking and Canoeing	19	11	30	
				30	
8. Port Blair	Kayaking and Canoeing	10	05	15	
	Rowing	—	06	06	
	Cycling	08	05	13	
				34	
Total				338	338

STATEMENT-II

Training Centres under Sports Project Development Areas (SPDA)

S.No.	Name of centres	No. of inmates
1	2	3
Existing Centres		
NORTH REGION		
1.	Ludhiana (PB)	26
2.	Patiala (PB)	31

1	2	3
3.	Kurukshetra (Haryana)	22
4.	Dharamshala (H.P.)	23
SOUTH REGION		
5.	Eluru (A.P.)	26
6.	Nizamabad (A.P.)	26
7.	Kurnool (A.P.)	(Kept in abeyance)
8.	Dharwad (Karnataka)	17

1	2	3
9.	Medikeri (Karnataka)	31
10.	Quillon (Kerala)	79
11.	Trichur (Kerala)	37
12.	Salem (T.N.)	34
13.	Nagarcoil (T.N.)	(Kept in abeyance)
EAST REGION		
14.	Burdwan (W.B.)	27
15.	Lebong (W.B.)	28
16.	Dhankanal (Orissa)	20
17.	Ranchi (Bihar)	40
WEST REGION		
18.	Rajkot (Gujarat)	21
19.	Devgarh Baria (Gujarat)	27
20.	Buldana (Maharashtra)	37
21.	Nanded (Maharashtra)	(Kept in abeyance)
22.	Ponda (Goa)	(Kept in abeyance)
CENTRAL REGION		
23.	Dhar (M.P.)	25
24.	Jabalpur (M.P.)	11
25.	Jodhpur (Rajasthan)	57
26.	Ajmer (Rajasthan)	15
27.	Kashipur (U.P.)	11
28.	Rai Bareilly (U.P.)	26
NORTH EAST REGION		
29.	Golaghat (Assam)	20
30.	Shillong	27

. New centres are proposed to be set up at Chandigarh, Gwalior, Etawah, Purnea, Jengging, Sholapur, Phulbani, Dimapur, Udampur and Nasik (alternative site in Maharashtra is under consideration)

Teachers in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

1383. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the proposals received from the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for creation of the posts for teaching staff there; and

(b) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b). U.T. Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have sent two proposals for creation of 17 posts of lecturers for Jawaharlal Nehru Rajkeeya Mahavidyalaya, Port Blair and 5 posts of lecturers for Mahatma Gandhi Government College, Mayabunder.

The proposals are under consideration in consultation with the U.T. Administration.

Own Your Wagon Scheme

1384. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of parties approached and allotted wagons under Own Your Wagon Scheme during the last year and upto June 30, 1995 in each Zone; and

(b) the profit earned by Government under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) More than 50 parties have expressed desire to procure wagons under 'Own Your Wagon' Scheme during this period. Eight parties have so far placed confirmed orders as follows : Western Railway - 3, Central Railway - 2, South Eastern Railway - 2, Eastern Railway - 1.

(b) Railways do not make any profit under this scheme. However, the corresponding investment thus saved would be diverted into other Railway development projects. Procurement of wagons under 'Own Your Wagon' Scheme augments Railways' transport capacity.

Metro Railway

1385. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work relating to completion of Metro Railway between Dum Dum to Tollyganj in Calcutta was to be completed before September, 1995;

(b) if so, the names of stations where the work has been completed and the names of stations where the work has not yet been completed;

(c) whether the work on all the stations of the above line is likely to be completed before September, 1995 as scheduled; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Works have been completed at Tollyganj, Rabindra Sarobar, Kalighat, Jatin Das Park, Bhowanipur, Rabindra Sadan, Maidan, Park Street, Esplanade, Chandni Chowk, Central, Sova Bazar, Shyambazar, Belgachia and Dum Dum. Work has not yet been completed at Mahatma Gandhi Road and Girish Park Stations.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Work on all the stations was not scheduled to be completed before September, 1995 and the works are in progress as per schedule.

Prices for Cold Drinks

1386. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway authorities have any control over the prices charged for eatables and cold drinks at the Railway Stations and in the compartments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the prices charged for cold drinks by the vendors at the Railway Stations and in the compartments are higher than those fixed by the Manufacturers and charged outside the Railway Stations;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether attention of the Railway Board has been drawn to the pulling up of the Railway authorities by the District Consumer Dispute Redressal Forum at Sambalpur in Orissa for abetting 'unfair trade practices' by fixing price of cold drinks sold at the Railway Stations at a rate higher than the prices fixed by the manufacturers;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Rates for eatables and cold drinks are charged as per tariff fixed by Zonal Railways.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The prices charged for cold drinks at the Railway Stations and in the mobile units are slightly higher than those prevailing in the market as these include overhead charges also.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g). The Judgement of District Consumer Dispute Redressal Forum at Sambalpur is being examined.

[Translation]

Introduction of Trains from Allahabad

1387. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether people have to face a lot of difficulties while travelling to and fro from Allahabad to Bombay and Calcutta due to inadequate number of trains on the route;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to introduce fast trains from Allahabad to Calcutta and Bombay; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) At present, 9 pairs of Mail/Express trains between Allahabad and Bombay VT/Dadar/Kurla and 12 pairs of Mail/Express trains between Allahabad and Howrah/Sealdah are already available, which are by and large catering satisfactorily to the existing needs of the passengers travelling from Allahabad to Bombay and Calcutta.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Churchgate Railway Station

1388. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Western Railway administration have cancelled the contract of advertising, Supreme Electronics at Churchgate Railway station;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the terms and conditions of the agreement with the advertising agency stipulate previous approval of the advertisements before display?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Safari Parks

1389. DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM :
SHRI K. PRADHANI :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared guidelines to set up Safari Parks in Zoological Parks in the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) the places where such parks are to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c). No separate guidelines regarding setting up of Safaries in Zoological Parks in the country have been prepared. Operation of such safaries are regulated by the provisions of the Recognition of Zoos Rules, 1992.

[*Translation*]

Allotment of Stalls

1390. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tea stalls and catering trollies allotted during the last two years in each zone and the basis on which these stalls and trollies were allotted;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that stalls have been allotted to the same person in different names;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct any inquiry into the matter and take any action against the persons found responsible; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[*English*]

Rail Link

1391. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether inadequate rail linkage between Visakhapatnam and Raipur has affected the development of the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c). Development of an area is dependent on various other factors besides availability of passenger train services. At present, 8 pairs of trains including 5 pairs of Express trains are available on the section. These services are considered adequate for the present level of traffic on the section.

[*Translation*]

Medical Reimbursement in Central Warehousing Corporation

1392. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether in Central Warehousing Corporation, the lower category of staff gets only Rs. 100 as Medical Allowance per month whereas the senior officers are availing medical reimbursement facility with no limit;

(b) whether all the categories of staff were getting the same facilities in the past; and

(c) the steps being taken for stopping this kind of discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) The pay, allowances and other perquisites of the Group C and D employees of the Central Warehousing Corporation are governed under the wage settlement entered between the management and the Federation of Central Warehousing Corporation Employees Unions. During the negotiations on the second wage revision, the Federation of Central Warehousing Corporation Employees Unions, representing the Group C and D employees, specifically demanded and insisted for a medical allowance and accordingly as per clause 4.12 of the agreement entered into between the management and the Federation of Central Warehousing Corporation Employees Union on 9.1.92, it was agreed that each Group C and D employees shall be paid Rs. 1200/- (Rupees one thousand two hundred only) per annum subject to submission of a self certificate in the prescribed format. The payment shall be made every quarter @ Rs. 300/- per quarter. This medical allowance is towards outdoor treatment expenses and in addition to this, the Group C and D employees are reimbursed with medical expenses for indoor/hospitalisation treatment and both for outdoor and indoor treatment for prolonged diseases.

The Group A and B officers, who are not covered under the said agreement, are reimbursed with the medical expenses as per the Medical Scheme of the Central Warehousing Corporation.

(b) Yes, prior to the implementation of the wage settlement, all categories of staff were governed under the Central Warehousing Corporation Medical Reimbursement Scheme.

(c) There has been no discrimination between the Group A and D and Group A and B officers in as much as the medical allowance @ Rs. 300 per quarter for outdoor treatment to the Group C and D

employees is as per the demand of the Federation of Central Warehousing Corporation Employees Unions, representing the Group C and D employees. In the matter of reimbursement of indoor treatment expenses, all the employees are covered under Central Warehousing Corporation Medical Reimbursement Scheme irrespective of category.

New Railway Zone

1393. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal for setting up of a new Railway Zone in Bihar is pending with the Government;

(b) if so, since when and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c). The Government have received some suggestions for the setting up of a zonal railway headquarters in Bihar.

A study group constituted for examining the existing geographical distribution of zones and divisions in the wake of Project Unigauge and the construction of Konkan Railway, has suggested a need for its rationalisation. This exercise may also entail the creation of some new zones and divisions.

Further processing for formulation of proposals and other related matters is being undertaken.

[English]

Prawn Culture in Chilka Lake

1394. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Study on the environmental impact of the prawn culture project in Chilka Lake was conducted;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the further action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c). The State Government of Orissa had engaged M/s Water and Power Consultancy Services Limited (WAPCOS) to carry out an environmental impact assessment study of the Prawn

Culture Project in Chilka Lake. The Environmental Impact Assessment report prepared by WAPCOS was examined in the Ministry. It was found that the report was incomplete in respect of information on hydrology, ground water extraction, water-quality, pollution control measures, flora, fauna etc. The State Government of Orissa have, therefore, been advised to undertake a detailed and comprehensive environmental impact assessment study by a multidisciplinary group of experts.

Conference of the Principals

1395. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a three-day National Conference of the Principals of Kendriya Vidyalayas was held in the capital from June 30, 1995 to evolve ways and means to strengthen primary education and explore trends in educational technology;

(b) if so, the suggestions and observations made therein and the strategy for universalisation of primary education; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c). As per information furnished by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan a three-day National Conference of the Principals of Kendriya Vidyalayas was held in the capital from June 30, 1995. The Conference observed that activity based teaching should be introduced in primary classes, with emphasis on competency development. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has taken steps for introduction of activity based teaching in primary classes.

Cashew Research Stations

1396. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some more Cashew Research Stations in the country during the remaining period of Eighth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(c) whether no steps have been initiated in Andhra Pradesh for the upgradation of cashew seedlings;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to upgrade the quality of cashew seedlings being used in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India has sanctioned eight regional nurseries for producing grafts of released Cashew varieties at a cost of Rs. 76 lakhs and 80 model clonal gardens of 0.4 ha. at a cost of Rs. 1.710 lakhs have been sanctioned. During the VIII plan, a total of Rs. 860.874 lakhs have been allocated to the state of Andhra Pradesh for Cashew development programmes. The details are as follows:

1. Maintenance of cashew plantation raised in previous years.	Rs. 24.510 lakh
2. New Plantation of Cashew with export quality clones.	Rs. 516.560 lakh
3. Replanting/rejuvenation by top working.	Rs. 66.975 lakh
4. Adoption of comprehensive production Technology.	Rs. 142.500 lakh
5. Adoption of Pest control measures.	Rs. 94.650 lakh
6. Executional infrastructure facilities.	Rs. 15.679 lakh
	Rs. 860.874 lakh

Commissioning of Stall etc

1397. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether one stall with automatic dispensing machine for sale of coffee, three Pepsi Dispensing Machines and a Book Stall-cum-Chemist Corner and other facilities are to be provided on new lengthy Platform No. 10 at New Delhi Railway Station recently; and

(b) if so, the date of their commissioning for the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Nescafe Coffee Dispensing Machine - 1.1.1995

Three Pepsi Dispensing Machines (kiosks) - 28.12.1994

Bookstall-cum-Chemist Corner - 26.6.1995

Sale of packed food and Breakfast/Mineral water is undertaken through Departmental vendors.

Illegal Expansion of Sugar Capacity

1398. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to penalise those Sugar Mills who have been expanding their Sugar capacity without the Government's approval; and

(b) if so, the number of companies which have been penalised so far?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) :

(a) The expansion of capacity by a sugar factory without grant of a letter of intent/industrial licence under the I.D.R. Act, 1951 is punishable/under section 24 of the said Act.

(b) No sugar mill has been penalised so far.

Air Conditioned Warehouses

1399. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether air-conditioned Warehouses have been maintained by the India Warehousing Corporation throughout the country to keep Horticultural products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States in which State owned Warehousing Corporations are maintaining such Warehouses?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) :

(a) and (b). There is no India Warehousing Corporation as such. Central Warehousing Corporation is maintaining one Air-Conditioned godown at Calcutta (West Bengal) - 1520 MT. No horticulture produce is being stored in this godown. CWC is however, having three cold storages at Agartala (Tripura), Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) and Turbe (Maharashtra) with a total capacity of 4179 MT. In these cold storages besides horticulture produce CWC is also storing other goods.

(c) No State Warehousing Corporation is maintaining any Air-conditioned warehouse as per the information available.

Kapurthala Rail Coach Factory

1400. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN :
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kapurthala Rail Coach Factory (RCF) propose to enter the global market for the export of Coaches.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the target fixed for the years 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(d) whether the RCF has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Siemens for the manufacture of light Rail vehicle for Mass Rapid Transport system in Madras; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No order has been received yet.

(c) No target has been fixed.

(d) and (e). RCF has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with M/s. Siemens for manufacture of Light and Heavy Rail vehicles required for Mass Rapid Transit System in Metropolitan cities of India. In terms of MOU, a detailed cooperation agreement is required to be entered into.

Sustainable Development and Forestry Management

1401. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has raised number of issues including the non-implementation of the decisions taken at the Earth Summit Conference including the principles of Sustainable Development and Management of forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of participant members; and

(c) to what extent the Conference has agreed to provide India a new technology and the details of the proposals of India which have been accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c). In the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, India expressed deep concern about the slow progress in the allocation of new and additional financial resources and transfer of technology by the developed countries, as agreed

to at the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio-de-Janeiro. India has also taken up in several fora the need to implement the Non-Legally Binding Statement of Principles for Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of Forests adopted at the Rio Conference. Recently India played an active role in the establishment of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Forestry by the Commission on Sustainable Development, which aims to promote multi-disciplinary action at the international level for Sustainable Management of Forests, in consonance with the Non-Legally Binding Statement on Forests enunciated at the Rio Conference. India's position on these issues has been supported by other developing countries. There is a general consensus that the Commission on Sustainable Development has to play an important role in addressing these issues.

Hybrid Vegetables

1402. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ICAR is launching a major project for producing hybrids of important vegetables;

(b) if so, how much varieties of vegetables will be evolved by this project; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred to meet the project cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Project entitled "Promotion of hybrid research in vegetable crops" envisages development of high yielding and disease resistant hybrids in nine important vegetable crops viz., tomato, brinjal, capsicum, chillies, cucumber, bitter gourd, cabbage, onion and okara. The project will be operative at 15 centres including 4 ICAR Institutes, 10 State Agricultural Universities and one autonomous body. The number of hybrids to be developed in each crop cannot be fixed as development of a hybrid is a continuous process which envisages development of a better hybrid than the best available at a given time.

(c) The project has been approved for Rs. 330.38 lakhs for 3 years upto 31st March, 1998.

Coconut Growers

1403. SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the

hardships being faced by the coconut growers in Kerala due to refusal of the NAFED to buy the Copra from the farmers; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) No, Sir. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) is the Central Nodal Agency for procurement of Copra under Price Support Scheme. Consequent upon announcing the support price of Copra for the year 1995, NAFED has been purchasing Copra under the Scheme since July 7, 1995 in Kerala. So far, 2188 Mts. of Copra has been procured by NAFED in Kerala under price Support Scheme upto 2nd August, 1995.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Railway Workshop at Izzatnagar

1404. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the various works undertaken at present in the Railway Workshop at Izzatnagar;

(b) whether the full capacity of the workshop is not utilised;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have taken a decision to close-down the said workshop;

(e) whether the number of employees is declining continuously in this workshop; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) The details of main activity are as under :

(1) M.G. wagons periodic overhaul (POH)	80 FWU average per month
(2) M.G. coaches POH	100 FWU average per month
(3) Rail Motor Trolley Manufacture (MG & BG)	10 per year.

(b) and (c). The present capacity utilisation is commensurate with the requirements of M.G. Stock POH.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f). Staff strength is being regulated as per requirement of workload. The reduction in the number of employees is to the extent of normal retirements in Izzatnagar workshop.

Rail Link

1405. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN :
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the State Capitals which have not been linked with Railway Lines so far;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to link all the State Capitals with Railway Lines; and

(c) if so, the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a)

	Capital	State
i.	Imphal	Manipur
ii.	Agartala	Tripura
iii.	Kohima	Nagaland
iv.	Gangtok	Sikkim
v.	Shillong	Meghalaya
vi.	Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh
vii.	Aizwal	Mizoram
viii.	Srinagar	Jammu and Kashmir

(b) No, Sir. However rail links are planned to be provided to Agartala and Srinagar.

(c) Rail links to Agartala and Srinagar are likely to materialise by the end of the 9th Plan period subject to availability of resources in the coming years.

[English]

Afforestation

1406. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the various steps taken in respect of afforestation have increased the Forest Cover in various States in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) to what extent depletion of forests has been made good through afforestation, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) According to the State of Forest Report 1993, the total forest cover of the country as per

1993 assessment has increased by 925 Sq.Km. in comparison to 1991 assessment.

(b) The State-wise details of the forest cover as per 1991 and 1993 assessment are as follows :

S.No.	States/UTs	1991 assessment	1993 assessment
(Area in Sq. Kms.)			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	47,290	47,256
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	68,757	68,661
3.	Assam	24,751	24,508
4.	Bihar	26,668	26,587
5.	Goa (including Daman and Diu)	1,225	1,250
6.	Gujarat	11,907	12,044
7.	Haryana	513	513
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11,780	12,502
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	20,064	20,443
10.	Karnataka	32,199	32,343
11.	Kerala	10,292	10,336
12.	Madhya Pradesh	135,785	135,396
13.	Maharashtra	44,044	43,859
14.	Manipur	17,685	17,621
15.	Meghalaya	15,875	15,769
16.	Mizoram	18,853	18,697
17.	Nagaland	14,321	14,348
18.	Orissa	47,205	47,145
19.	Punjab	1,343	1,343
20.	Rajasthan	12,835	13,099
21.	Sikkim	3,033	3,119
22.	Tamil Nadu	17,713	17,726
23.	Tripura	5,535	5,538
24.	Uttar Pradesh	33,609	33,961
25.	West Bengal	8,015	8,186
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	7,622	7,624
27.	Chandigarh	5	5
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	206	206
29.	Delhi	22	22
30.	Lakshadweep	-	-
31.	Pondicherry	-	-
Total		6,39,182	6,40,107

(c) As a result of large scale afforestation the forest cover in the State/UTs of Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala,

Nagaland, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar has increased as per 1993 assessment in comparison to 1991 assessment.

[Translation]

Railway Land

1407. SHRI N. J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the area of Railway Land encroached by the people in Gujarat;

(b) action taken against the persons found responsible in this connection;

(c) whether the said land has been leased out; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) The area of railway land encroached in Gujarat is 59.33 hec. (approx.).

(b) Action to remove encroachment is taken on a continuous basis under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Review of Marks by Moderation Committee

1408. SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Moderation Committee of Kendriya Vidyalayas can review the marks given by the subject Teacher of plus two stage without consent of the concerned subject teacher;

(b) if so, the details of relevant provisions;

(c) whether Moderation Committee constituted for an academic session can review the marks obtained by the students in the examination held in previous session; and

(d) if so, the details of such provisions and instances where such steps have been resorted to with regard to the examinations of 1994-95 in respect of Kendriya Vidyalayas of the Lucknow Region?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c). Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has informed that, as per Article 119 of the Education Code of KVS, each Vidyalaya has set up a Moderation Committee to

prepare guidelines for paper setters for tests, examinations, to decide weightage for instructional objectives, nature of questions to be set and marking procedure to be adopted, to moderate test papers/items set by the examiners, to check sample scripts to ensure uniformity and to decide marginal and other difficult cases before announcement of the results.

At + 2 stage for class-XI the evaluation is done at Vidyalaya level and moderation committee functions in the light of the provisions of the Education Code.

(d) Details are being collected from the Regional Office, Lucknow and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Supply of Essential Commodities

1409. SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of units on the basis of which essential commodities are being supplied in the rural areas of the country;

(b) whether there is any criteria on the basis of population in this regard; and

(c) the time by which supply of essential commodities to all the existing units would be ensured?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIR AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c). As per present policy of the Central Government, coverage under the Public Distribution System (PDS) is universal and all persons are entitled to the benefits of the PDS. The allocation of PDS commodities are generally not made on the basis of population but are decided on the basis of availability of stocks, demands from States/UTs, inter-se requirements of different States/UTs, past offtake, seasonal factors etc. Only levy sugar is allocated on the basis of projected population in the State/U.T. as on 1.10.1986. Decisions regarding scales of entitlement and other operational aspects of the PDS are taken by the State Governments/U.T. Administrations as these are matters under their administrative jurisdiction.

12.01 hrs.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH (Satna) : Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to draw the attention of this august House with sense of anguish and concern, that over a period of time, in the former Yugoslavia,

Bosnia an ethnic conflict has taken the shape of a serious human rights violation. Innocent women and children are being attacked, raped and murdered. This unparalleled savagery is being condemned all over the world. It is a matter of deep regret that the Government of India maintains an ominous silence and has made no public statement so far, expressing shock and condemnation of what is happening in this unfortunate part of the world. It would be in the fitness of things and also in the best traditions of this country's global concerns that this august House put on record its deep concern and condemnation at the violation of human rights in this conflict and also express our sympathy and solidarity with the thousands of innocent and unfortunate victims of this conflict.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you. I would like to raise a very important question which will help in keeping our national pride, culture and civilisation intact.

It is a matter of pride for our country that Mahatma Buddha got enlightenment in Gaya. If this place had been in some other part of the world it would not have been in a neglected state. The Tourism Minister of Bihar Government has brought this fact to the notice of Central Government. Bihar Government has been allocated only 2 percent of the total budget allocation for Department of Tourism of the Government of India, whereas the economic condition of Bihar Government is very poor. Keeping in view all these things, we had evolved a scheme to make a Buddhist circuit there. This scheme got wider publicity in the world, particularly in the Buddhist countries. All countries showed much enthusiasm towards this scheme. In May 1984, Indian ambassador to Thailand Shri Gupta told in a letter to the Government of India that the Supreme Tourist Company of Thailand had proposed to introduce three flights per day to India at the cost of Rs. 16 crore on two conditions; first condition was that if they are granted permission for using Patna Airport where international facilities have been provided due to having been connected with Nepal. Secondly, they can construct a 5 Star hotel there with the money they will be earning from these flights or alternatively they can complete this work on lease basis. They can bring three flights per day to India. Airport Authority of India talks of spending Rs. 54 crore to make that Airport capable in all respect. We are talking much about Globalisation. Our country has its own culture, civilisation and glory. There are four major religions in the World and Buddhism is one of them. Gaya should be well equipped if the Government wants to make it the biggest centre of Buddhism. If the Government itself does not want to do so, we have a very good proposal but the

Government is not accepting that also. Department of Tourism of Bihar Government asked the Government of India to develop the above mentioned centre but it showed its inability to do so due to financial constraints. Mr. Speaker, Sir, developing this place will not only enhance our glory and strengthen our culture and foreign policy but will bring a lot of foreign exchange also through Tourism, which has the third place in the world trade. I would like to say that I do not think that our Government is experiencing financial constraints. Our ambassador to Thailand has told that the Supreme Tourist company of Thailand is ready to complete this work with the cost of Rs. 16 crore only whereas the Airport Authority of India says that it will cost Rs. 54 crore. Our Government will construct an Airport only but this company will construct a hotel also in addition to Airport. This is very necessary for our country and my submission is that our Government should certainly take a decision in this regard.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : This is a very serious matter but Government wants to avoid it .. (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice. I, therefore, should also be given a chance to speak for at least two minutes ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you also understand the seriousness of this matter ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is resentment among the people in this regard. Even otherwise, also, Bihar is facing innumerable problems like poverty, unemployment and hunger. The people of Bihar always feel that they are being neglected. That is why I have requested you and have raised this issue in the House and urged upon the Government to give a statement in this regard. All the Members from Bihar are unanimous on this issue and I have promised them that I will raise this issue. I would like the Government to say something on the issue. There are many issues which cannot be raised during Zero Hour. I just want to submit that this is an important issue and the people feel being neglected.

Neither we are allowed to do this with external assistance nor the Government makes any arrangements for this.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on my legs to speak on the issue raised by Sharadji. Both Gaya is such a place in India ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is known to everyone. Please come to the point.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : I have also to speak on this issue. Both Gaya is a place of international importance. We had gone to Colombo

and many people came to meet us. They said that when visited India as a tourist, they did not find any proper mode of conveyance to reach there either by train or aeroplane. For the last 3-4 years a company of Thailand ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I take objection to these kinds of pleadings on the floor of the House in favour of some company. You should please understand that you are not pleading the case of a company here.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now please sit down first.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down first. If you behave in this way in the House then it is upto you to run the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I was Minister of Tourism. Therefore, I am well aware of the problems being faced in Gaya. I also know as to how much money is being spent from other countries. Japan alone is spending Rs. 100 crore there. Even after this several things need to be done for Gaya. If without understanding the Government's position, I keep asking it on your insistence to do something and if it does not pay attention to that, then my suggestion also becomes meaningless. You have raised the issue and that is all right.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down first. You can get the work done by the method you want, otherwise, it is not possible. I have heard the question you have raised and barring one point, everything is right in it. I did not disturb you in your spontaneous speech but the same points are being repeated again and again. It is not proper to discuss awarding of a contract to any private party in the House.

[English]

Please do understand it.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Ambassador ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Alright, but even if the Ambassador said so, it is not proper to plead a private party's case.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : This has been mentioned in the letter from Ambassador ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down first, shouting will not solve any purpose. I am trying to help you and you are interrupting again and again. I am saying that it is an important place and money has been spent on it. Still, if Government proposes to give assistance for it, it can do so but I just want to state that please do not mention the name of any individual in the House since it is not proper to mention here. It seems that you want only to make a speech here and you do not want to get your work done.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : I have given a notice and I should also be provided an opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You have given the notice but all the notices cannot be accepted.

[English]

I am not going to allow you.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir I fully agree with you. I am not naming anybody.

MR. SPEAKER : You may say everything except quoting the name of a private person...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR (Gaya) : This issue relates to my constituency. I should also be given a chance to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : What do you mean? Why did not ask a question relating to your constituency, why are you raising this issue during Zero Hour? what was the problem in asking a question?

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Sir, this is an international issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If this is an international issue then why did not you ask a question? I agree that this is a very important matter and if the Government can do something, it must do.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : The present Government is very liberal. It has launched the liberalisation policy. If the Government does not have sufficient funds, it should made arrangements to mobilise funds at any cost. Today, I would like to than Lalooji for promoting industrialisation in Bihar by inviting Thai companies to invest there. The Government of India should also follow suit.

Sir, there are several places in Gaya, which, if developed from tourist point of view, will not only increase the income of the state Government but will also benefit the Government of India. Therefore, I would like to request the Central Government to implement it expeditiously.

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully agree with the statement given by our leader in the

House just now. I would like to explain it from a different angle. We receive the data regarding tourism from time to time. As per the data available, the hotel at Bodh Gaya earns maximum revenue, among other hotels all over India for the Government

The income is received in foreign currency and not in Indian rupee. A foreign tourist has to go to Patna via Delhi before reaching Bodh Gaya and the distance between Patna and Bodh Gaya is 124 kilometres. Another route for Bodh Gaya is via Banaras and the total distance is 400KM approximately.

I would like to request the Government, through you, that keeping in view the revenue received from Bodh Gaya Hotel in foreign currency and the views expressed by our leader Shri Sharad Yadav, Gaya Airport should be developed. At the moment, the Tourism Minister is not present in the House. He had assured that the Government will connect Gaya with air-service but it is still to materialise. I would like to request again that air service should be introduced up to Bodh Gaya...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VISHWANATH SHARMA (Hamirpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak. Three days ago, our leader Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji had raised a very good issue relating to Dr. Venu Gopal. I would also like to raise a similar issue and express my happiness on this Occasion. Last year, on 24th August, a suggestion was given that birth anniversary of our National Hero world champion and Hockey wizard, late Dhayan Chand be celebrated every year and it was accepted by the Government in December.

Now, it is hoped that his birth anniversary will be celebrated on coming August, 29 all over the country. In this regard, first of all, I would like to thank our hon. Prime Minister and the Government. I would like to urge that Shri Dhyan Chand really played a role of a true freedom fighter by defeating those very people who ruled India then.

The celebration should be on a ground scale, particularly in Jhansi, where he was born, brought up and where he played. His Samadhi is also there. I would also like to request that a sports University should be established after his name.

[English]

SHRI SWARUP UPADHYAY (Tejpur) : Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an incident that took place in Assam. It is alleged that the PSO of a contractor, by the name Shri Bhagya Kalita, has killed...

MR. SPEAKER : You are raising the issue on the basis of an allegation.

SHRI SWARUP UPADHYAY : No, Sir, it has already been established.

MR. SPEAKER : You are raising this criminal matter as if we are a criminal court here.

SHRI SWARUP UPADHYAY : No, Sir, it is not a criminal court but nexus between politicians, police officer and others has been established *.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not going on record.

Firstly, you have not given a proper notice. You are raking up the issue which cannot be raked up on the floor of the House. I would request you to maintain the dignity of this House and do not make it a municipality or night street.

SHRI SWARUP UPADHYAY : I am not making it, Sir, But I must raise this matter. People of Assam are agitated over it. You cannot summarily reject my petition.

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot take it as per the rule.

SHRI SWARUP UPADHYAY : Lakhs of people are agitating over this matter, in the streets of Guwahati...(Interruptions) The same kind of matters have been raised here before. I would like to quote Edmond Burke here...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : This is not going on record.

SHRI SWARUP UPADHYAY * :

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very serious problem being faced by the patients of Thalassaemia in our country. You will be surprised to know that Thalassaemia patients in Bombay are testing positive for HIV during tests. At least 45 such cases have been detected among patients in the age group of 5 to 15. Such cases have been detected in all the major hospitals in Bombay city but they have no proper facility to test the blood. Thalassaemia patients have to be administered blood every month. So, instead of our giving life to them we are giving them death. This is a serious thing which is happening.

Secondly, in AIIMS in Delhi the gap between detection of cancer and starting of treatment on a patient is so much that many people died after detection and before getting treated in the hospital. Two years ago the number of cases that were coming to the hospital was 2000 and now 7000 cases are coming every year to the hospital. There is no facility for CT Scan and other machines and apparatus. The administration is also not properly functioning. Sometimes various problems are being created in the hospitals. You know how diseases like cholera are developing here and there and spreading creating health hazards. This is an immediate problem. Even in the case of this type of dangerous

diseases spread in the form of AIDS or cancer, proper arrangements for detection, treatment and eradication are lacking. So, I urge upon the Government that these serious problems should be taken note of. The whole House should come together to rescue our suffering brothers. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that the labourers working in coal mines were to be given their revised wages w.e.f. 1.7.91 as per the National Coal Wage Agreement-V. However, it has not been decided so far.(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You do not have to tell here what had been discussed in the consultative committee's meeting.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, J.B.C.C.I. was constituted in January this year but it has not reached any settlement so far. As result thereof, all the labourers working in coal mines are going on strike from 21 August, 1995.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Reference made to the Consultative committee will be taken off the record.

[Translation]

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, neither the Government has reached any settlement so far nor has it given any amount to them. Similarly, a decision was taken eight years ago to deduct two percent of wages of coal mine workers and grant them pension on the basis of their deposits with the Government. Although two percent share of the labourers is being deducted from their wages, yet the Government is neither depositing its share nor paying the dues of the workers. Therefore, I would like to warn the Government that it should settle the issues of the workers early, otherwise they will go on strike.

[English]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune) : Sir, the Monopoly Cotton Procurement Scheme is in operation in the State of Maharashtra for the last 22 years under the provisions of the Maharashtra Raw Cotton Procurement Processing and Marketing Act, 1971. The Central Government extended its term from time to time, and at present up to 30th June, 1995. There is no doubt that farmers have benefited from the scheme and that their exploitation at the hands of traders and agents has reduced. The refusal of the Government of India to extend the time limit for the Scheme on account of liberalisation of economic policy is not justified.

* Not Recorded.

* Not Recorded.

Considering the enormous benefits which the farmer are deriving from the scheme, it is necessary to extend it permanently. I urge upon the Ministry of Agriculture in this regard to give permission for extension at the earliest.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Ferozepur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to those districts of Punjab like Ferozepur, Gurdaspur and Amritsar etc. which touch Indo - Pak border.

Fencing of the border has done there 4 years ago. The gates have been constructed two Kilometres away from the fencing. The problem of those farmers who have to go through these gates for farming, is that when they leave in the morning, they are allowed to return only in the evening by the BSF and other securitymen. The Government had evolved a policy for erecting barbed wire 50 yards away from the border line in district Ferozepur but the fencing has been done one and a half to two kilometres away. Consequently, thousands of acres of land fall beyond fencing line. Moreover, BSF personnel open different gates on different days.

I demand that keeping in view the difficulties being faced by the farmers, these gates should be opened daily and they should be allowed to move to and fro whenever they finish their work. I had raised this issue two three times earlier also but no attention has been paid to it.

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government employees drawing a basic salary upto Rs. 3500 are in a position to get 11 per cent increase in their Dearness Allowance following upward trend in the Consumer Price Index.

Sir, the State Government employees should also get their Dearness Allowance at this increased rate. But the State Governments are not in a position to finance all the State Government employees.

So, I would urge upon the Central Government to provide financial assistance to the States so that they can also provide Additional Dearness Allowance to their employees.

Further, the poor peasants and labourers who are unorganised and unemployed are facing tremendous hardship due to upward trend in the Consumer Price Index. Hence the amount of subsidy should also be increased for essential commodities which are made available to the poor peasants and labourers through the Public Distribution System so that they can also enjoy, to some extent, the relief.

DR. R. MALLU (Nagar Kurnool) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice regarding harassment and

atrocities on Harijans in my Parliamentary Constituency, Nagar Kurnool. I want to draw the attention of the House to an incident which occurred there. A member of a primitive tribe viz., Chenchu, was taken to the Amravati Police Station by the Police. He was beaten in the Police Station where his leg was broken. He is now admitted in the hospital. This case was represented by me to the DSP, SP and DIG.

This is a peculiar situation where harijans are harassed by the Police in the Police Station and not by the people.

Two Harijans were taken to Kalwaqurthy Police Station and they were severely beaten. Out of those two, one died in the lock-up and the other was allowed to leave the Police Station. There is a lot of tension in the village. A lot of people were not allowed to stay in that village. The Harijans have left that village. I have brought these problems to the notice of the officers concerned, the D.S.P., S.P. and D.I.G. of Mehboobnagar District of Andhra Pradesh. But no action is being taken. The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are facing enormous threat that they are not able to stay in the village. I request the Home Minister concerned to direct the officers concerned to take care of these weaker sections of my district.

SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY (Coimbatore) : I am raising an important issue. I will speak in Tamil.

*Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice an incident that had taken place in the Himachal Bhawan in the Capital recently. An official styled as Area manager in the Himachal Bhawan under the Himachal Pradesh Government had misbehaved with a Tamil lady named Iswari who is an employee there. She was forcibly taken to a room and an attempt to rape was made. An attempt to outrage her modesty was made. This has been taken to the notice of proper authorities and no action has been taken yet.

This is serious an issue that an attempt has been made to outrage the modesty of a Tamil lady and I wish proper action should be initiated to render justice to the lady. I am afraid that she may be victimised further and I wish this august House to take note of this.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Sir, eight thousand employees working in the Bharat Gold Mines at KGF have been denied wages for the last four months. They have also been denied their due increment in spite of directions given by the BIFR to which the matter is referred to. Ultimately, now, they have resorted to striking work for the last six days. There are large deposits of gold at KGF and some vested interests are out to see that the

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

Bharat Gold Mines Company Limited is closed down. Sir, I am told that some of the vested interests belong to the ruling party. I am very sorry to bring it to the notice of the House that one of the all-India office bearers of the ruling party is behind this just to see that his adversary who is a dissident in the ruling party and who is heading the employees' union there does not succeed. The Company will have to survive and the employees must be paid their due wages and also due increments which have been ordered by the BIFR. I would like to remind that the Standing Committee on Industries, Steel and Mines had constituted a Sub-committee to go into these matters and a Report is submitted before this House with a suggestion that the Government should provide money and revive the functioning of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited. I would be pleased with you to kindly direct the Government to see that the wages

MR. SPEAKER : Now, everybody should stop directing me to direct.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, my humble submission is that eight thousand employees are dying for the last four months. Wages are not paid to them. The survival of one lakh population in KGF depends purely on the working of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited. So, my humble submission is that the Bharat Gold Mines which was running on profit some time ago is now deliberately left to sustain loss with the intention that it should be closed down. I would like to make an earnest request that steps must be taken immediately to pay the wages and also the due increments. Otherwise, the whole situation will go out of control.

MR. SPEAKER : Half-an-hour is over. Papers to be laid on the Table of the House. Shri Kamal Nathji.

12.34 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Review on the working of Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History Coimbatore, for 1993-94 and statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Kamal Nath, I lay on the Table

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, for the year 1993-94, along with Audited accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Salim Ali Centre of Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, for the year 1993-94.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1983/95]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, for the year 1993-94, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, for the year 1993-94.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 7984/95]

Statement Indicating Results of Market Loans Issued during 1995-96

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : Sir, on behalf of Shri M.V. Chandrashekar Murthy, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) indicating the results of market loans issued during the 1995-96.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 7985/95]

Notification Under Central Agricultural University Act, 1992

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : Sir, on behalf of Shri S. Krishna Kumar, I lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under subsection (2) of section 43 of the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992 :-

- (1) Notification No. VC/CAU/14(ESTABLISH)/93 (No. 7 of 1994) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th April, 1995 approving the First Ordinance regarding the award of Junior Fellowships and Gold Medals to the students of the Central Agricultural

University, Imphal made by the Vice Chancellor of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 7986/95]

- (2) Notification No. VC/CAU/14/(ESTABLISH)/93 (No. 8 of 1994) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th April, 1995 approving the First Ordinance regarding the conditions of residence of Students of the Central Agricultural University made by the Vice-Chancellor of the said University.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 7987/95]

- (3) Notification No. VC/CAU/14 (ESTABLISH)/93 (No. 1 of 1995) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th April, 1995 approving the making of First Ordinance regarding the Establishment and management of a college of Veterinary Science at Selesih in Mizoram under Central Agricultural University, Imphal.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 7988/95]

Annual Report and Review on the Working of Regional Engineering College, Tiruchirappalli, for 1993-94 alongwith statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers etc.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Engineering College, Tiruchirappalli, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Engineering College, Tiruchirappalli, for the year 1993-94.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 7989/95]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for the year 1993-94.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian

Institute of Science, Bangalore, for the year 1993-94, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for the year 1993-94.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 7990/95]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Regional College of Engineering and Technology, Surat, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) a copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Regional College of Engineering and Technology, Surat, for the Year 1993-94.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 7991/95]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Board of Apprenticeship Training, (Northern Region), Kanpur, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Board of apprenticeship Training (Northern Region), Kanpur, for the year 1993-94.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 7992/95]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Book Trust, India, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National

Book Trust, India, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94 together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Book Trust, India, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 7993/95]

12.36 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND WELFARE

Fifteenth Report and Minutes

[English]

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS (Mysore) : Sir, I beg to present the Fifteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare on the Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 1994 and Minutes of the sitting of the Committee relating thereto.

12.36½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

Twenty-second Report

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Twenty-second Report of the Committee on Home Affairs on the Pondicherry (Administration) Amendment Bill, 1995.

12.37 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTER

- (i) **Services negotiations under the World Trade Organisation.**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Hon'ble Members are aware that liberalisation of trade in services was one of the areas which was negotiated in the Uruguay Round. Our objective in these

negotiations was to offer entry to foreign service providers in sectors in which such entry was considered to be most advantageous for us in terms of capital inflows, technology and employment. In return we sought greater access for our skilled personnel to the markets of our major trading partners.

The results of the negotiations which concluded in December 1993 in the area of movement of natural persons on the one hand and financial services on the other were considered unsatisfactory. Members therefore proposed and obtained Ministerial Decisions on establishing separate Negotiating Groups on further negotiations on the movement of natural persons and financial services.

The negotiations which were to conclude on 30th June, 1995 as required by the Ministerial Decisions, had to be extended until 28 July 1995 on account of the stand taken by the U.S on financial services. In the meeting of the Committee on financial services on 29th June, 1995, the US announced that they were not in a position to undertake an MFN (most favoured nation) obligations that covers new activities in banking, securities, insurance, fund management and other financial services.

In order to deal with the situation created by the U.S. decision, the European Union (E.U.) proposed that the rest of the members conclude a 'temporary fixed term MFN agreement' in the framework of GATS. This required the maintenance of the best offers indicated during the negotiations on financial services and not seeking a general MFN exemption. The term of this agreement was initially proposed to be 4-5 years.

As it has finally emerged, however, this temporary fixed term agreement will be valid only till 31 December 1997 after which members will be at liberty to withdraw their commitments and/or take an MFN exemption. Under this arrangement members have tabled their modified market access schedules in the financial services sector, with improvements in certain cases. In the case of some countries, these schedules are subject to certain limitations vis-a-vis the MFN principle. India has done likewise by making a moderate improvement in its offer. India has also retained its December 1993 MFN exemption schedule and built in additional safeguards in the market access schedule as well.

The advantage or implications of the agreement for India should be considered in the light of the fact that India was not a major demandor in the financial services negotiations but was looking for improvements in market access opportunities in the sphere of Movement of Natural Persons. Movement of Natural Persons or Service providers takes place either with Commercial Presence or without Commercial Presence. While the offers tabled in December 1993 by our major trading partners

contain provision for Movement of Natural Persons with-Commercial Presence, there were limited offers in the mode of movement without Commercial Presence. The EU, Norway and Switzerland which so far had not scheduled any commitments on the movement of natural persons have done so in these negotiations. US had earlier tabled an offer for movement of natural persons without commercial presence while an improved offer has been scheduled by Canada. Overall, now a larger market access package is available for our skilled personnel as compared to the situation in December 1993.

Developing countries including India have been emphasising that for international trade in services to be conducted on the basis of inherent comparative advantage movement of Natural Persons who are providers of services will need to be facilitated. This principle has now been recognised and even though the gains in respect of offers of individual countries in individual speciality occupations may not be very large, it signifies the beginning of a process which can be built upon in future rounds of negotiations. It is our assessment, that with the improvements secured by us in the offers of our major trading partners, a significant opening has been created for the temporary relocation of our skilled personnel without commercial presence.

In the area of Financial Services, our offers on banking and financial services are well within the current policy parameters. That is, India's offer is at a level which is lower than current practice. Sufficient safeguards have been provided to give primacy to our domestic laws and regulations. There are no offers in life or non-life insurance sectors as our current policies do not permit foreign investments in these sectors. It is felt that offers of various countries under the WTO framework will provide transparency, predictability and multilateral discipline which will impart a greater degree of investor confidence. As the financial sector in India grows and matures, it can also look for export opportunities that have become available as a result of the financial services agreement.

The situation arising out of the US decision to take on MFN exemption on its financial services offer has also been fully taken care of in our offer by the following steps :

(a) We have retained the MFN exemption notified by us in December 1993,

(b) Our offer has been qualified by a head note to the effect that our commitments are subject to entry requirements, domestic laws, rules and regulations and term and conditions of the RBI, SEBI and any other competent authority in India.

(c) One of the conditions of market access in our offer on banking provides that market access will be

subject to grant of licence as permissible under existing laws. The implication of this conditions being that since our Banking Regulation Act provides as one of the conditions of the licence that Government or law of the country in which the foreign bank is incorporated does not discriminate against Banks registered in India, our market access offer will be on the basis of reciprocity.

(d) The US has separately conveyed to us that non-discriminatory access to the US market will be their normal practice.

Overall, it is Government's assessment that the outcome of the negotiations on financial services and movement of natural persons is fairly balanced.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : The House should be given an opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : We generally do not do it. We do not put questions now.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Not now. We will give notice and then you allot some time for us.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. We will give.

(ii) SAARC Ministerial Meeting on Women

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI) : As Decided in the Fourteenth Session of the Council of Ministers held at New Delhi between 30th April - 1st May 1995, the Ministerial Meeting on Women : Towards the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing was held in Dhaka on 29-30 July, 1995. The Minister of State for Human Resource Development (Department of Women & Child Development) represented India at this meeting.

Recognising the common socio-economic problems faced by women in the SAARC region, the Ministers and Representatives of SAARC Countries decided to take a common position at the Fourth World Conference on women in respect of important issues concerning women of this region. At the end of this meeting, 'Dhaka Resolution on Women' was adopted calling upon the Fourth World Conference on Women to appropriately reflect the SAARC perspectives on women.

The Dhaka Resolution on Women has emphasised the following seven areas of concern common to the SAARC countries :

1. Eradication of poverty;
2. Mainstreaming and empowerment of women, including involvement of women in the decision making process;
3. Establishing and strengthening National Machineries for Women and Girl Child;

4. Survival, protection and development of the Girl Child;
5. Measures for talking incidence of violence against women and Girl Child;
6. Equal access to educational opportunities;
7. Equal access to health care services and nutrition.

It was further resolved that the text of the Dhaka Resolution be forwarded as the additional input of SAARC countries to the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in September 1995.

The Dhaka resolution on Women adopted at the SAARC Ministerial Meeting on Women : Towards the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing is laid on the Table of the House.

Dhaka Resolution on Women

We, the Ministers and representatives of Governments at the "SAARC Ministerial Meeting on Women : Towards the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing", having met in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 29-30 July 1995, reviewed the implementation status of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies in the SAARC region and discussed the draft Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in September 1995.

Recognizing the common socio-economic problems faced by women in the SAARC region, particularly the fact that the majority of women in this region live in poverty and suffer from lack of opportunities for educations and health services and the discrimination against the girl child and the violation of their rights of survival, protection and development are still prevalent;

Recalling the SAARC Plans of Action for Women, and the SAARC Decade of the Girl Child (1991-2000 AD), the recommendations of the SAARC Ministerial Meeting on Women in Development, Shillong, 1986, the SAARC Ministerial Meeting on Women in Development, Islamabad, 1990, and the SAARC Ministerial meeting on women and family Health, Kathmandu, 1993;

Reaffirming the commitment of the SAARC common position on issues before the Fourth World Conference on Woman as endorsed by the Eight SAARC Summit in New Delhi in May 1995;

Expressing the hope that the international community would carry forward the consensus forged earlier at various international conferences and meetings and having a bearing on issues relating to women and development;

Recognizing that the Fourth World Conference provides an opportunity to review status of women and their social, economic and political empowerment through the Platform for Action;

We, the Ministers and representatives of Governments, call upon the Fourth World Conference on Women to appropriately reflect the SAARC perspectives on women as reiterated in SAARC documents and particularly stated in this Resolution

1. Eradication of Poverty

While Member States attach the highest priority to the issue of the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women, it is imperative that national efforts for eradication of poverty are reinforced by a favourable for international economic environment for the SAARC countries including access to market, financial resources and technology on equitable terms. A categorical commitment from the international community to new and additional resources to the strategies and objectives identified under the draft platform for Action would be an essential preliminary prerequisite.

2. Mainstreaming empowerment and decision making

Mainstreaming of gender perspectives and empowerment of women at all levels in the economic, political and social process is essential to the upliftment of the status of women. This requires appropriate changes and commitments at all levels, including involvement of women in the decision making process.

3. National Machineries for Women and Girl Child

An effective national machinery is essential for identification, planning and implementation of strategies to enable women to realise their full potential. National machineries should, therefore, be established, strengthened and appropriately equipped with staff and resources.

4. Survival protection and development of the Girl Child

SAARC has taken the lead in pioneering a focus on the needs of Girl Child with the commitment at Summit level. SAARC has already adopted a Decade Plan for the Girl Child and Member States are already implementing their national Plans of Action. SAARC notes with satisfaction that their pioneering work has sensitized the international community to the special needs of the Girl Child.

It is urged that all States reiterate their commitment, at the highest level, to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against the Girl Child, throughout her life cycle and evolve all appropriate measures, particularly in the fields of educations, health and nutrition. This would require a similar reaffirmation and commitment from the international community to the special needs of the Girl Child.

5. *Violence Against Women and Girl Child*

The SAARC Member States are already in the process of evolving appropriate measures for tackling incidence of violence against women and the Girl Child including trafficking in women. These efforts should be further strengthened by evolving legal and institutional frameworks at the national level.

6. *Equal access to educational opportunities*

It is urged that all State pursue a policy of ensuring universal access to primary education and create a gender-sensitive educational system in order to ensure equal educational and training opportunities. This would require sufficient resources for which support from the international community and multilateral agencies would be crucial.

7. *Equal access to health care services and nutrition.*

SAARC attaches high priority to the implementation of commitments to meet the health care needs of women throughout their life cycle. This would require evolution and implementation of appropriate strategies and services to take into account the multiple role and responsibilities of women. These strategies would include food security, adequate nutrition, universal access to sanitation and health care and health training programme.

The successful implementation of the Platform for Action requires a categorical commitment to new and additional resources from the international community and the multilateral financial institutions as well as free and unrestricted market access for the goods and services of the developing countries and the transfer of technology, including new technology in order to reinforce the national and regional capacities to address the problems of women in the Region.

It is further resolved that the text of the Dhaka Resolution be forwarded as the additional input of SAARC countries to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

12.45 hrs.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

[English]

SQN. LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHARY (Hoshiarpur) : I bet to move :

"That the member of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (3) of Rule 254 read with sub-rule (1) of Rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri Vilas Muttemwar resigned from the Committee.

MR. SPEAKER : The questions is :

"That the member of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (3) of Rule 254 read with sub-rule (1) of Rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri Vilas Muttemwar resigned from the Committee.

The motion was adopted.

[English]

ANNOUNCEMENT RE : CANCELLATION
FIXATION OF THE SITTING OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to inform the House that at the meeting of the leaders of parties and groups in your Committee Room yesterday it was decided that the sittings of the House fixed for Friday the 11th August and Monday the 14th August, 1995 may be cancelled. It was also decided that in lieu thereof the House may sit on Saturday the 26th August, 1995 and also sit up the 7 P.M. daily in order to transact Government Business.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : If necessary.

12.48 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**(i) Need to take steps to safeguard the Interests of Cardamom Growers***[English]*

SHRI K.M. MATHEW (Idukki) : With the ongoing harvest, the price of cardamom has further declined. Last year the average price was Rs. 350-400 per kg. In the previous year it was around Rs. 600 per kg. Now it is between Rs.200-250 per kg. This is most unremunerative and the present price would not even cover the actual cost of production. The growers are facing lot of difficulties.

As the prices of this export oriented commodity depend upon the global market, especially the competition of the low quality and low-priced cardamom from Guatemala, Urgent steps are required to be taken to have some arrangements with Guatemala to ensure stability in price. In addition, intensive campaign in the existing importing countries should be strengthened and new foreign markets must be explored. Steps to increase internal consumption in a big way also require immediate attention.

I request the Union Government to act on this on a war footing to mitigate the sufferings of the cardamom growers.

12.47 hrs.

*(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)***(ii) Need to provide better Postal Services at Palahi Town in Punjab***[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SANTOSH CHOWDHARY (Phillaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Palahi in Phagwara Assembly area in my parliamentary constituency Phillaur, is a historical town. Three Guru Sahibs had visited this town. Most of the people of this town are in Europe, Canada and different Arabian Countries and are helping to strengthen Indian economy by earning foreign exchange. Palahi is an ideal town, where hospital, park, school, bank, co-operative society, bio-gas plant, polytechnic and other facilities available. It is the place in Northern India where rural youths are given technical education and are made capable of self employment, in spite of this the condition of postal services is not good there. There is only one post office in the town and that too has only one employee for the delivery of dak, who has

first to go to Ranipur village, which is situated at a distance of 8 kms from Phagwara, to collect the dak and then he has to come back to Palahi after covering a distance of 5 kms. Due to this, the people of my constituency have to face a lot of problems in regard to the postal services. Therefore, the Central Government is requested that this post office should be upgraded to the level of fullfledged post office in order to remove difficulties being faced by the people of my parliamentary Constituency.

(iii) Need to waive loans granted to Punjab to control terrorism*[English]*

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR (Faridkot) : The State of Punjab is under heavy debt due to the borrowings it took from the Central Government as special terms loan. This was to curb terrorism and to develop the State during this period of turmoil. On 20 April, 1995 the Prime Minister announced the waiving of this loan amounting to more than seven thousand crores of rupees.

The Punjabis were appreciated for their historic role in fighting the nation's battle. Even after this announcement was made, the Central Government deducted more than Rs. 100 crore from the Punjab's financial share for the months of May and June.

I request the Central Government and especially the Prime Minister to issue clear cut instruction in this respect. The total loan of Rs.7,000 crore should be waived immediately to save the State from economic disaster because presently there is a lot of confusion prevailing in the State Government.

(iv) Need to take steps to increase the Installed Crushing capacity of the existing sugar mills and issue letters of intent for setting up more new sugar mills particularly in Tamil Nadu

SHRI P.P. KALIAPERUMAL (Cuddalore) : Sir, in order to ensure adequate availability of sugar through the Public Distribution System the Government are importing sugar. During the crushing season of 1994-95, 5.17 lakh tonnes sugar have been imported. Hence, it is evident that India is facing shortage of sugar.

In order to increase the production and productivity of sugar, the Government have sponsored and have been implementing a special scheme called "sustainable development of sugarcane based cropping scheme". The production of sugarcane during the 1994-95 is estimated at 259.30 million tonnes. The Government have also taken several other measures to improve the demand of sugarcane by the sugar factories.

In spite of all these steps, the sugar factories in Tamil Nadu particularly in Villupuraa Ramasamy

Padayachiyar districts are not able to draw sugarcane for crushing during this current crushing season. Sugarcane in several thousands of acres of land in this district has been losing sugar content due to inordinate delay in the drawal of sugarcane for crushing. The farmers have been suffering a lot and incurring irreparable damage due to inordinate delay even to the extent of 10 or 11 months in the drawal of sugarcane by the factories.

Hence, I urge upon the Government of India to increase the installed crushing capacity of the existing sugar factories to enforce implementation of the letters of intent for new sugar mills and also to issue sufficient letters of intent to new mills in Tamil Nadu so as to increase sugar production and also to encourage the farmers involved in sugarcane cultivation.

(v) Need to declare Kampear-Basti, Bansi-Bidharghat, Sikariganj-Ramjanki Marg and Walterganj-Ayodhya in U.P. As National Highways

[Translation]

SHRI ASTBHUJA PRASAD SHUKLA (Khalilabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in my Parliamentary Constituency, Karmeni to Menhdawal, Bansi to Menhdawal-Khalilabad-Ghanghata-Bidharghat, Sikariganj to Chhauni and Basti Walterganj to Gaur roads are very important from religious, cultural, historical and geographical point of view and are unavoidable for the purpose of transport.

Karmeni-Menhdawal a 9 kms stretch between Kampearganj-Basti road is in a very bad condition, for Lucknow and Delhi bound passengers from Sonouli and Nautanwa have to reach Basti Kampearganj-Lucknow-Gorakpur-Kahalilabad which add 100 kilometres to the distance which leads to increase in fare and freight accordingly. The area surrounded by Bansi-Menhdawal, Khalilabad-Ghanghata-Bidhar road, Ghaghra and Kuano has an important place from the point of traffic facility. There are a number of Buddhist centres like Dharmsinghwa, Kopia, Tameshwaranath etc. The road upto Bansi is being constructed under the Kapilvastu scheme but this has not been included in the scheme yet. If this road is constructed then the 125 kms. distance for the Varanasi and Allahabad bound passengers, from Kapilvastu will be reduced. At present they have to go via Naugarh-Gorakhpur.

Road between Basti and Gaur has already been constructed but in the absence of a bridge at Varakshattar Ghat the entire road is out of use. If this bridge is constructed the distance between Basti and Lucknow will be reduced by 50 kilometers.

The condition of Sikariganj-Chhauni Ramjanki Road which is of prime importance has deteriorated.

All these roads, which have religious, cultural and historical importance, also connect two national highways.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government that Kampearganj to Basti, Bansi to Bidharghat via Menhdawal-Khalilabad-Ghanghata, Sikariganj to Chhauni, Ramjanki Marg and Basti to Walterganj to Ayodhya via Gaur Vabhnam roads, should be declared as National Highways and approval should be accorded for the construction of bridges at Varakhshattar and Bidhar Ghat and the necessary funds for the construction of bridges should be provided.

(vi) Need to increase the Amount given to Rajasthan for developmental activities in SC/ST dominated villages and also lift Restrictions imposed on its use.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR) : Sir, an amount of rupees 18 crores was being given every year by the Department of Social Welfare of Government of India to the Government of Rajasthan for the development of villages inhabited by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The said amount is much less than the grant given to the other States. Last year an amount of rupees 8 crore was provided by the Department of Social Welfare and a restriction was imposed to the effect that this amount would not be spent under the heads drinking water, roads, electricity etc. in the villages inhabited by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, whereas no other State has been put under such restrictions and they are given encouragement for such works. The said amount was given in the last week of March and as such this amount cannot be spent until sanction for the coming year is received.

Therefore, I would request the Central Government that the full amount of rupees 18 crore for the last year should be made available to Rajasthan without any delay and the restrictions imposed on its utilisations should be withdrawn.

(vii) Need to provide interest free loans to unemployed youth under self employment scheme

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria) : Sir, a maximum amount of rupees 20-25 thousand is given by the District Industries Centre to the educated unemployed. Recently the Prime Minister had announced that this amount would be increased to rupees one lakh.

It has come to my notice that arrest warrants and orders of attachment are being issued against the educated unemployed who have failed to repay the

loan despite the fact that these educated unemployed pledge their certificates at the time of getting loan from the bank.

My submission to the Central Government is that the interest on the loan taken by the unemployed youth should be waived off as they pledge their certificates with the banks and all the educated unemployed youth of the country should be given loan amounting to rupees one lakh for setting up of industries or for starting other work so that they can lead a smooth life.

Besides, the loans should be renewed in the case of those educated unemployed youth who have failed in their endeavour to start an industry or work due to any reason and they should be encouraged by giving loan again so that they may raise their standard of living.

(viii) Need to resolve the dispute between shipping agents and Calcutta Port Trust early

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : Sir, the working of the Calcutta Port Trust has come to a standstill since 14th July, with the shipping agents having refused to undertake any export carting or accept import deliveries. They have also decided to stop their operations in stuffing, de-stuffing, carting and delivery activities. As a result, besides Russia-bound tea, refrigerated shipments-mainly shipments - mainly shrimp and other marine products - to Japan are hit. In fact, shippers apprehend that all commodity exports from the Calcutta Dock system, including cast iron, engineering goods, mica, jute, jute goods and leather products may be dealt with a body blow if the current impasse continues.

I would urge the Minister of Surface Transport kindly to exercise his good offices to resolve the dispute and ensure that normalcy returns soon to the Calcutta Port, and tea, marine products and exports etc. are not upset anymore.

13.00 hrs.

MOTION RE : CONSIDERATION OF THE 'DRAFT AGRICULTURAL POLICY RESOLUTION (AS MODIFIED)' - CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We shall now take up further discussion on the Draft Agricultural Policy Resolution. It is the turn of Shri Sukdev Paswan. But Shri V.S. Rao has made a request that he may be permitted as he has got some other engagement. If Shri Paswan obliges, we can allow Shri V.S. Rao.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria) : Sir, let him speak first.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Thank you. Shri V.S. Rao may speak now.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I convey my sincere thanks to you and to Shri Paswan for obliging me.

As the hon. Minister for Agriculture said yesterday it was most unfortunate that this country did not have an agricultural policy for all these years. Their industrial policy was formulated as far back as 1948 and eight subsequent modifications have taken place for that. But in this country, where 75 per cent of the population is directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture, neither the planners nor the Government think it fit to have an agricultural policy at all. I may tell that if a policy is there it will act like a beacon to the sailors in the sea. If the Government implements the policy with all sincerity it will help a lot in the development of that particular sector and in this case it is our agriculture which is involved.

Sir, Japan was having a basic agricultural law in 1961. Two important objectives of it were to increase productivity and to increase the income levels of the farmers on par with the people who are in other sectors of the economy. Similarly the European Community also has a common agricultural policy.

The first effort to formulate an agricultural policy was initiated by the National Front Government in 1989-90. I was associated with that formulation as I was a member of the Standing Advisory Committee headed by Shri Sharad Joshi at that point of time. We all dealt with the subject at length and we had prepared a draft also. Of course, later it was modified and a very condensed one has been brought out now.

In this connection I would like to bring to your kind notice certain things about the Draft Agricultural Policy as modified by the Standing Committee on Agriculture which has expressed a lot of dissatisfaction with this present Draft. I will quote from their report :

"They are not satisfied with the scheme and strategy enunciated therein and find it inadequate on many accounts to meet the challenges listed in itself. ... The challenges need a more systematic and exhaustive narration. The Draft lacks specifics and is silent on many important issues concerning agriculture and its overall development.

The Committee concluded that a fresh determined effort should be made by the

nodal Ministry in formulating the first-ever agricultural policy of free India which shall set the guidelines for many other policies."

Sir, it is the most important thing. I request the hon. Minister for Agriculture and the hon. Minister of State for Agriculture to kindly consider the suggestions from all the hon. Members and if necessary they may kindly modify the present Draft also.

First of all, I would like to say, with all my affection and goodwill to our hon. Minister for Agriculture, that I am really disappointed with this present Draft.

It is vague and it has not identified the reasons and the deficiencies for the backwardness of Indian agriculture.

Sir, our country is very fortunate. We are having nearly 50 per cent of our geographical area which is suitable to raise crops and we have abundant sun-light. In our country, a minimum of one crop or even two to three crops can be grown in a year. We have 178 million hectares of irrigation potential which can give irrigation to our parched lands and here are our farmers who work like anything day in and day out.

While six million farmers in America are producing 355 million tonnes of foodgrains, in our country 546 million cultivators are able to produce only 180 million tonnes. Japan, which is having only 46 million hectares of irrigated land, is producing 360 million tonnes of foodgrains. But in our country, we have 49 million hectares of irrigated land. Is it the fault of the farmers? Not at all. I would like to say very categorically that it is the fault of the planners and the Governments that have been in power.

Sir, why has India remained so backward in the matter of productivity? In respect of wheat production we stand at 38th place in the world, in respect of rice production we stand at 54th place and in respect of groundnut production we stand at 72nd place. Our productivity in rice is not even 40 per cent of what is attained in China. So, I urge upon the Government to view the necessity of the Agriculture Policy with all seriousness.

The Main fault for the backwardness of our agriculture lies with the allocation of Plan Outlay. Can we expect a child to grow without any food or milk or nutritious food? Can it happen like that? That allocation to agriculture, which is the mainstay of a very large population and which is contributing one-third to the Gross Domestic Product, has come down from 15 per cent in the First Plan to 5.9 per cent in the Seventh Plan and it has come further down to 5.2 per cent in the Eighth Plan. If this is the position, how can agriculture prosper?

Sir, the most important deficiency for the backwardness of Indian agriculture is what lesser investments have been made both in public and private sectors. The gross investment in real terms at 1980-81 prices has come down from Rs.4.636 crores in 1980-81 to Rs. 4,480 crores in 1991-92. So, the total gross domestic capital formation in agriculture has come down from 18 per cent in 1981-81 to 1 per cent in 1991-92. The decline was more perceptible in public sector. It has come down from Rs.1,800 crores in 1980-81 to Rs. 1,040 crores in 1991-92, though there was a marginal increase in the private sector, that is, from Rs.2,840 crores in 1980-81 to Rs. 3,500 crores in 1991-92. But its share in the total gross capital formation declined from 20 per cent to 15 per cent during the same period. The private investment would have been much more if the public investment had increased and if remunerative prices had been given. But the terms of trade were kept against the farmers. The level was 100 in the 1960s and 1970s. But it was around 90 in 1980s, because that was deliberately done to encourage the industry.

Sir, the Government in power, at that time, wanted the industry to prosper. It wanted the industry to grow and it wanted the farmers also to invest their savings in the industrial sector. That is the most unfortunate thing. Then, there are trade barriers on the movement of foodgrains and other agricultural produce from one State to the other, though the present Government has announced that these barriers are to be removed. Even in this era of liberalisation, some barriers are still there in several States.

I request the Government to take note of that and lift all such barriers.

Sir, the other important factor which will help increase in production in agricultural sector is irrigation. The other day, my colleague Shri B.N. Reddy was emphasising about the irrigation. I will not repeat what my friend has said. But till now, only 30 per cent of the area is irrigated and most of the irrigation projects that were taken up in the 60s, none of them has been completed as yet; and the allocations to the irrigation sector have come down from 22 per cent in the First Plan to 9.4 per cent in the Seventh Plan to 8 per cent in this Eighth Plan. Then, how can you increase the productivity in agricultural sector? And wherever irrigation is provided, there also the irrigation intensity has to be enhanced. That aspect also has to be taken care of.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the other most important item is agricultural credit. I am very sorry to say that the Government has neglected the credit requirements of the farmers. Eighty per cent of the farmers are small and marginal farmers in this country with poor financial capabilities. Unfortunately, the

Government has neglected their needs. Adequate amount has to be given in right time. The banks have given only 17 per cent credit to this agricultural sector which is contributing one-third to the GDP, but the banks were very kind and very favourable to industry; they have given 36 per cent credit to the industrial sector which is contributing only 20 per cent to the GDP. I will quote one figure here. In 1987-88, the total disbursement to the agricultural sector was Rs.11,900 crore. Sir, you will be surprised to know that in 1991-1992, the figure was only Rs. 11,200 crore. For the last three years, the direct credit to the agricultural sector has come down considerably. I will also tell you that the direct agricultural credit per account was Rs. 2,500 in 1969 and in 1992, it is Rs. 4,700 only. If you take the inflation factor and the fact that the agricultural input prices have increased by four-folds, is it not much lower than what the farmer got in 1969? Then, how can our agriculture prosper? Only ten per cent of the Indian farmers are able to avail of the loan facilities. So, I urge upon the Government to take into account the Reserve Bank of India Rural Credit Survey which has predicted that by the end of this century the commercial banks have to lend Rs. 64,000 crore and the cooperative banks have to lend Rs. 46,000 crore for agriculture and other related activities. They have also said that agro-processing will require Rs. 16,000 crore, storage and marketing will require Rs. 7,500 crore. This House wants to know what steps the Government is taking to realise these targets, to realise this situation?

So far as fertilisers are concerned which is another important input to increase the productivity, our consumption is only 72 kgs. per hectare and the world average is 87 kgs per hectare; the Asian average is 130 kgs per hectare and even our neighbours — Pakistan and Bangladesh — are using more fertilisers; and China, of course, uses nearly 300 kgs per hectare including the organic manures. I would like to tell you about the impact of fertilisers in China; in the case of rice, the consumption is 245 kgs per hectare. So, they are able to get 3.8 tonnes per hectare. Normally, it is only 104 kgs per hectare and the yield is 1.7 tonnes per hectare. We are consuming only 104 kgs. per hectare on an average for rice crop and the decontrol of phosphatic and potassic fertilisers have enormously increased the prices of these fertilisers. The ideal ratio of this NPK being 1:2:4 has derailed and its ratio has now become 1:4:16. It will have adverse impact on the soil because of excess nitrogen and the Government has admitted that fact on this very floor of the House.

Sir, Many a time, the Government is saying that we are having buffer stocks, that our country has achieved self-sufficiency. It is not a fact; it is because of the low purchasing capacity of the millions of people of this country that you are having some stocks with the Food Corporation of India.

Since independence, for 35 years, we have imported foodgrains and in the recent years, 1991-92 and 1992-93, we have imported 26 lakh tonnes of wheat. So, I request the Government not to take a complacent attitude. The population is growing. The requirement is growing. Moreover, it is expedient the world over to feed the animal husbandry sector. Many more foodgrains will be required. So, we have to take all the necessary steps.

Regarding agricultural machinery and implements, according to RBI Survey, the total value of livestock and agricultural implements with average cultivator is only around Rs. 1,850 in 1981-82 which is only one fourth of Rs. 8,000/- required to modernise the Indian agriculture. While in China, they have 70 lakh power tillers, we have got very small number of tractors in our country.

We feel so sorry Government is permitting import of foreign cars spending lakhs and lakhs of rupees on the Deluxe cars, luxury cars. Why not permit import of small tractors from either Korea or Japan or some other country? I request the hon. Minister who has got so much affection and genuine interest in agriculture to take note of this situation.

Regarding extension, we are spending only .23 per cent on the agricultural GDP on research while other developing countries are spending .5 per cent and the developed countries 2 per cent. So, I request the Government to enhance the allocation to research.

Only 140 KVKs are functioning at present. In every district, there should be one KVK. I will not repeat. Many a time, I requested on the floor of the House that in every district, a KVK must be established. I feel so happy that in Punjab really whenever a farmer is encountering some problem, he will go to the Punjab Agricultural University to know the solution. That is how, in every part of the country that rapport between the farmer and the University or the Research Stations or the KVK must be established which will go a long way in educating the farmers.

Regarding the seeds, the certified seeds remain around 56 lakh quintals only. We require nearly 3 crore quintal seeds by the end of this century. At present, for wheat it is 93 per cent high yielding variety seeds, but in respect of rice and jowar, we are using only 60 per cent of the high-yielding varieties of seeds. This item has to be taken care of.

Regarding pulses and oil seeds, I congratulate Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, to have initiated this Technology Mission on oil seeds. It is paying dividends. It has given some results. Oil palm is in oil seed sector. You are very good enough to allot so much money for plasticulture and for lift irrigation. There is no ceiling. You are good enough

to extend these benefits to horticulture. Oil palm, though it is a thrust area, which will help us in reducing the oil import bill, since it is under oil seed sector, today this facility which you have provided to horticulture is not going to that sector. You kindly take note of this and issue suitable instructions. We are happy you have announced for the first time some minimum support prices to nigar and other crops yesterday in your statement. There is no minimum support price for the fresh fruit branches of the oil palm. I request the hon. Minister to take of this point.

Regarding sugarcane, if the experiment that is being done in Maharashtra and Gujarat *i.e.*, the real benefit obtained by the sugar factory is passed on to the sugarcane growers, is repeated in other States also, India instead of importing sugar will be in a position to export sugar and earn so much foreign exchange.

The Government was good enough to remove control on molasses. Who is benefiting? It is only the sugar factories in other States which are benefiting. Actually, 50 per cent of the additional profits should go to the farmer. But unfortunately, for some reasons best known to the Minister of Food, they are not announcing this. It is a very important factor. In the Bhargava formula, it is recommended that 50 per cent of the profits should go to the farmers.

Even after two years or three years, the formula 'L' is not announced and the poor farmer is suffering. You do not know how much he has to get as per the statute. So, I request the Government to take note of it and see that corrective steps are taken.

Then poultry, dairying, fruits and vegetables, prawn and fish are really very much helpful to the farmers in augmenting their income. I will not go into the details and the figures. But I would like to say one thing that there is a lot of scope for increasing the production to meet our domestic requirements as per the nutritional standards and also to earn foreign exchange by export. In this context, I would like to say that some of the banks are not helpful to the small farmers. With all responsibility, I want to say in this House that they are mostly helping the big people who have put up five lakh birds or 10 lakh birds or even 15 lakh birds but they do not help the farmer who has put up 500 birds or even 1000 birds. They say that it is uneconomical. It is not a fact. Even though it is 500 birds or 1000 birds, it will help the farmer, his wife and his children. They work in their own poultry unit and earn some income. Similar is the case in respect of prawn culture. The other day, I requested the hon. Finance Minister and I submitted even the previous Friday about it. I will not go into the details. I would like to say about our sad experience in Andhra Pradesh. Though in the

last five years, the prawn culture has increased tremendously from 6000 hectares to 54000 hectares, yet most of that is done at the expense of the farmer. It is his own money or the money he borrowed from his friends and relatives, not from the commercial banks. The commercial banks gave money to the corporate companies, private companies and big and middle-level farmers and not the small farmers. Therefore, I want the Government to take note of that and issue correct instructions so that the banks extend their financial support and insurance coverage to that. Otherwise, that prawn culture which helped you to get Rs. 2400 crore of rupees of foreign exchange during 1994-95 cannot sustain. Please see that the goose that lays the golden eggs survives and try to protect it. Otherwise it will be killed.

Regarding the minimum support price, you are aware that - you are a big scientist and a very knowledgeable person - till now the risk element is not taken into consideration while computing the cost of cultivation. We people in Andhra Pradesh in the coastal districts face many a time cyclonic storms. The cyclonic storms are affecting us, tidal waves are affecting us, droughts are affecting us. But this factor is not taken into consideration and that should be taken note of.

About margin of profit, for any industrial product, you allow some margin of profit. But it is not the same case with the farmers. This injustice should be corrected. I am happy to say that you have announced that a revised Crop Insurance Scheme would be taken up. But yet a beginning has not been made. Even on a trial basis, in one district in one State, for the last three years this is under consideration. Very urgent steps should be taken. Otherwise the farmers are going to suffer. The Model Cooperative Law is very very essential. I am very happy that our Government in Hyderabad has very recently adopted that cooperative Law as per this Model Cooperative Law circulated by the Government of India. The Government should exert pressure on all the other States also to adopt it as far as possible at the earliest. As the North-Eastern region is having a lot of scope for achieving higher yields, we have to necessarily get that from that area. The Government has to take steps in this regard.

Regarding the Post-GATT situation, though you say that we have a lot of scope because the subsidies in those countries are going to be reduced, yet I appeal to the Government to do something. It is not out of any greed for subsidies that we are begging. No, you know the farmers in this country were not really subsidised but they were taxed in the form of bringing the prices artificially. My suggestion to the Government is that they should continue the subsidies to enable our cost of

production to remain at a low level and take a comparative advantage for export. Those countries are not going to reduce the subsidies. In our country, the whole subsidies - which the Government say - amount to nearly Rs. 15,000 crore but in the USA it is to the extent of \$ 75 billion; in the European Community, it is to the extent of \$ 115 billion.

That means Rs.3,40,000 crore subsidy. There, only two per cent farmers are in the agricultural sector. They will reduce it in the sixth year by only 20 per cent. Even then the subsidy level will be very very high.

With regard to the air freight subsidy for export of mangoes and other fruits, vegetables and flowers, some progress is taking place. If the export effort is to be encouraged, this air freight subsidy must be there. For more than a year this matter has been under the consideration of a group of Ministers, but a decision has not yet been taken. I request the hon. Minister to look into it and take a decision as early as possible.

I urge upon the Government, not with any ulterior motive or with any politics in mind, to look into these aspects. We are speaking these words with genuine interest in agriculture and we have been placing all these view points in that spirit through you to this august House and we request the Government to come forward with a revised draft agricultural policy to really help the agriculture, to make a breakthrough and make India the number-one agricultural power in the whole world. We have all the potential. But we have realised only 35 per cent of the potential. The IRI has calculated that if our full potential is realised, our GDP will enhance by another 100 per cent. We await eagerly for that day.

I thank you very much for giving this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is after many years that the agricultural policy is being discussed here. I thank the hon. Minister of Agriculture for providing an opportunity to discuss the agricultural policy in Lok Sabha today after a gap of three years.

In 1926, an Agriculture Commission was set up under the Chairmanship of Linthgo K. Markos. This commission was asked to submit its report after investigating the agricultural situation and the rural condition prevalent in India and also to make recommendations augmenting the welfare and prosperity of rural population in order to improve the agricultural sector. Subsequently, after the partition of the country in 1947 an imbalance erupted again in the agricultural sector. After independence, efforts were made for the first time to formulate a national policy for improving the agricultural sector which aimed at not only removing the prevalent lacunae

but also the imbalance created as a result of partition, strengthening the national economy, giving importance to this sector for the country's development and raising the living standard of the people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the plight and pitiable condition of the farmers of India even after 47-48 years of independence is unparalleled in the world. The agricultural Price policy is an important aspect of the Government's policy in order to give boost to agricultural development. It is an exaggeration to

say that the Agricultural Price Commission, which was later called as Agricultural Price Cost Commission has been helpful for years in determining stable and remunerative prices for agricultural products by recommending support prices of many important agricultural products. The presence of loopholes of agricultural price policy regarding the farmers' crops is very unfortunate. The Members of Lok Sabha in particular coming from the farmers' families might be well aware of the plight, the farmers face. I come from a small farmer's family and I know that the prices of a produce or crop be it jute for example, are genuine during the harvesting Seasons but after two-three months when the farmers have sold their produce, its prices shoot up three fold or even fourfold. Same is the case with paddy, wheat and rice. For example, the prices of a particular crop range upto Rs.200 per quintal during the harvesting season, after 2-3 months one has to procure it at the price of Rs. 300-400 per quintal from the market.

In my opinion, our agricultural price policy is quite faulty. Who are the people who determine this policy. At the moment, Shri Arvind Netam is present here but the hon. Minister of Agriculture is conspicuous by his absence. Why is not a person directly concerned with agriculture and farming included in the Agricultural Price Commission and why is not his suggestion sought while determining the prices of agricultural products. Through you, I would urge upon the Government that a person coming from a farmer's family should be included in the Agricultural Price Commission as a Member or a representative because he is aware of the problems a farmer faces while growing crops. The Government officers and the mill-owners are not even remotely aware of the farmers' pains and predicaments.

With the measures of economic reconstruction in the Five Year Plans, agriculture has come to occupy a pivotal place in national economy. Today, agricultural sector has become a means of livelihood for about 70 to 80 percent labourers of the country. Its share in Gross Domestic Product is 32 percent. Agriculture has a lion's share and a dignified place in the country's export trade. The greatest problem confronting the farmer today is non-availability of fertilisers, seeds and pesticides on time, because a

farmer does not get fertilizers and seeds well on time in the rural areas when it is the sowing seasons due to which he has to face enormous difficulties.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as the prices of fertilizers are concerned, India stands at fourth position after America, erstwhile USSR and China from the point of view of total consumption. Despite that, what is the position of availability of fertilizers in our county and the price differential thereof over a span of 4-5 years. I remember that the price of a 50 kg. sack of either Shaktiman Urea or Suffla Urea ranged from Rs.105 to 110 but today a 50 kg. bag of urea costs Rs. 250-300. So far as D.A.P. fertilizers is concerned, a 50 kg. sack of D.A.P. fertilizer cost Rs. 188.50 earlier but now it costs Rs. 450-500. On the other hand, what is the trend of prices of different crops. The prices of crops did not register as much rise four years ago as did the prices of fertilizers, seeds and insecticides.

Therefore, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Agriculture as to why to do the farmers continue to face problems despite the fact that 70 to 80 percent people depend on agriculture. To my mind, the main problem of the farmers today is the non-availability of fertilizers, pesticides and other necessary ingredients well on time and on cheaper rates. All their problems can be solved once they are assured of the availability of these items on times. But I cannot understand why is it so that the Co-operative Banks extend loans to them only when they sell their crops? I wish that the farmers of the whole country should get the facilities which are available to the farmers in Punjab and Haryana. If this is done, I am sure, that no other country of the world can compete with India in foodgrain production. Therefore, through you, I would like to urge upon the Government to extend all the facilities available to the farmers of Punjab and Haryana to the farmers of all the states in the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the situation of floods in the country and the difficulties faced by the farmers as a result thereof hardly needs any mention. A farmer toils hard to sow the seeds, irrigates his fields, applies fertilizers etc. and when the crop is ready to be reaped, there come the floods all of a sudden and his whole crop is destroyed. In this way crops worth millions of rupees are destroyed in the country. A small farmer who invests Rs. 10,000 for growing crops does not get a single penny in return once floods wash away his standing crops. Hence, I would urge upon the hon. Minister of Agriculture to take adequate measures to prevent the crops from the scourge of floods. Crops in every state, be it Bihar, Uttar Pradesh or any other State, are destroyed by floods.

Every state is faced with the same situation. Effective schemes should be formulated to control flood so that farmers could feel relieved and they could safely take their grown crops to home.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something about seeds. The position in this regard is also not satisfactory. The farmers do not get seeds in time. The Government of India had set up National Seed Corporation and its 13 centres were set up in 13 states of the country. I urge upon the hon. Minister to set up the centres of National Seeds Corporation in all the states.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Standing Parliamentary Committee on Urban and Rural Development Ministry which is headed by Shri: Bhonsle, has made some recommendations, about making the barren land fertile. If we act according to these recommendations, we will be able to change all the barren land into fertile land. I request that serious efforts should be made in this direction because we cannot add more land but we can turn barren land into fertile land.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with the assistance from the World Bank, the work on phase-III of National Seed Corporation was taken up in March 1990, which involved a cost of Rs. 236.01 crore. But presently, good quality seeds are not made available to farmers at low cost anywhere in the country. Therefore, I request the hon. Agriculture Minister to make arrangements to provide good quality seeds at low cost to farmers. The present arrangements are not sufficient because the farmers do not get seeds in time. The new policy of development of seed was introduced in October 1988. Under this new Policy, arrangements had been made to provide good quality seeds to Indian farmers from any part of the world. Even then farmers do not get seeds in time.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the National Seed Corporation was constituted in 1963. Its present authorised capital is Rs. 20 crore and paid up capital is Rs. 20.09 crore. Out of the paid-up capital, Rs. 8.11 crore have been invested as share capital in State Seed Corporations under National Seed Programme-I and II. In this way, the actual share capital of National Seeds Corporation was Rs. 11.98 crore as on March 1992. Till the end of March 1991, the Corporation incurred a loss of Rs. 24.51 crore which reveals mismanagement somewhere. The management act arbitrarily and the funds are not utilised properly due to which loss is incurred. There will be no question of loss if funds are utilised properly and monitoring is done over it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Kosi river Project is one of the River Valley Projects taken up under Indo-Nepal Corporation. People who have visited the Indo-Nepal border must have seen that thousands of millions of rupees have been spent by the Government of India on the barrage over Kosi river. It was inaugurated by the first Prime Minister of India Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru. A lot of soil have collected at the bottom of the barrage due to silt. The areas of

Bihar touching the border have been badly affected by it. This Canal has not been cleaned for the last 25 to 30 years. Therefore, I demand that a survey should be conducted to find out the reasons for not cleaning the canal, and not releasing water for farmers' fields. Farmers face a lot of problem to irrigate their fields. You will be surprised to know that without using any manure, 60-65 maund Garma crop is produced in one acre of land. We can get much more quality of Garma, wheat and other crops if proper arrangements of irrigation are made.

With the assistance from the World Bank, several development projects have been launched in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Among them include watershed project in Karnataka. Watershed Area Development Project at Tirunalvelli in Tamil Nadu and Integrated Watershed Area Development Projects for hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Haryana. For plains, Integrated watershed Area Development Projects have been introduced in Gujarat, Orissa and Rajasthan with the World Bank assistance. National Watershed Area Development Project has been introduced for rainfed areas. In 1990-91 the Central Government sponsored national project in 35 States of the country. However, Bihar has not been included into it. Bihar has always been excluded from the mainstream.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this question needs serious consideration as to why India spend much on agriculture in comparison to other countries. The reason for it is that in India 80 percent population depend on agriculture. The country will be economically strong if agricultural sector is strengthened. The new economic policy is not beneficial to agriculture. For your information, I would like to tell that renowned Agriculture expert and Director of Reserve Bank of India, Prof. S.S. Chahal has said that new economic policy will adversely affect the agricultural sector. It is a well known fact, that Indian economy is based on agriculture.

In the end, I would like to say that instead of blocks and districts, Panchayats should be considered as primary units for distribution of fertilizers and seeds, to farmers. This will help in improving the conditions of the farmers and development of the nation.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Thank you.

13.43 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till forty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.52 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at fifty two minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

MOTION RE: CONSIDERATION OF THE
DRAFT AGRICULTURE POLICY RESOLUTION
(AS MODIFIED) - CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Prataprao B. Bhonsle.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Sir, may I make a submission? Please allow me to speak for a few minutes, as I have some important business to attend.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE (Satara) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Draft Agriculture policy resolution which was presented by the hon. Agriculture Minister in this House yesterday.

This resolution should have been presented here quite earlier. Agriculture policy is being discussed in this House after a gap of two or two and a half years. Only four hours have been allotted for it. This issue relates to 70 percent people. It reveals as to how much our Government and this House is concerned over this subject relating to farmers.

Through you, I request the Government ...
(Interruptions)

SHRI UMRAO SINGH (Jalandhar) : All front benches are unoccupied. They are not worried about the cause of the farmers... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE : Sir, through you, I request the Government that time allotted for debate on this issue should be increased so that all the hon. Members who want participate in the debate could get a chance to express their views.

I am sorry to state that the Department of Agriculture has always been a victim of injustice. The old Department of Agriculture has been given a new shape by adding more Department to it. As a result, the questions relating to Agriculture Policy and the Department of Agriculture have been taken very lightly. Although, new Departments have been created, yet it appears that Government is not at all concerned about agriculture and the farmers. I would like to thank Balram Jakhari for his personal concern for agriculture and the farmer. His intentions about agriculture policy and programmes are crystal clear.

But I would like to request him not to take the remarks and criticism of the Members made against the Government as an attack on him.

The total land area of the country is measured to be around 32 crore 90 lakh hectare. The data regarding total fertile land vary in different reports. In some reports, the area of fertile land is estimated to be around 16 crore and 60 lakh acres while in other reports, it is around 18 crore acres but actually the total area of fertile land is believed to be from 14 crore 10 lakh hectares to 14 crore 30 lakh hectares. It shows that about two and half to three crore hectare land is still left unutilised. It means that more than 25 percent land is either barren or left uncultivated. It is the duty of Government to make infertile land fertile as the farmer alone is not able to do this work. For this purpose a separate Department was created but the programmes chalked out by that Department during the last 2-3 years for transforming the infertile land into fertile one, give the impression that it will take at least 100-150 years to achieve this target. Is our country so rich and capable that it can wait for 100 years for making the land fertile? I would like to say that we must think as to how this infertile land can be transformed into fertile land so that it is utilised by poor farmers of the country.

We always hear about the new Industrial Policy. In this regard every Member of treasury benches supports the policy of single window system, whereas, in the case of farmers and agriculture, such windows go on multiplying. It looks ludicrous that a person who has got money, means and who can get his work done through any channel of the Government, enjoys the facility of single window system whereas the farmer has to move from one window to another. If the farmer needs seeds he has to visit seed Corporation and when he needs loan, he turns to bank. Thus, he is required to knock at many doors before getting his work done. However, despite this much of efforts, he gets success very rarely. The Government should think about decreasing the number of windows so that the farmers can get their work done without any difficulty. As regards loan policy, the Reserve Bank of India, in its guidelines, has stated that at least 18 percent loan should be provided to farmers but the fact is that the farmers are provided loan not more than 10 percent.

Today the price of every item is rising high but we are decreasing the percentage of loan meant for farmers.

15.00 hrs.

The second point worth mentioning is that if a person opens a shop by investing Rs. 5000, his credit limit is fixed at once. Whereas, for a farmer, how so big he may be, neither any credit policy is there nor any credit limit is fixed. He is required to run from pillar to post for obtaining loan.

15.02 hrs.

(Shri Tara Singh *in the Chair*)

As the facility of credit system is available there, credit limit should be fixed for the farmer and he should be issued a credit card. In this way, he will go on repaying his loan whenever he gets money and he will be eligible for the next year's loan only when he repays the old loan. Then, why does the Government not give it a concrete shape? I am neither against any industrialist nor the industrial policy. However, it has been observed that sometimes, the loan provided to most of the industrialists, is considered as bad debt and they declare themselves bankrupt. But on the other hand, these industrialists change their postal address and launch new companies. It can also be seen that not a single farmer of the country has ever become a bankrupt. Further, he neither changed his postal address nor left his village to escape from repaying the debt. Even then, we are always apprehensive while providing loan to farmers and go on changing our policy in this regard. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to provide credit cards to the farmers and fix their credit limit so that they can get loan, easily. Thirdly, the rate of interest on the loan should be decreased. I have been writing to the Government including the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Finance for the last ten years in this regard as this is not a big industry. Even today, 70 percent farmers of the country toil in the drought prone areas. Despite having no facility of irrigation, he is still toiling in his fields. I would like to thank the Government for providing some facility to farmers in return of their service to the nation but this is the right time for the Government to think over the problems of the farmers. I would like the Government to reduce the rate of interest on the loan upto 5 percent because the majority of the farmers reside in the places where they have less facilities. They always become victims of either flood or cold or drought. Therefore, on behalf of all the farmers, I would like to request you that the rate of interest on crop loans should not exceed 5 percent.

I would also like to say something on the problems of soil erosion and barren land. It is the duty of the Government to check the transformation of fertile land into barren land due to deforestation in the country. If it goes unchecked, many crises will arise. For instance, due to deforestation, the level of the rivers beds rise up, the life of the dams gets shortened, the menace of floods increases and there is more erosion of the soil. I know that able people of this country can import technology, get investment from abroad in terms of dollars, import machinery etc. but they can not import the soil. Therefore, protecting and preserving the soil of the country is not only a service to the farmers but to the nation also. I tried to get data about the extent of soil

erosion but nobody is ready to provide the figures. Unless the information regarding the extent of soil being washed away and the reason for rising of the level of river beds is known, it is very difficult to tell anything about it. Flood is caused not by heavy rains only but also by rise in the level of river bed. Therefore, this factor will have to be considered on priority basis to check soil erosion. It will be in the interest of the nation if such an arrangement is made.

Thirdly, I would like to touch upon the position of fertilisers. It is a very technical point as to how much subsidy is to be provided on fertilizers. I think that most of us do not know the fact that the consumption rate of fertilizer in different states of the country varies. It is a matter of great concern that five states of the country consume fifty percent of the total fertilizers while the rest of the country utilises the remaining fifty percent. For example, in Punjab consumption rate of fertilizer is 171 kg. per hectare while in other states of the country this rate is even below 10 kg. per hectare. Why this discrepancy is there? Same is the position regarding electricity and water. I would not like to take much time of the House by producing facts and figures.

There are many states which utilise fertilisers less than one percent. 5 kilogrammes nutrients for one hectare of land will serve no purpose. Except Punjab, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, and some parts of Maharashtra, the position in the rest of the country is more or less the same. It is a very serious problem. The main reason behind all this is increase in the cost of production. Most of the fertiliser producing companies are sick. Production cost of fertiliser of many companies is between Rs. 11-20 thousand per tonne which we are not able to bear. Therefore, these units are incurring losses. It is being thrust upon the farmers but how long will it continue. I would like to state that a few companies, which are incurring heavy losses, should be handed over to workers' co-operatives. The Public Sector units located in West Bengal, Orissa, and Bihar, which are not running in profit, should also be handed over to these workers. This point should be kept in mind as to how the farmers will bear the heavy cost of fertilizers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have not been able to develop new technique of making manure. As per old method, we have been putting the dung in the pits but the manure that we get from this process has very low percentage of nitrogen.

The raw material put in a pitch gets 40 percent evaporated but if the same is converted into Gobar Gas, its nitrogen content increases by four times. It can be testified by researches. Besides providing electricity and gas to houses, it has many other uses and benefits. It is more economic than any other industry and if I reproduce the data in the House, you would not believe them. There are atleast 4 crore and 20 lakh farmers in the country who have

cattle and out of them, there are 120 lakh such farmers who are capable of acquiring loan. They have sufficient space and required number of animals and the gas plant can be installed at their houses. How many such plants have been installed by the Government? It has been stated in the report of the last year that about 20 lakh plants have been installed so far. If during this long span of 40 years, the Government could install only 20 lakh plants; one can well surmise the time Government will take in installing 120 lakh plants and the loss suffered by the country due to this. Atleast 20 lakh people are waiting for these plants to be installed at their houses so that they may also can get electricity from manure. This is the report from your department. The installation of these plants will involve very less amount but we have become interested in other matters. The files of NRIs are cleared on priority basis. We are always read to roll out red carpet for multinational companies but pay no attention to the problems of the farmers and therefore farmers have to come across with many difficulties. But I request you not to take these remarks otherwise since the Government as well as we are equally responsible for this plight of farmers. No one is to be blamed in particular for this. This is happening with each and every issue, but still we are wasting our's as well as the House's time on other issues. We will have to oppose it with our main and might or support the fixing of a time limit for this purpose.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my second issue pertains to irrigation. Who decides in the country as to which crop should be irrigated for how many days and how much water should be released for that. This is not decided by the departments of agriculture of the states which have no knowledge of agriculture. Of course, there are engineers to decide the period of rotation; that is as to after how many days water will be released in specific canal. This is not decided by the agriculturists. That is why such a change has taken place. Crop pattern has changed still we are following the policy prepared some fifty years ago. The country has irrigation potential of atleast 11 crore and 20 lakh hectare but during last 45 years Government has brought only 8 crore and 10 lakh hectare land under irrigation. We should see the feasibility of the system and try to remove the shortcomings, if any, and decide whether drip irrigation or sprinkler irrigation will be fit for any specific area. Still, 3 crore and 20 lakh potential of the country remains untapped. I would like to know as to in how many years this unharnessed potential can be exploited? Completion of any project takes 15-20 years, time and the poor farmer waits mutely till then. The second thing that I noticed is that the Government outrightly refuses to give permission for lift irrigation, if any individual goes for it. This is unfortunate that the Government at once accords permission to such cases in which 100 percent

expenditure from the exchequer is involved but which gives no return. But if the farmers form a co-operative society and then seek permission, the Government refuses and tells them that there is scarcity of water. Farmers arrange for irrigation on their own but the Government's trend of refusal is increasing day by day.

This is happening in every state. No doubt these are State matters but the Central Government and the State Government cannot have different opinions about agriculture. A decision by consensus has to be taken in this regard as it will decide the fate of the farmers, the agriculture as well as that of the country. Therefore, the decision should be beneficial for them all. I suppose that hon. Minister for Agriculture has taken personal interest in this regard. We have to think on this point also that we have limited water for per hectare land and that is to be utilised either through drip irrigation or sprinkler irrigation or it is to be used traditionally. We have to think as to how the limited water is to be utilised upto optimum level. This is not a single man's concern, therefore, we should reconsider this policy. Now there comes the policy for agricultural education. Due to favourable improvement in agro technologies and great contributions of the agriculture experts, the various agricultural yields have increased, but it is unfortunate that when a student is admitted in Agriculture Universities and 'Krishi Vidyapeethas', he never thinks of becoming a farmer and go to fields. Is it our success? While admitting a student, it is considered that he belongs to the family of a farmer and after completing the education, he will take farming as profession. Even a person hailing from a farmer's family and attached with the fields, is indifferent to farming. It shows that our policy is to groom youngsters into bureaucrats. What does it reflect when after completing education, one does not return to his fields? We are creating jobs only and what will they guide after they become bureaucrats and start pocketing a hefty salary? They will never touch the soil.

We should say, "You are son of a farmer; go back to your village and undertake farming for atleast four years and then come to us, we shall provide you with a job."

But unfortunately, not even a single student goes back to field again and instead, tries his best to settle down in the city only. We ask him to produce a certificate stating that he is son of a farmer. If he intends to work with you, it means he is not a farmer's son. We should think whether our policy is going to benefit the country or leading it to ashtay. Therefore, I would like several amendments to be made in this policy. After awarding degree, he should be advised to go to village and experience the ground realities there and acquire the actual knowledge of rain and cold and after two years' such experience when he

goes in search of job, he should be given good job earning good salary. But unfortunately this does not happen. They directly get a job and acquire only bookish knowledge. The Geography teacher in the country wants a few time and a few periods of geography since without preparation, it is very difficult to teach although the Geography is the same but for teaching in school or college it must be abridged every day. Likewise, if any one having bookish knowledge, teaches the method of farming, he will certainly harm the progress of the country. Therefore, I would like to request hon. Minister of Agriculture to bring some change in this policy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister had stated yesterday that he was ready to reconsider the crop insurance policy. But actually this cannot be termed as crop insurance, this is actually a loan insurance. The scheme will apply on those farmers only who have acquired the loan. The farmers who can manage the money on their own for investment will not come under the purview of this insurance. I would like to know its reason. This scheme should have been implemented in the whole country but it has been applied only to some limited crops. What will the people of drought prone areas, rain-prone areas or the persons living in barren area do in this situation or hold will they make their livelihood? I hope that hon. Minister of Agriculture will agree to my proposal of implementing agriculture crop insurance scheme on industrial pattern.

Thirdly, I would like to say something about 'Agricultural Produce Market Committee' (APMC). Vast area is required because the farmers bring their produce to that area by bullock carts, tractors or trucks but the Government has levied non-agricultural on that. Government has also levied income tax and other taxes on 10-15 APMCs of the country running into losses. Tax worth crores of rupees is due on them they are on the verge of closure I would like the Government to levy tax on private trades, buildings, shops or offices but there is no reason on levying tax there where the farmer brings his produce by bullock carts. It is known to you that some market committees are running very well but they too will close within two to four years. Four days ago, I had gone to one of the markets of Delhi where the farmers of Haryana and Punjab had come to sell their fruits. I think, you are not aware of the practice as to how they sell their fruits. A Big handkerchief is put on the hand and one of the fingers is caught. Rajveer Singhji says that their should be transparency in big industries but nobody pays attention towards the handkerchief under which everything is happening because we are engaged in trade that can benefit the politician. But nobody thinks about it as to why it is happening in Delhi. The morning rate of a sackful of fruit is Rs. 30 but the evening rate of the same becomes Rs. 125. Similarly, the brokers increase the

price of every item, four or five times while the farmer does not get even Rs. 30 for his produce on which he devotes the whole year's labour. The same fruits cost Rs. 150 for users. If we do not think over it, who else will think? Would we not like to change their plight? We unitedly work for many other things because it is published in the newspapers but since this issue is related to farmers and a sackful of fruit costs merely Rs. 30, it is not published in the newspapers. If any issue is related to Enron, it will be published in all and sundry newspaper. Why do we try fish in the troubled water and how far have we changed our way of thinking? All of us know that the same method of auction is adopted in every city. This is not a question of any party or any state because as per today's condition, every party has its Government in one or the other state. This happens everywhere. In Bombay also, the same method of putting a handkerchief on the hand and catching the finger from inside is adopted and price is fixed by bargain. No attention is paid to the producer of the produce. The question is not as to what they think about all this but to change their attitude and the attitude of all of us... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : (Aonla) : We have a lot of welfare activities in our mind but this should come to your mind.

SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE : It is a matter of great concern about agriculture. There are many such issues about which we need to change our attitude.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now, I would like to raise the issue of dairy development. No doubt, development work has been done in some areas in the field of dairy development, but even after 40-45 years of independence, when I visited four states with my committee and enquired at a place as to what method did they adopt for increasing the milk capacity of the animals, I was told that they were using siemen. Then I asked them as to where did they get semen from, I was given the names of several places. When I further enquired as to whether there was some arrangement of genetically tested bull at these places where they got the frozen semen, I was not given reply to my question by any of the officers in the three states.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it clearly shows that inspite of sea change in the technology and in many other things in the world, we are still walking on the trodden path. The Government presents the same old techniques to farmers.

I presume that in atleast fifty percent states, not even a single bull would have been genetically testified. How do we plan to bring about the change and how will we increase the production-capacity of milching animals. Unless we bring this change, we

cannot progress in this field. In other countries 'Amario Transfer Theory' has been successfully implemented, while we are still lagging behind.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Bhonsle Saheb, you have already taken the time allotted to you. Please try to finish your speech.

SHRI TEJSINGHRAO BHONSLE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is my maiden speech i.e. I am speaking for the first time during the last ten years. Therefore, please do not ring the bell. I myself will finish my speech soon.

I would like to tell you one thing about milk. Nobody ever told as to which state is not showing concern about genetic test. If we give any observation about it, the Government will circulate order, stating that the act of creating misunderstanding is not proper. When I asked the State as to how much fat does standard milk consists, I was told that the percentage was 5.5 It was stated that it consisted 90 per cent buffallow milk and 10 per cent cow milk. I asked him to go to any of the Indian village and if it consists less than 7 per cent fat, I am ready to undergo any punishment, you may like to impose on me. It is the human being, and not the animals, that follows the dishonest path. Why should we buy milk having 5.5 per cent fat when buffallow milk, consisting 7 percent fat, is already available. It is injustice and it also teaches injustice to countrymen, but nobody is paying attention to it. Even the milk of a buffallow having 15-20 day old calf, will not consist less than 7 per cent fats then why the fat of standard milk is 5.5 percent. It sounds that you are encouraging the people of the country to practice adulteration and compelling others to eat adulterated food items. I do not want to say anything about the process after which the fat content of the milk reduces but I totally disagree with the fat content fixed for standard milk even before the process. It means, you are showing the way for adulteration to the countrymen. If everyone starts doing the work according to one's own standards, the country will go to ashtray.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I therefore, would like to urge upon hon. Minister to convene a meeting and discussion-session after inviting the states which are giving good performance and think about the corrective measures through it and try to build up a friendly environment.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise the issue of the farmers who keep bullocks. The economic condition of the farmers who keep bullocks, is not good. Farming by bullocks is in no way economic in any part of India. They have to face difficulty and so, they want to do farming by tractors.

Today, the price of a tractor has increased very much and the interest on loan taken to purchase a tractor is also on the higher side. Amount of interest

on loan becomes more than the cost of a tractor. My submission is that the price of a tractor purchased for cultivation should be less and the rate of interest on the loan should also be kept lower. Then only farmers of this country will be able to utilise that for cultivation. In our country, supply of electricity is a matter of serious concern, because the generation of electricity in several states like Orissa, Assam, Madhya Pradesh and the smaller states in the country is very low. The percentage of electricity being supplied for agricultural purposes is also very low. Only 28 percent of the electricity is being supplied for agricultural purposes whereas there are 70 percent farmers in the country and that too is only in two - three states like Punjab, Haryana and Maharashtra. In other states of the country, it is not more than 10-12 percent for agricultural production...*(Interruptions)* but why do not we think that we are farmers and our country is pre-dominantly an agricultural country? Why do not we resolve to reconsider it?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my submission is that we should think about it again. I have clearly said about fertilisers. I have been the Chairman of the Fertilizer Pricing Committee. All the facts cannot be covered in the report. However, I can provide figures relating to other countries about the use of fertilizers. Use of fertilizers in our country is very less in comparison to other countries. The per hectare average use of fertilizers in Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Korea, the other Korea, Netherland and Asia is 99.3 Kg, 284.6 Kg, 68.7 Kg, 417.9 Kg, 407.4 Kg, 425 Kg, 642 Kg and 117 Kg, respectively. The average use of fertilizers this year in our country has been only 66 kilogram. It means that the Government boast of doing so much but the the ground realities are totally different. In this regard our country is far behind in comparison to other countries.

I would like to submit that this matter should be re-considered. Subsidy on fertilizers should be given anyway whether it is nutrient-wise, quality-wise, hectare-wise or on the basis of per quintal of production. I think that if the Government curtails the amount of subsidy, farmers of this country would not be able to make any progress. I would, therefore, like to submit that the Government should review its policy on fertilizers. The Government should try to expedite the non-conventional energy programmes. Jakhari, we all share your concern on this subject which you expressed yesterday in your speech. You should have courage and become our representative in the Government. Do not become the representative of the Government. No party can mobilise this country overlooking the interests of the farmers. A Government can survive if it thinks of farmers. Government should provide strong representation, strength and courage to the farmers to achieve the targets fixed for the year, 2007 to take this country

forward. I resorted to comment on the performance of the Government safeguard the interests of the farmers. I am not talking about any individual. I have already said that our concern on this issue should be brought to the notice of the Government not presuming it a personal matter. I thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, to save the time, I will neither go into the details nor will I repeat the figures. During the regime of Janta Dal, a proposal was put forward to make an agricultural policy and a committee was also constituted. Among the parliamentary standing committees, committee on agriculture was constituted first. Even then it did not serve the purpose. In the proposal which is about Agricultural Policy, a detailed reference was made in regard to land reforms and delimitation. Now the hon. Minister will say that this issue relates to the Urban Development Ministry. What type of agriculture we want? Do we require agriculture on the lines of the USA, where the people of Europe made it a country of white men after killing the original inhabitants of that area? Population there is less and land is vast. Is it possible to make agricultural farms of lakhs of acres on the basis of that policy? It is not possible in India. Even if it is possible will industry make progress? Will anybody be able to purchase our other products? Nobody will have purchasing power. Even after partition in 1947, the population of our country is 92 crores. Out of such big population, most of the people are dependent on agriculture. In such a condition what will be our policy? My submission is that we should have the self employed agriculture. Most of the agricultural land is in the hands of absentee land owners. The owners of the land do not cultivate themselves whether they are member of parliament, officers or Government employees. They live thousands of miles away from their land. A man who cultivates the land, should be given its ownership. This is the serious problem in our country. And if we do not make certain provisions our production will be adversely affected.

I give an example of myself. If during election, I raise the issue of Dam, Canal, it seems that mentally I am not in the normal position because servants have no interest in production, that is why they do not care when a farmer is destroyed by calamities. Our hon. member has rightly added the term 'servants'. Mentality, today this mentality is all pervading. Hence, as regards the case of ownership, Government should encourage self employed agriculture so that a man who cultivates the land may earn his livelihood from it and fight for its development, he may exercise his right as a voter and help the Government to remove the social disparities like casteism in our society. A democracy should be strong enough to fight the evil of booth capturing.

The other people who are members of Parliament for 10-12 years, why should they remain the owners of the land? we, neither cultivate ourselves nor we like to make our sons and grandsons to be cultivators. A Government employee whether he is a class 'A' 'B', 'C' or 'D' employee, will not like his son to be a farmer. However, he will not leave his holding. This is mere cultivation in absentia which is the main obstacle in agricultural development in India.

Therefore, raise a slogan of self employed agriculture. It is correct that we become sluggish to some extent. I am talking about revolutionary groups. We have become important because of communalism and casteism. But when crores of people who toil very hard in the fields come forward, then Red-revolution will come instead of Green revolution as the then Home Minister Shri Chavan Saheb had said. The same crisis will be created in the country. Therefore, important can not build India of tomorrow. It will have to be changed. You wait.(Interruptions) You please keep quite for a while. I have said that in spite of our impotence, a change will come therefore...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jha, please address the chair and not the other side of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : I am doing same thing. Therefore, my submission is that the law regarding consolidation of land, land obtained by Bhudan and the wasteland should be handed over to the people who work hard and we should go ahead on the basis of self - employed agriculture.

Agricultural wages will increase, the number of landlords will increase and we will give them wages, all this should be over. Actually the system should be that a man who is landlord, will also cultivate his fields but today, things are different. Today, Punjab is a leading state in our country with regard to agricultural production. Punjab is also leading in snatching the lands of small farmers, where big landlords take the share of agricultural products from small farmers and there are potato kings, who have several tractors. I think that Dravid Pranyam' is being done. This Pranyam'.(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jha, please resume your seat. He is on a point of order.

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : Sir, the hon. Member who is speaking is a very senior Member. I just want to tell him that in Punjab, there is no such

thing happening because the average holding in Punjab today is less than two acres and thus, that version of the hon. Member is not correct. It may be the position 40 or 50 years ago. There is no big agriculturist or a big landlord now.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. Shri Jha may continue his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to visit some districts with my colleague. The big agricultural cultivate the lands of small farmers on contract basis as share-cropper. The owner is paid in instalments. The land legally remains in the owners name but it is under the occupation of the share-cropper. Therefore, I contend that his complicated procedure is proving to be counter-productive. The proposal of land reform is a fundamental issue before the nation. The Minister is right in saying that suggestions made during discussion would be incorporated in the agricultural policy and we together shall move ahead with a national Agriculture policy.

After this, I would take up the issue of pricing policy. It is true that through this some improvement has occurred in irrigation, land reforms, price policy, and agricultural production has increased slightly. The production in 1950 was five crore tonnes whereas today, the production is 19 crore tonnes. This may not be a big achievement. But, still it is an achievement, although achieved at a slow pace. We did not attain what we could have. This can not be termed as progress but at the same time we can not negate our achievement. The price policy has also contributed towards this. We speak of giving remunerative prices to the farmers. Cultivation is not possible without this. When we were dependent on America for foodgrains, under PL 480 scheme, we used to receive tobacco and lipstick alongwith foodgrains. One can forgo food but not Lipstick ! At that time also, I had raised this point. At that time, the late Shri Morarji Desai was the Finance Minister. In the lobby of the House, he told me that he was against it. Now we no longer need such assistance. Though we import foodgrains at times, we are not longer dependent on it. There has been an improvement. But what is the result? I ask my colleagues to name out even a single village in the entire country where the consumers of foodgrains are not in majority? Such farmers are in minority who keep a year's of foodgrain in stock for consumption and sell the surplus. This can be seen in any village. Such farmers are in majority who have to purchase foodgrains either for three months or six months or nine months from the market for consumption. Such farmers are consumers too. How

can the interest of both be harmonised? Therefore, it is essential to determine an integrated price policy. At present I will not talk of the cities but of the villages. Therefore, the formulation of an integrated price policy is essential. This can be achieved through mandatory remunerative price for agricultural produce. Secondly, there should be a policy of constant co-ordination between the prices of agricultural and industrial products. Thirdly, the actual producer should get remunerative price. I am saying actual, because the Janata Dal Government-which was supported by us also-twice increased the price of wheat after it was sold to them by the farmers. This benefitted the traders, not the farmers. Therefore, the benefit should go to the primary producer. And the price which the real consumer has to pay should be fixed in such a way that the difference between the retail price and Governments procurement price is not more than 20-25 per cent. This should be fixed after taking into account the interest rates etc., so that there is not much difference. What is happening now is that the actual farmers sell their produce at low price. He lacks the means and capital to store his produce. For his consumption, the farmer has to buy at double price after four or six months. The consumer has to pay twice the amount, whether he is in service or is a farmer. The latter, by selling his land. It is the wholesale traders and the middlemen who benefit the most. As per my knowledge, there is not even a single wholesale trader who does business with his own money. He takes loan from bank, purchases it at cheap rates from the farmer and stores it in the godown. When there is a scarcity the prices rise and the consumer is the sufferer. This condition is as per the theory propounded by Adam Smith and Marshall. Therefore, an integrated price policy is required to safeguard the interests of the consumers and the producers. If we increase the price of some product and the price of fertilizer several times more, water and electricity rates still more, that of the implements further more, and the interest rate of the money lenders, all these prove very dangerous. I am now not talking of the banks. But of the moneylenders of the villages. In view of all these, how can the farmers benefit? Therefore, water, electricity, fertilizer implements, seeds and loans should be available easily and inadequate quality to cater to their requirement. We can formulate an integrated pricing policy. Inflation is on the rise continuously and we blame the farmers. This issue concerns the entire nation. In such a situation, I would urge that the agricultural implements should be made available to the farmers at fixed cost and according to their needs.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Neither the Agriculture Minister, nor the Minister of State of Agriculture nor any Minister of Cabinet rank is present here. Is this the expression of Government's sympathy towards

agriculture. Does this express their concern for the agriculturists. Some Minister should have been present here. Though two Ministers are present here, they are chatting, neither of them is attentive. This is the attitude of the Congress Party towards agriculture.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Therefore, I have said that multi pricing policy benefits neither the farmer nor the nation. In the agricultural policy, integrated pricing policy should be incorporated. Regarding agricultural implements there are technical aspects, as in case of tractors etc.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with the sub-division of land, the landholdings would become smaller. My suggestion is that there should be a single policy for the entire country regarding the implementation of land ceiling and land consolidation laws. With the sub-division of one or two acres of land, it no longer remains profitable. Mechanised farming is not possible on small land holdings. I am referring to suitable technology that can be used in small holdings.

I want to give some examples. Prabhakar Potteries in Bihar manufactures tubewells. I would request the Minister to have it verified by sending someone there. Since 1982-83 about 30 tubewells are in operation around Mathor Chowk in Darbangha district. Iron can rust. But not fired clay even after thousands of years. I am requesting to help them a little. Bihar Government contends that it is a policy matter. The suppliers of iron tubewells give exorbitant commission. How can one give commission if one is unable to make both ends meet. By using fired clay components in place of iron components in tube wells, we can tap underground water, at only one-fourth cost, throughout the country. And I am ready to accompany you. You can see and investigate it and adopt this on a large scale. Otherwise a large movement will ensue. The Himalayas are the largest mountain range in the world. Even if it experiences drought for 30 years, even then snow will fall and melt. The waters from the Himalaya is the elixir of life. It is an important sources of water but we do not have a conservation plan. This is the reason for our recurring draughts. It is true that the Ministry is not concerned directly with agriculture but it is not aloof from agricultural policy. Whenever there is any agitation over small issue, e.g, resettlement, such as is case of Tehri, Narmada Sagar and Koel - Karo projects, that issue should be settled first. Proper utilisation of water resources is necessary for self-sufficiency in agriculture to remove poverty and backwardness. Therefore, agricultural policy should be formulated continuously to arrive at a national policy. For this, a national consensus is needed. So as to prevent floods, flowing of excess water into the ocean, to utilise excess water to tide over draughts.

When Shri Devi Lal was the Deputy Prime Minister, the Government had decided to make small tractors, suitable for land holdings of one to two acres. What happened to this plan?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the adoption of suitable technology should form a part of the agricultural policy. It should suit small holdings. Availability of power is an integral part of our agricultural policy. Our colleagues have said that people seek technical education for jobs. You should extend loans or grants to such people for 4-5 years so that they can take up ideal farming. This can be started under the aegis of Central Agricultural Service. By utilising their technical knowledge they will progress and the nation will gain. During the Swaraj movement, Gandhiji had termed school and colleges as 'slave producing factories'. Our educational system churns our graduates who are job seekers. They have become stereotyped. This would not benefit them. During Demands for Grants you spoke with conviction. I urge you to speak today also with the same conviction.

As far as the question of patents is concerned, it permits grants for certain period only. It is an assault on humanity on our patents on process. WTO allows patents on products. This would hinder exchange of knowledge. Shri Nitishji spoke of removing Shri Balram Jakhra. Those responsible for such removal become Prime Ministers. We are under the threat of Dunkel laws. We should continue with our policy through an all party consensus so as to safeguard the farmers' interest. This will be in our national interest.

16.00 hrs.

If there is rural poverty, the sale of industrial commodities would suffer. If there is no market for agricultural produce, then the industry would not get its raw material. Therefore, the progress of industry and of agriculture is interlinked. Hence, it becomes our fundamental obligation to work for agricultural progress.

Tomorrow, on 9th August, the farmers will gather at Jantar Mantar, under the aegis of All India Kisan Sabha. I urge the Agriculture Minister to go there also and enlighten the farmers with his views. Other Members who want to address the farmers, should also go there, as this meeting is not being organised by any political party. I am the general secretary of this organisation and I invite you to join the meeting. Their demands are just. A time will come when they will awake. If you want to put an end to their misery, then arrive at a consensus to formulate an agricultural policy. Otherwise majority of the farmers i.e., the marginal, the small and the medium farmers would rise up in protest. Whether the bigger farmers protest or not, the small farmers would certainly do so.

With this I conclude.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, very few members were present here when the discussion on this subject began yesterday. It was my misfortune that I was absent. It is evident from today's newspapers that in view of the thin attendance of the Members, the Minister was in a dilemma whether to present the agricultural policy or not. Wherever there is an important discussion here, the attendance is low. The topic which we are discussing is directly related to the majority of the people. But this issue under discussion - the Draft Agricultural Policy Resolution was placed long back in the House by the Government. Its modified version was perhaps also placed on 14th May 1993. Today we have taken up this discussion.

The draft placed by the Government here was referred to the Agricultural Standing Committee. The Committee discussed it at length. Agricultural experts and farmer's leaders from all over the country were called to give their views. Representatives of cross sections of society, who were associated with agriculture, were called by the committee. Views of the Government were also sought. People from Agriculture Ministry were also called. People from various related Ministries, like Water Resources Ministry, Food Processing Ministry etc, were also called, for their views. After so much labour, the Committee presented its report in both Houses of the Parliament on 10th May 1994. I do not know whether or not the Government paid heed to the recommendations of the Standing Committee, and today we are discussing the Draft Agricultural Policy Resolution introduced by the Government.

I fail to see the purpose of the Standing committee. The Standing Committee was formed by the Parliament. The Draft Agricultural Policy Resolution was passed on to the Standing Committee. It made its recommendations. The members know how important document it is. It was prepared with great labour. All the sectors associated with agriculture have been mentioned in it. It has adopted a comprehensive and integrated approach. And today we are still discussing the Committee's Draft Agricultural Policy Resolution.

It would be discussed here also and the Report of the Committee, which has worked hard on this subject has also been presented and he has seen it. After the discussion here, he will announce the Agricultural Policy. In such a situation, it can be called the Government's Agricultural Policy and not the National Agricultural Policy.

The idea of National Agricultural Policy is not new. The draft of the Agricultural Policy was almost ready when National Front Government was in power. That Government lost power and a new Government took over, which remained in power for a shortwhile

but that also worked on it. Later on, when the new Government was formed and hon. Shri Balram Jakhar took the charge of this Ministry. Then this work was started again and a new procedure was adopted for it. The Chief Ministers of all the states were called and Modified Draft Agriculture Policy Resolution was moved in 1993. Even today no amendment has been made in it. The draft which is being discussed here consists of 14 main points and a mention of 17 challenges have been made in it. We expressed our views in the Committee and experts from all over the country were called. That report is also before the House. All have expressed their views unanimously on it that it cannot be called National Agriculture Policy.

The Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture also came in the meeting of the Committee. He was informed about the views of others and asked his opinion on it whatever be the opinion of the people the Agriculture Policy Resolution was incomplete in itself.

16.06 hrs.

(Shri Peter G. Marbaniang *in the Chair*)

The Secretary, Minister of Agriculture said that draft should not mention the challenges only but it should describe the measures to be taken to counter these challenges and long term strategy to be adopted on it. It was the opinion of the Agricultural Secretary before the Committee. We had thought that the Government would review this report and a new document will be presented here. The lacunae in the report would be removed and a National Agricultural Policy will be formulated. But now it seems to be a mere formality before the elections. Earlier he was not worried about it and this issue was taken up for discussion during the last days of sessions. But now he is worried about it as elections are coming near. He has no specific objectives behind this discussion and wants this debate simply on the same line as he has made announcement regarding some schemes.

I respect Shri Jakharji but in view of what he said yesterday, I would like to say that he does not put any specific point. He says in a casual manner that these schemes are being taken up in the interest of farmers. Now he has said that multinationals will be under his thumb. It sounds well. Earlier we used to say that GATT Agreement would adversely affect the Agriculture. His reply was that there would not be any adverse affect and farmers would progress through it. He would not permit anyone to do any wrong. There is not ban on making such speeches. But when Minister of Agriculture speaks something it should bear some meaning.

This draft regarding Agriculture Policy would have been modified after the recommendations made by

the Committee. Secondly, this Resolution was prepared before the GATT Agreement. There is no mention about the measures to be taken to face the challenges in agricultural sector, arisen after the GATT agreement. It is a different thing if you want this debate for sake of debate only. It seems that you do not intend to draft a National Agricultural Policy by creating a consensus. Elections are coming and no one knows that this Government will remain in power or not? All accepts that this Government will not remain in power and new Government will be formed. You should formulate such an agricultural policy that it should guide the country for coming 25 to 30 years and in some matters for 50 years. What more can I say to Shri Jakhar. He is the Minister of Agriculture under the Prime Ministership of Shri Narsimha Rao ji. You can think about the views of the earlier Agriculture Minister.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : These days, news items are being published in newspapers that hon. Prime Minister is going to utilise his services in the organisation and relieve him from the charge of Ministry of Agriculture. It will really be unfortunate.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It is the internal matter of their party.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : It is their internal matter but Agriculture Ministry will suffer for it.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : He was the Returning officer of Congress Party and Hon. Narsimha Rao was declared President before elections were held at lower level and now he is the Minister of Agriculture. You can see that now the Ministry of Agriculture has become smaller. The size of the Ministry of Agriculture has not remained the same as it was before the Government headed by Shri Narsimha Rao. The Department of Rural Development and Department of Fertilizers were the parts of Ministry of Agriculture earlier but now both of these have been separated from it. A new Department has been constituted under the name of Agriculture and Cooperative Department. He has been left with Animal Husbandery, Dairy Farming and Agricultural Research. Now who will hear you. You have no control over fertilizers. If we discuss the Agricultural Policy, without these topics under which the issue of rural and urban income comes. no one is going to listen to your views because Rural Development too is not under your control. Now Agricultural policy does not relate to a single Ministry. Irrigation, Rural Development, Food and Food Processing and Forest, all these Departments relate to Agriculture. There was a time when Forest department also used to be a part of the Ministry of Agriculture. Ministry of Food was also a part of it but today it is not only a separate Department, it has also been divided into two parts i.e. Ministries of Food and Civil Supplies. Various independent

Ministries have been formed out of the Agriculture Ministry with the result that today you have been left as an incharge of a small part of it. Earlier, the Forest Department, Irrigation Department, Department of Food and Food Processing Department were the part of this Ministry. Recently we had gone on a tour and I was surprised to see that you have made a fun of the functioning of this Ministry. I would like to discuss this matter.

In the context of Anand Dairy, I would like to say that it has earned fame in the field of cooperatives and milk production. Some more cooperative societies should be set up the pattern of Anand. They have really performed very well. Late Shri Lal Bahuder Shastri visited it and he was impressed by its performance and helped in setting up of N.D.D.B. on the pattern. But presently you will find that milk production in Anand Dairy Farm is under the control of two ministries. The work of collecting milk is under the control of Shri Jakhar and the preparation of ghee, butter or chocolate by milk comes under the Food Processing Department. Two different departments are controlling it. Then how far your Agricultural Policy will be effective.

Therefore, first of all you should create effective coordination among the various Ministries related to the Agriculture Ministry. A larger Ministry should be constituted by merging the present Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Food Processing Ministry, Ministry of Rural Development and to some extent the Ministry of Forest for creating effective coordination otherwise the Agricultural Policy being presented here will remain meaningless. Who will listen to your views. If you really intend to implement and formulate a National Agricultural Policy then suggestions given by us should be considered and proper arrangements should be made in this regard.

In the context of the draft of Agriculture Policy, I failed to understand the issues on which you want to emphasize. India is a country of vividness There are 15 type of climates in the whole world and these all climates are available in India, more than 2/3 of total types of soil of the world are available in our country. Only 11 percent of total land of this world is cultivable but in our country the 56 percent of land is cultivable. According to the figures given by you about 91 million hectare of our cultivable land is not being utilised. I wish that it should be utilised. Which are the challenges before us.

Sir, actually the challenges before our country have not been properly addressed in this draft. The first challenge before us is that we should make arrangements to feed our people. It is an issue of food security. You can do anything on paper but in reality you should not think about exporting foodgrains until the population of the country is

properly fed. The USA is diverting out attention from the, Agriculture. It has a big storage of foodgrains. When we will stop the production of foodgrains then by this storage of foodgrains it will compell the whole World to accept its conditions. Therefore, I request you to stop the export of foodgrains till our country has sufficient quantity of foodgrains in storage.

Sir, till 1990-91, the Agriculture Ministry has fixed a target of producing 240 million tonnes of foodgrains by the end of this century. It had estimated that by that time, we would need that much of foodgrains. Now they are telling that we would require less quantity, though they have not told about the basis of this revised estimate. They have not told as to what was the basis of their estimate at that time of the basis of their estimate at present. But we have been thinking about their target of producing 240 million tonnes of foodgrains. In view of the total growth rate of Agriculture, we would hardly be able to achieve a target of 180 or 190 million tonnes. In this situation we will not achieve the target of foodgrains production and provide the required quantity to our people. You find surplus quantity of foodgrains because the purchasing power of people have declined in the country. Still we are unable to produce the required quantity of foodgrains for the population of the country. In this way we have a challenge of food security before us.

Sir, now I would like to say something about scarcity of land. How can we remove this scarcity of land? At first we can remove this scarcity by increasing production. Secondly, we can remove this shortage by utilisation of the land lying vacant. But so far no scheme has been framed to remove this shortage. No such scheme has been mentioned in Agriculture policy also.

Sir, just now Shri Bhogendra Jha was saying that this problem cannot be solved unless proper arrangements are made for land management. This Government is silence over the issue of land reforms. It is also going to abolish the land - ceiling. This process has been started in Maharashtra. In the name of Horticulture, Food processing, liberalisation and globalisation, the land Ceiling Act will become ineffective after implementation of GATT. Jakharji, nothing is going to happen by simply nodding your head. This process has been started in Maharashtra. State Governments are lying with each other in inviting multinationals for setting up Food processing industry in their States. What does it mean? In the name of captive farming you intend to allot to big industrialists. The meaning of Food Processing is that farmers would get higher prices for their produce through processing. It means that prices of Farmers produce should be raised for their benefit. But now in the name of food processing, multinationals are being invited and farmers are incurring losses.

Jakharji is here and he can tell that Pepsi was given licence for producing and processing tomatoes for exporting. But today it is exporting Basmati rice after purchasing it from various states. Whether it has any authority to export rice. You are making fun of it. You say that multinationals will function here under your control but I am saying that your Government will work under them because you are inviting such big multinationals whose annual turn over is more than our annual budget. They will swallow you.

How you are going to face the challenges before the county. Land is being divided into small pieces. How you will stop the fragmentation of this marginal land. You are going to allot land to corporate sector for other purposes, then what will be left with the farmers? Cultivable land is acquired by the Government in the name of public purposes. The term 'Public Purposes' should be redefined. We provide cultivable land to multinationals for setting up their company. Instead, you should ask them to set up their factories on desert land. Jakharji, Maruti Udyog is nearby and you can see as to whether they are utilising the total land allotted to them for factory purposes. 500 to 600 acres of land is lying unutilised. Why do you not get this land back from them? Why the land is not being handed over back to the farmers who have acquired it? It is very inappropriate that the factory owners should keep under their custody such a fertile land without making any use of it.

What is the Government's policy about land? Will the Land Ceiling Act remain a quotable quote or it will be implemented effectively? Secondly, would the Government give some new explanation for the land acquired for the public purpose? Well, we can give our land for setting up hospitals, schools and for constructing roads but should we keep on giving away land for setting up industries as well? The Government should ponder over it or the agricultural land will be destroyed by and by. They claim that they are not going to abolish the Land Ceiling but what about that being given away to the multinational companies. (Interruptions) The Agricultural policy has just been launched. (Interruptions) It should be debated and the 74 percent population of India.....

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Four hours' time has been allotted by the Business Advisory Committee to this subject.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, time will be extended.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It has been decided by the BAC. You have taken more than thirty minutes.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : There should be no limit for the discussion on the Agriculture Policy. The time should be limitless. It concerns 74 per cent of the population of this country...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are other Members to speak.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : All right, Sir. Everybody will speak. Everybody should speak.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what is the position of farming today? Saying things cursorily about land will not do. They should talk solid about it because most of the disputes in this country are land related. Therefore, there is a need to formulate a national land policy. They cannot escape by saying that it is the State subject. A unanimous decision should be taken about it when a national policy is being devised and all the states taken into confidence. (Interruptions) The result will be that they will acquire the land and other people will possess that Shri Bhogendra Jha rightly said just now that the Government should first do away with the Benami land holders. Jakhar Sahib is present here and his farm is flourishing.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : This is totally wrong. I am on my legs to State that the States considered some points but approved none, nor was the policy modified. There is no question of acquisition of land.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You will become worthy of our compliments if you can accomplish it but in view of the way things are going on, it is our duty to bring this matter forward before the House and the country.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : The State Government of Uttar Pradesh, west Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka have written to us in this regard.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Well, what is the position and contribution of agriculture today. In 1991-92, the contribution of agriculture to the Gross Domestic Product was 56 percent. In 1992-93, it was reduced to 32 percent. There has, of course, been a marginal decrease in rural population. As per the Government figures, 80 percent of our population lives in villages earlier. Now, it is 70 per cent. But we are facing a very serious challenge. The agricultural development is almost at par with the rate of increase in population. Agriculture that contributed 56 percent to the G.D.P. so far has today been reduced to less than one-third. 70 per cent people depend on it. Thus, the most important issue in the country is Agriculture. How can we augment production and income? There should, in any case, be an Agricultural policy. Formerly, there have been some policies in piecemeal - that of the Green revolution, of subsidies, of market intervention scheme, of determining the support price. Thus piecemeal policies were enforced but never was a comprehensive policy adopted which is a necessity. As of now, the Government is giving a minimum

support price. It announced the minimum support price for Kharif crops last week. Now, the fixation of minimum support price will not satisfy the farmer. He should get a remunerative price. Will the industrial sector people be satisfied by a minimum support price?

Recently, the ENRON deal has been scrapped. A company stated elsewhere that they can decrease the amount. The Government in giving the counter-guarantee to the outsiders and asking the farmers to be contented with the minimum support price. There is a huge gap between the rural and the urban income. The hon. Prime Minister has not entrusted him the portfolio of Rural Development Ministry even if he wants to benefit the farmers. He could have done some work were he in charge of the Rural Development Ministry but in the absence of rural development how can he achieve agricultural development? He might claim augmenting agricultural production, extending good marketing facilities to the farmers but how can he achieve that in the absence of an approach road to the villages.

This country has abundant fertile land, very good soil, different climates and as per the Government figures one-third irrigated land. The ground water is also being utilised. In certain areas, it is unjust to utilise the ground water because the area has turned dark and grey and exploitation of 80 percent has already taken place. On the other hand, the rain water goes down the drain. Water flowing down the Himalayas and other mountains flows down to the sea. No measures have been taken to contain it. What does the Government intend to do for less rain-fed areas.

The Ministry of Agriculture has devised a very ambitious scheme for the Eighth Five Year Plan - the Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas. A provision of about Rs.1300 crore has been made for that. Will that serve the purpose?

Recently, we saw that Anna Sahib Hazare has done a laudable work in his village Ralegaon Sindi. He was inspired for social service after reading a book of Swami Vivekananda. He realised that the man has been bestowed with the gift of life for public service. After realising this, he went straight to his village and started work on watershed. We express our anguish on the watershed scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture. The Government wants to run the watershed programme in a casual manner. Anyway, it is a separate subject and a discussion on it will consume much time. But the way the watershed programme has been undertaken, the irrigation department will like the programme to be entrusted to it, the rural development department will also like to undertake it whereas it is already lying with the Ministry of Agriculture. To my mind that we have to do in practice and on the basis of the experience we gathered after talking to the people of the Ministry of

Agriculture, we have come to perceive that water management on the basis of watershed development programme is the most appropriate scheme for irrigating the fields in this country. The Government should go in for water management on the basis of watershed programme and prevent the rain water from going down the drain. Every year one centimeter of the top soil flows down with the rain water. We are aware that it takes 300 years for the formation of one inch of top soil whereas our one centimeter top soil flows down every year. In such a situation, it is extremely necessary to utilize this water and prevent it from flowing down by undertaking the watershed programme.

We have many mega irrigation schemes. The soil will be rendered infertile, will become saline and be damaged unless we do not make a conjunctive use of the surface water and the ground water but the Government pays no attention to all that. We were waiting for your response, concern and initiative for discussing this matter. I did not want to touch upon this issue but because we have worked on it in the Standing Committee, I thought that the Government will bring forward an amended policy on it but when I came to learn that the same old thing was going to be discussed, I could not restrain myself thinking as to what was the fun of doing so much hard work? As there are many issues under discussion, it is our duty to draw the attention of the Government towards these.

Watershed development is a very useful programme and it should not be divided among three-four Ministries. The watershed programme should be entrusted to one and only one Ministry - the Ministry of Agriculture - if we are really going to formulate a long-term agricultural policy. It should not be, that the Krishi Bhavan people may remain indifferent from the changes happening around the world. Despite preventive measures, 49 percent of our rain water flows down the sea. The person concerned widened the canal they already had constructed. The water was again stopped by new experiments at three places and it created humidity. We should learn a lesson from their experiments and should not tread a beaten path.

There are plains in our area, there is rough and rugged land and there is undulation at places. Leaving that aside, cannot the principle of watershed be applied on even level lands? It is required and has its utility there also but different technology shall have to be applied at different places. We cannot complete the watershed programme with one strategy. It is to be applied in different ways at different places.

We have not only to ensure the fulfilment of the need of a living for the people of the country but have also to augment their income. Much needs to be done.

It is being said since long that a model co-operative law should be formulated but the State Governments are not taking action on it. The farmers' income can be augmented in the Villages by constituting Co-operative Societies. It has been floated in the air since 1964 and 1965. At that times, the then Prime Minister, Shastri ji, had said that he wanted to replicate the Anand pattern throughout the country. Much time has elapsed since then. Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to say that Bihar is disreputed for everything where things go from bad to worse. Yet there is the Patna Dairy Project, which was entrusted to the NDDB that ran it for some time. It is still running smoothly. The milk producing farmers of the whole area are benefited from it and earn additional income. Now, the Government wants to entrust this field to the multinational companies and is thus, paving way for the destruction of the co-operative sector.

We has raised the question on DMS in this very House that it was using urea for increasing the solid net fat content. The Government had firmly denied this charge but it was true. They will also confirm the veracity of this fact outside this House. Nestle, a multinational company has been in the news recently for its condensed baby food. What has it done for raising the S.N.F. content in the milk? Has the Government inquired into it? Should it be permitted to continue its business here? It has mixed urea in the milk for raising the content. Is urea worth human consumption? This company wants to lead not only us the whole world by nose. I will not go into this issue as it merits a discussion. Once we had raised the issue of D.M.S. milk and I hope the Government might have taken some action on it. Has it even inquired into such reports coming in the newspapers? We also came to know about it from reliable sources. We want a clarification on it. Should the multinational companies from all over the world come here, deteriorate our health at their whimsical prices? Should they give us poison to drink in the name of milk? We should not tolerate it...*(Interruptions)* They talk while rising above party lines and we respect them.

Just now, a senior Member of the Congress who has been a Member of Parliament since 1984, spoke for the first time. We felt glad but so far as fertilizers are concerned, the wreckless use of chemical fertilizers will render our fields useless. Therefore, a movement should be launched, the farmers should be educated. We do not propose that its use should be stopped forthwith as it would affect our production. But there should be a discreet and balanced use of organic and inorganic fertilizers so that the country's production and productivity is augmented and sustainability is also not ignored. It should not happen that with the increase in productivity, the

nutrients of the land are exhausted and it is rendered barren. Therefore, while we have to increase productivity on the one hand, on the other, we should also ensure that the land does not lose its fertility and remains worth farming.

Agriculture is such a subject the discussin on which can be unending. It can be initiated at any point and wound up anywhere as well. If it is your order, then I will have to conclude. Therefore, before concluding I want to urge that it should be given the shape of a national policy and should not be allowed to be a subject of dispute between the ruling and opposition party Members. Further, it should not be made a subject of propoganda. If the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee are accepted, a comprehensive agricultural policy can be framed. We felt the need of it when we had gone to the Marine Fishery Research Institute. We saw there that the work was going on very well on each research item. I.C.A.R. is also doing a good work in the field of research. But the Government does not prvide adequate funds to them not even equal to what developing countries provide. The developed countries provide at least 2 per cent of their budget's allocation.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : The funds allocated for agricultural research in India are the lowest, despite India being the largest agricultural country in the world.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I admit it.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : These are the data given by the Government, we are only quoting them. However, the reality is something different. We expend 0.32 percent on research. This should at least be raised to one percent. We saw that the research institute needs two acres of land and if we do not soon give it permission to acquire land, then Cochin Development Authority will sell it out and the Institute will not be able to get the land. Therefore, a timely decision should be taken and the amount spent on research. I want to draw your attention towards some broad facts. Unless all the existing Ministries and Departments are brought under a comprehensive department irrespective of whosoever heads it, no purpose will be served. If you are at the command, we will feel very happy. This Ministry consists of such people who have nothing to do with agriculture. You represent the big farmers community and we are speaking here as the representatives of small farmers...*(Interruptions)* So we are not talking of farm holding agriculturists because they have access to the markets of the world. The slogans of globalization and liberalization have become old. Let the Government increase the income of farmers and make such an advancement in the field of agriculture so that we are in a position to feed entire

India and also lead the world politically. Therefore you should formulate a national policy. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH (Parbhani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I also thank Shri Balram Jakhar for he has initiated a discussion under agricultural Policy in Parliament for the first time during this period of 40-45 years. I am hopeful this debate will help formulate a good policy. This policy will definitely, help the farmers. This debate is not confined to political parties only. Whosoever has given suggestions - be it Shri Nitish Kumar, Shri Pratap Rao etc. all members are united on the issue of welfare of the farmers. There is no party politics involved on this issue. Every Member has put his views concerning farmers before the hon. Minister and he is himself a good farmer. Being the Minister of Agriculture, it is his responsibility to make it a viable policy. The reports of committees including Chokharam Committee have been received by the Government. All the committees have gone very good work. I hope that the hon. Minister will also keep in view the points raised by the Members in this House. All aspects have been touched upon. Watershed programme is the most important aspect. I would like to emphasize that the Government should bring improvement in it and implement it expeditiously. It must be noted that 2 to 4 villages get benefited by the water from watershed and it helps solve the water problem of the farmers. Watershed Programme has proved very successful in Maharashtra and Karnataka. Measures should be taken to make it successful in entire India. Technology should be developed for plateaus and hilly regions. We can go in for different Water Treatment Plants but it is necessary to implement this programme in a planned manner so as to effect land reforms and achieve more production.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as the provision of loan, is concerned, my request is that that loan should be given before the onset of Monsoon so that farmers need not go to Moneylenders. Simultaneously, every crop should be covered under insurance.

Farmers need godowns for storing their crops. If godowns are made available to them then their crops will remain on the fields and it will soon perish. Therefore, godowns should be provided in the villages so that they could keep their crops safe and sell them out whenever the need arises. As soon as his crops come to the godowns, he must get 50 per cent of the minimum support Price. In this way, farmers will not have to go to moneylenders and they will continue to get benefit on this crops.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, fertilisers is also necessary for cultivation. It is often said that if a farmer does not get bread it does not matter much to him but he

must get fertilizers for his fields. The price of fertilizers has increased considerably over the last 10 years. There is a need to bring changes in the import policy of fertilizers. As regards sale and purchase of fertilisers, we will not allow any compromise with the interests of the farmers. There may be a separate Department for this. If any agency offers higher prices at the time of import and farmers are required to pay even 60 dollars more, then this is not going to materialise. It is necessary to bring fertilizers, irrigation, and cooperative sector under Agriculture Ministry. Therefore, my submission is that the hon. Minister should give it a serious consideration.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the new economic policy. I have already spoken on that but our agricultural policy should be uniform. We have entered into bilateral trade agreements with 117 countries but the pending issues are still to be sorted out. It was said that a Bill on patent seeds would be brought in the House but so far this has not been brought in. If we do not bring the Bill to protect our seeds, then we will be left behind and our Government will have to pay royalty.

Therefore, the varieties developed by I.C.A.R. are required to be protected and to be registered. There are several companies in India which have carried out research work and modified it.

16.51 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker *In the chair*)

The companies which have done research work in this field are required to be protected and registered so that no country may steal the technology developed by our researchers.

Marketing is very important in this policy. We do not have marketing of required standard and such infrastructure also as in other countries. We should have it so that we can make good export. Marathwada region alone can supply foodgrains to entire Maharashtra. We have sufficient production of fruits and vegetables. It is not that Congress Government has done nothing. The Government has done a lot during the last forty year....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. Just now the hon. Member said that the Congress Government has done a lot of work during its rule in the last forty years.

I would like to state that in the second Lok Sabha Shri Vishwanath Gahmari was a member of Parliament from Gazipur district of Uttar Pradesh. He had raised a question regarding development and poverty of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. He had stated in this House that so much poverty prevailed in Eastern

Uttar Pradesh that some casts had to eat the foodgrains picked up from the dung. On hearing this, tears came out from the eyes of Pandit Nehru and Shri Vishwanath Gahmari.(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : This is not point of order..

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : I am speaking on the issue of poverty and development of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Virendra Singhji's it is his opinion and opinion differs from person to person.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : This is a very important question. I want to say this because he had referred to the forty years rule of Congress Party. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at that time Pandit Nehru appointed Patel commission and Patel commission conducted a survey of Eastern Uttar Pradesh....(Interruptions) Pandit Nehru had assured to implement the recommendations of Patel commission but Government did not implement it.

The development of Eastern Uttar Pradesh can take place only after implementing the recommendations of Patel Commission....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Virendra Singhji, when you get a chance, you can express your views.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Virendra Singh ji, there is no point of order. I wish to bring to the notice of the Members of this House that this debate shall have to be concluded today. Therefore, I request the hon. Members to cut short their speeches and put forth the relevant points only so that the hon. Minister can note down and try to implement them.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please do not ask to cut short the speech. He is speaking well and everyone should be given a chance to speak. If the allotted time for this debate is four hours, extend it for next four hours. This is a very serious matter and our speeches should not be court short....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Shastriji, this has been decided in the BAC. The leaders of the various political parties thought that four hours are sufficient for this debate.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to state through you that marketing is an important issue. Export is also the most important issue which can affect the farmers. Therefore, while making policy we should decide that there should be proper infrastructure should be it Aircargo, godowns or orchards : would like to tell the Government that as the policy regarding this is going to be finalised, Jakhar Sahab will definitely keep in mind our relations with the other countries and their agricultural policy, and pros and cows of markets. This policy should cover all these things. We will have to keep an eye on the production of fruits and foodgrains in other countries and their marketing by them Whole market depends upon trading. We will have to survey the markets in other countries. Why Japan has made such a remarkable progress? It makes a deep study of the international market. Though Israel, is a very small country, their Agricultural policy is better than that of India. We have electricity, water and all types of facilities.

We are leading in the production of fruits and vegetables. Vegetables and fruits get rotten because there are no marketing facilities. Sometimes, these are sold at the rate of 50 paise per dozen. If there are proper marketing facilities then only farmers can get good prices for their products. The support price to be provided to the farmers should be fixed and the share of middlemen and traders should also be determined. Therefore, the most important thing is infrastructure and marketing.

There are two or three more points in the agricultural policy framed by the Government. Research has been done in every field. There is no need to repeat it. No amount of appreciation is sufficient to acknowledge it. But the dissemination of information regarding the results of the research work should be done immediately for adopting that technology in the fields. Unfortunately, it has not been done. I, therefore, would like to submit that the Agricultural Research Centre should be strengthened. Jakhar Sahab, Planning Commission does not provide funds to them. Agricultural Research Centres are in each district. They publicise the researchs made by them, in every village. They publicise new varieties. If more productive varieties are provided to the villages, then more production can be achieved and we will come to know about the varieties which are being produced in the foreign countries.

In the end, I would like to submit that the hon. Minister has stated in the Rajya Sabha also that all the points raised by Agriculture Price Commission has been covered. There is one Agricultural price commission in Maharashtra also. Last time some of its points were covered and as a result thereof farmers got more support price. But still some points remain to be implemented. Perhaps the Government has not funded it. I think that the office of Agriculture Price Commission, be it in Maharashtra or some where else, it asks the concerned office to bring the data after manipulation. The farmers must get that much minimum support price which they deserve for the different commodities. Therefore, I would particularly like to submit the names of two or three commodities for which the farmers should get the minimum support price which they deserve since they have got some less support price.

Along with it, I would again like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Agriculture for bringing the draft agriculture policy and hope that he would pay attention to what I say. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Agriculture and hope that being a farmer himself, he will pay attention to the cause of the farmers. The report of the standing committee has been presented and the hon. Members of the different parties have given their suggestions in it, there is no question of parties to which they belong since first of all they are farmers. They have put forth some good suggestions before us and keeping all those in view, the I.C.A.R., which has been constituted for carrying out research in the field of agriculture should collect the data and make efforts to develop the agriculture. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the discussion on the draft report of the agriculture policy has been going on since yesterday. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Agriculture for bringing the draft report of the agriculture policy in this House, it might have been brought half heartedly but it has facilitated the discussion which could not be held during the last 50 years. This draft policy may not be able to deal with the situation adequately, but it has been brought, though belatedly, is a matter of gratification.

Just now Nitishji was saying that perhaps it is the year of elections therefore the draft of the agriculture policy has been brought in the House. I also feel the same but it has been brought at least. The hon. Minister has right now said that this draft had been presented in the House two or three years back but the hon. Minister is not at fault in it. He wanted to bring it but the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is a big politician therefore he wanted to bring it in the House near the election time and that is why he kept it pending.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Do not run away please (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : I am not running away. I am not among those who run away but I am very much afraid that you may not run away from this department.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I will not run away anywhere please do not be worried.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : All right. The agriculture has been neglected it becomes clear from the fact that we had formulated the industrial policy 50 years back but now after 50 years we have brought just the draft of the agriculture policy. It does not make anything clear as to what are you going to formulate.

Ours is an agricultural country but our agriculture is in a miserable condition. I would like to recite a couplet of a renowned poet of our area :-

"Uttam Kheti, Madhyam Ban, Nikhad Chakri, Bheeka Nidan" But today the situation is just reverse *"Nikhad Chakri, Krishi Bheekh Nidan"*. We say many good things and give attractive figures on the higher side but have we ever thought about the marginal farmers and those who have just one acre of land, in which the whole family is engaged? Today their condition is that their children do not get proper education. Uneconomic holdings have been created by you. The whole family of a farmer and his children toil hard but neither they get adequate meals nor do they get any education. Today the condition of the farmer is that he is unable to buy Ox and he does farming with his own hands and spade.

It is a fact that there are a very few farmers like our hon. Agriculture Minister, The name of the hon. Agriculture Minister is very good — Balram — Balram is also called *Haldhar*. He is Balram but not a *Haldhar* but a *Tractordhar*. Had he been a *Haldhar*, he could have understood the plight of the farmers much earlier.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit one more thing through you. The Tata consultancy has given some data. I has been stated in it that the net production of the agriculture sector at the price level of 1980-81 has been Rs. 11 thousand crore during 1990-91, while the production during these years has been worth rupees 23028 crore. In this way the industries have produced only 40 percent of the agriculture sector. On the basis of stable price level, 16 percent of the total capital was invested in agriculture sector in 1970-71, 12.6 percent in 1985-86, 8.1 percent in 1989-90 and 9 percent in 1992-93. Why it is so and on what basis it was so. If the central Government had this policy for the 5½ lakh villages, then are not the policy makers of the Central Government responsible for poverty and unemployment in the villages? These are the statistics provided by Tata consultancy and not mine.

It is a very famous consultancy service and enjoys a good reputation in the country. It has made the situation clear and we are happy over it. We are blowing the trumpet of development.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit one more thing on this basis. Agriculture sector had made a contribution of 56% in our Gross Domestic Product in 1950-51, it was reduced to 32% in 1995-96 while during this period the population living on agriculture in villages has reduced i.e. it has come down to 70% from 80% which means that a very less population has shifted to other profession from agriculture. It is a well-known fact that unless the burden on agriculture is reduced it will not be a profitable business. What have we done to reduce the burden on agriculture? We have not done anything so far in this regard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, keeping in view the fast pace of the population growth, it seems to me that by the end of this century we will be 100 crore and what is our condition, we have fixed the target of 180 million tonnes. One day I was discussing with the hon. Minister and he was worried at the target, whether the target will be achieved or not as there was scarcity of rains. It was not raining at that time. It means that till date our target is dependent on rains. It is good that the opposition parties had staged a walk out on that day and the rains started. My submission to the hon. Minister is that whenever he likes, he should discuss with the opposition parties, stage the walk out and it will rain soon. Now, the rains have taken a fierce shape of floods.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate for this country and the farmers that sometimes, he is hit by drought or some times by floods. It is our bad luck, and the hon. Agriculture Minister, Shri Balram Jakhar is not responsible for it. I am not among those who say that it is all due to the idleness of the hon. Minister. No, I will not say so. It is all due to our geographical situation and its negligence for the last 50 years. I do not blame the hon. Minister Shri Balram Jakhar for it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are 17 challenges in the draft policy on agriculture. How will we face those challenges? No solution to these challenges have been suggested. It has been said that if a particular thing is taken, then it will cause stomach-ache but it has not been told as to how to get it treated. Challenges have been put forth before us but how the country will face those, there is no scheme for it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to read out a paragraph of what has been said by the Standing Committee on Agriculture. After a thorough reading of the draft agricultural policy resolution, the committee is bound to comment that this committee is not satisfied with the schemes and the policy of this draft. The causes of the challenges are not

suitable. Not only this but the committee also feels that there is a need to estimate these challenges in a proper way. Nothing has been said in it regarding agriculture, its total development and other important issues which include the implementation of the policies also. Therefore, the committee thought it wise to ask the Government as to how it will implement the policy to face the challenges. Since the committee feels that if there is no scope to implement it effectively then any policy will merely remain a document. The Government in its reply has stated that only the main criterion of the long term efforts of the capital investment for the development of agriculture and rural areas have been mentioned in the draft agriculture policy. The Government has not mentioned the efforts made in the agricultural sector, since agriculture is done in different parts of the country and in different climates. Therefore, all these cannot be included in the national document. It can be understood but the committee is of the view that it is not satisfied with the logic. Therefore, it has asked to give the revised notes on the draft agriculture policy. The committee has discussed with the renowned agriculture specialists, and the famous national and international scientists to reach to the root cause of it. I am not reading it out fully as there is the shortage of time. You will ring the bell in a short while.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It will ring right now and not short while.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : If you say then I will take my seat.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have already spoken for 10 minutes.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : I would like to submit that the Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture has also agreed with us. He says that instead of mentioning the challenges, many other things can be done. Therefore, the committee has decided to analyse the suggestions given in the paragraph 4 of the draft agriculture policy resolution.

The secretary also admitted that suggestions could be given in it but it seems that the Secretary admitted it honestly before the committee and he had to pay a heavy price for it as he was removed from the post of the Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture. We will come to know about the sensibility of the new Secretary wherever we meet him and discuss with him what more should I say in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

The hon. Minister is also likely to be changed but he claims that none can shift him from the present portfolio.

You remain as hon. Minister of Agriculture. I would like to submit that nothing regarding marketing

has been said in it. How Marketing will be done? Today the condition is that the foodgrains is produced by the farmer and he needs money to repay his loans. Soon as the foodgrains reach at the door step of the farmer, the money lender starts chasing him and on account of it, he sells his foodgrains at throw away prices. The same is purchased by the middlemen and is sold to the Government. Have you made any arrangement of marketing? Right now you said that there is no arrangement of marketing. You have made a mention about step by step development at 'Nyay Panchayat' level. I would like to know as to whether the farmer should think about his saving or not? How much loan he will get on your support price and on the market rate. If he does not get a sizeable even, he will leave his foodgrains there only. Nothing has been said about it. Now here, it has been said that such steps would be taken at the Nyay Panchayat level where the farmer will be having the facility of banking so that he is able to sell his wheat and his foodgrains...*(Interruptions)*

Should I sit down?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, two minutes are left.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : I can not speak. I have just now started while the other hon. Members have spoken upto 40 minutes. If you permit, I may take my seat.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please understand me. For every hon. Member, ten minutes are given. Immediately after ten minutes are over, the bell is rung. It is for the hon. Member to respect the bell or to deny the bell.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : It is not my hard luck but but the hard luck of the farmer that if someone speaks about him, the bell starts ringing. Once cannot speak both inside and out side, as well. If you do not allow, I will not speak. I will maintains the discipline. The bell has rung. Therefore, I take my seat...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Rajveer Singh, you are perfectly correct. Immediately after ten minutes, the Chair rings the bell. It is up to the hon. Members to respect it or deny it. There are four bells : the first bell, second bell, third bell and fourth bell.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : That is correct. But we want more time to speak. We request you to give enough time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It was already decided. The time was allotted by the BAC which opined that four 'hours' time is sufficient for the discussion on the Draft Agriculture Policy. That is the opinion that the Committee has come to. It is up to us to respect the decision taken by the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : For the Workmen's Compensation Bill, we took about six hours.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is the mistake we did. Though the time allotted was only one hour, we took six hours.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : It is a general subject covering from Kanyakumari to Kashmir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is from there that you have to realise the mistake. That is why the Chair has the opportunity to regularise the time. That is my request. It is up to you to respect it.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : It is our duty to respect the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We all put together have to regularise this. It is not the fancy of the Chair. It is the system which we have to honour.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : I was speaking about the arrangement of godowns. The godowns should be licensed and in the rural areas, as the land, bricks and construction cost is comparatively cheaper there. Those will be nearer to the fields also for storing the produce. The second thing I would like to submit that you will also make arrangements for their supply. Do not give anything to the farmer but give them a time-bound programme. Farmers are not begging alms from you. There was a time when our Minister of Food and Prime Minister had to go abroad with a begging bowl. At that time, farmers of our country kept the honour of the slogan of 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' given by late Lal Bhadur Shastri high and they tried to take India towards self reliance and you were saved from that disgraceful position. But give some facility to farmers. Today, farmers cannot take their products to market to sell as he does not have means to do so. Out of five and half lakhs, how many villages are there, which are linked with the pucca roads. You just do 3-4 things. Just as you have done for big industries, you may provide them transport facility, roads upto villages, fertilisers, electricity and water. The farmer does not need anything else, he is not worried for subsidy from you but at least you should make arrangements for electricity and water. Water is not available to the farmers for irrigation. You could not make available drinking water facility

in the villages for the last 50 years. Leave aside the issue of water for irrigation, you have not been able to provide them fertilisers and seeds even.

In spite his preoccupation, the Minister of Agriculture has said that the Government will give agriculture the status of an industry. I am afraid this appears like a cheat in friend's grab. In the name of giving agriculture the status of industry, you will say that we have imposed taxes on industry. I hate this terminology. Tomorrow you will make agriculture an industry, thereafter you will allow multinational companies in the fields of agriculture also. If the agriculture is given the status of an industry, then you will have to categorically mention in this policy that no tax will be imposed on farmers, no sales tax will be imposed on their produce and no income tax, nor any excise duty will be levied. You will have to make a promise to this effect in the agriculture policy, otherwise we see a big threat on hearing this promise of making the agriculture as an industry.

Now as the issue has come up, I want to speak on it again. We had gone on a tour and came to know about the works done by the agricultural scientists. They have done a commendable job. It appears to me that our scientists are working with great dedication, we should let them work. But their problem is that they do not have funds to do the work. This is because the developing countries spend only 2 percent on research work. Some of the developing countries which are poorer than us, spend just 0.56 percent. India is a vast and agricultural country. It spends just 0.32 percent on it. These are the figures given by the Government. I would like to tell you that a Science Congress was held at Jaipur. Hon. Prime Minister had also addressed that conference. Dr. P.N. Srivastava, the then Chairman of Science Congress while delivering his speech in that conference expressed his resentment and said that though the money being spent on research and development works had increased from 0.32 percent in 1958-59 to 1.13 percent of the Gross Domestic product in 1981, for the past few years it has come down to 0.9 percent only.

He said one more interesting thing. The industrialist set up factories for agricultural Products. Factories for jute, canned-food processing units are being set up. Many other things are also happening. But less amount is being spent on research work. This matter was raised in Jaipur congress. They have said that the private sector is investing about 40 percent of the total national expenditure on research and development work in the developed countries and some of the neo-industrial countries. Whereas in India, it is stable between 11 to 13 percent for the last several years. It has also been stated in the report that for investing 2 percent of the Gross Domestic Product on research and development, it

is necessary that the private sector may also invest on research and development work. Hon. Minister, Sir, I am helping you out; I am not saying it to the Government only. Private industries are not spending on research and development. They are devouring all the profits. This must be stipulated in the agricultural policy that the private industrialists, who invest in agricultural production industry will also have to invest on research and development work. This will have to include in the policy.

Since you are ringing the bell I will conclude my speech in a short while.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Sir, I fear ringing the bell. We must maintain the discipline regarding time.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : I wanted to say one more thing. We have talked to Green Revolution. We have concentrated on wheat only in Green Revolution. We have not paid attention to paddy. You should not get offended; I am telling, you did not pay the attention to paddy, which we should have. We are running after only Basmati rice and bring in foreign exchange. You must have world market in your mind. You may now pay attention to Indian market. India is a country of 92 crore people. There is a very big market here. The poor mill workers cannot buy basmati rice being sold at Rs.40 per kg. He wants rice at the price of Rs. four, five or six per kg. He is being ingored. Interesting thing is that the production of coarse rice is much more than the other. This may help you attain your target very soon. You must be knowing that the production of scented rice which is called basmati rice is less. If you realise, then you should not run after dollars only. You leave aside dollars and fill up the stomachs of the poor ... (Interruptions) you leave aside Petro-dollar. I am talking about dollar only.

Now, the matter concerning milk has also been raised. Nitishji has said so many things. I do not want to switch over to that topic, but I want to say this much only that it is true indeed, we were told with a great responsibility in a committee that urea is being mixed in the milk supplied by Delhi Milk Scheme. We are drinking this urea. We are pouring urea in milk in order to increase thickness and fat in the milk. I am serious in saying that you get it investigated. I want to say another thing that milk dairies are functioning in the cooperative sector. Anand Dairy is main among them. Milk Dairies are in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. We had gone to see Anand Dairy. We talked to the Chairman of National Dairy Development Board. He expressed his anxiety that licences are going to be given to Multi National Companies for Producing milk. The set up that we have established with so many years' efforts will get ruined if the MNCs troop in. Whether you want the cooperative sector to compete with MNCs? Today, Private sector are not in a position to stand in

competition with these companies and are fleeing from the field. This should, therefore, be stipulated in the agriculture policy that the institutes related to agriculture cooperative sector cannot be opened to MNCs. It is indeed interesting that they have raised this set up with such a hard labour and when the time has come for them to make profit, then you want to hand it over to MNCs and thereby want to earn dollars.

I want to speak one more thing. Just now, we have said, and the hon. Minister, who is sitting here, also knows it that I have been apprising him of my apprehension in each meeting. We fear that the way we are blinding using chemical fertilisers, pesticides and insecticides, it would prove counter-productive. The production increases only when we resort to use of more and more fertilizers every year. The scientists of your department have also stated that if we do not stop excessive use of fertilisers, the silt formation will take place under the soil in some years. Then, this silt will become so hard that even iron will not be able to break it, what to talk of root of the tree.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, it was decided in yesterday's meeting of Leaders and in the BAC meeting that the discussion on Draft Agriculture Policy possibly will conclude today which will include the reply of the hon. Minister also. Therefore, although we are running short of time and there is a long list of Members, if you will take the sense of the House and then decide as to when the hon. Minister will reply, then we will be able to arrange things. I will cut off the names of the Members from my Party.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : The Members of your party have already consumed double of the allotted time.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Let me complete my submission. I am only saying that we are willing to sit late. But there should be no problem about quorum. If the Agriculture Minister wants to reply and when he gets up to reply and somebody raises the question of quorum, it will create a problem. I am bringing it to your notice, so that you can regulate the proceedings of the House in accordance with the decision taken in the Leaders' meeting and in the meeting of the BAC.

* MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is true, Parliamentary Affairs Minister. A couple of minutes back, I narrated the entire thing to the Members. If each Member

were to take ten minutes, many people can participate in the discussions. This is all my request. It is not my intention to wound the feelings of any hon. Member. It is only for that purpose that I said this.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH : We are discussing here the agriculture policy. It is not the question of any particular party. It concerns the farmers. There should not be any time constraint on this discussion.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Are we prepared to sit very late?

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Sheohar) : I request the Minister to reply tomorrow.

SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH (Washim) : If you could kindly go through the list, there are many Members waiting to get an opportunity to speak. Therefore this discussion can also be continued tomorrow. Otherwise Members would not get an opportunity to speak....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Okay, we will continue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, I would be associating myself with the sentiments of the hon. Members. We want that every hon. Member should have the opportunity to speak and express their views on this vital matter. But if the time of the hon. Members is regulated, as you are pleased to suggest, then we will be able to accommodate as many hon. Members as possible. I am not asking for curtailment of their time unnecessarily; otherwise, tomorrow's business will be affected if it is carried over for tomorrow. Therefore, I am pleading with you, Sir, that you may kindly request the hon. Members to make their submissions in a short time so that we can finish this debate today and we can take up other business tomorrow. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We are all very anxious to participate in this debate. Every hon. Member has got very important points to make. My request is that let us sit late and finish this. I will regulate the time and if every hon. Member takes about ten minutes then it is easy for the Chair and also we can complete the business of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : This much of time has been wasted in the discussion. I have not spoken in between....(Interruptions). Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, should I start? (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We shall do one thing. Shri Reddy, let Mr. Singh complete his speech. Then you can say whatever you want to say.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali) : Sir, this is a very important subject. There is a long list of hon. Members who want to participate in the debate. In the beginning, every leader has taken one hour or 40 minutes or 45 minutes to speak. If the time of the small parties are going to be curtailed to just five minutes or so, just for the sake of making their submissions, it is quite unfair. So, my suggestion is that if it is necessary, it may be extended for tomorrow also because this is an important subject and there shall be no question of curtailing the time of other hon. Members. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MR. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : Sir, I fully support what he says. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : From the very beginning, it has been insisted that every hon. Member shall have to speak only for ten minutes. At the end of the tenth minute, there will be a bell and the hon. Member should conclude so that the Chair can regulate the time. ... (Interruptions)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : It has been insisted, but not implemented. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Suppose after ten minutes the bell is rung and if the hon. Member does not regard the ringing of the bell, what can we do? ... (Interruptions)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir my suggestion is that you take the sense of the House. We can continue this tomorrow also. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, you can take the sense of the House. There should be no time limit for discussing this subject. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If Shri Nitish Kumar's advice is to be implemented, I think, one hon. Member will speak for the whole day. This is possible outside when we conduct a seminar.

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : Sir, this debate is on the agricultural policy and it is going to decide the fate of the agriculturists. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA (Rohtak) : Sir, the Rajya Sabha has allotted for hours to discuss this subject. Our strength is double than that of Rajya Sabha and so, this House needs at least eight hours to discuss this... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Rawale, the hon. Member, Shri Rajveer Singh has not yielded. How do you speak?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. S.P. YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after more than eight hours discussion in Rajya Sabha, the rent control Bill was passed there and sent to the President for his assent. However, this House had to repent because it was passed in a hurry. Later it was decided that it should be withdrawn. This should not happen with the agriculture policy since it is related to 74-75 crore people....

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : No, it is related to 92 crore people.

DR. S.P. YADAV : Perhaps, the hon. Minister does not know the meaning of agriculture.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was speaking on excessive use of chemical fertilisers. We must exercise a check on it. It is a very serious matter. We are becoming addict to fertilisers just like a drug addict. Therefore, instead of chemical fertilisers, we should emphasise on the use of bio-fertilisers. I do not suggest that the use of pesticides and fertilisers should be stopped abruptly but there should be gradual decrease in its use. After some time, the use of these fertilisers should be completely banned. Farmers should be encouraged to adopt the old methods. In America, use of 240 insecticides and pesticides has been banned. The reason advanced in this regard is that these leave adverse effect on the health of human beings. In India, only 12-13 such pesticides have been banned. The vegetables, immediately after being sprayed with pesticides, come to market for sale. We remain unaware of this fact and the contents of pesticides pass into our bodies. Today, we observe that more than 90 percent people are suffering from gastric trouble and long queues of patients can be seen in the hospitals. Shall we ruin the health of our nation in the race of increasing the production? Our scientists should give a clean opinion in this regard. The scientists speak more openly before us but they fear loss of their jobs. It is the duty of 'Vaidya' (Doctor) to advise the king to avoid sugar, if it is harmful to him. If he does not do so, it will result in the death of the king. Here, the king is not the Minister but the people. Their lives are in danger. Some days back, a scientist had warned that before eating fruits, we should first boil them in hot water, wipe them out and then keep them in the refrigerator for at least 3 days. But how will the poor person do all this? Therefore, this serious matter should be given immediate attention. The agriculture scientists, who are doing research work in this regard, should be initiated for discussion and their views should be included in the agriculture policy.

I would like to add that there is a great need to educate farmers. A separate channel on T.V. and

Radio should be started for this purpose. Every day, new channels are being started on T.V. They are telecasting vulgar programmes which are not worth watching along with the family. An initiative can be taken in this direction so as to help the farmers get more information on agricultural matters. The hon. Minister can discuss this issue with Information and Broadcasting Minister and then include it in the agriculture policy. So far as food processing is concerned, there is a separate department for it. Licences are being given to multinational companies for this purpose. First, the licence was given to Pepsi Cola and it was stated that tomatoes, cauliflowers, potatoes turnips, radishes and other fruits grown by our farmers will be exported to other countries in canned pack. I would like to know as to how much fruits and vegetables have been preserved and exported by Pepsi Cola during the last 9 year i.e. from 1980 to 1995. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries have also stated that Processing Centres and Taining Centres will be opened in every district. But so far, no Centre has been opened in any of the districts. Only writing the policy on a paper is not enough. It should be implemented. Today, injustice is being done to farmers and they are being cheated too. Basmati rice is being exported by Pepsi Cola and the whole profit in foreign currency, is being diverted to America. Had our Government exported the Basmati rice, the profit would have been retained by our country itself. What was the need to allow multinational to export Basmati rice when Basmati rice is imported on request by the foreign countries.

No know-how was required for this even then it has been acquired. God Know what has been conspired. We do not know what has happened. Anyway, it should be checked. Food Processing Ministry should have a control over this and it should stop malpractice. Hon. Agriculture Minister, Sir, time has come when we will have to consider land reforms while making Agriculture Policy. This is the most appropriate time for that. For that, Government should take the services of experts and asks for their views regarding land reforms and better utilisation of land. What should be the size of a holding, how they should be improved. There is some disparity in our land reforms. People fight over petty things.

Hon. Minister had raised a point that how much land should be given to the Industrial Houses and how much they are actually acquiring. My submission is that industry should not be allowed to be set-up on cultivable land. There is a lot of wasteland in our country and we are not in a position to change it into a cultivable land. Therefore, my submission is that new industries should be set-up on that land only. But actually what is being done? New industries are going to be set-up at Gurgaon and Bareilly and we have made recommendations for the same. An example of Maruti Industry has also been put forward

before the committee. The second example is of Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi. Out of its two thousand acre land, 500 to 600 acre land is lying unutilised. In Bareilly also, the rubber factory is in possession of hundreds of acres of land which is cultivable and nothing is being done in that. Now a factory has been set-up on that factory is lying vacant. My submission is that this land should be taken back. Still 91 million hectare of land remains unutilised. What will the Government do with that land? The main problem is that the department of the hon. Minister is separate and this comes under the wasteland development Department. You are not concerned with that then what for he has become a Minister? Has I been in his place, I would have resigned, I would have not tolerated such an insult. You say that you will help the farmers but you do not have Department like wasteland, fertilizers, chemicals and water resources. Then what do you have? The Government has nothing except goodwill.

17.42 hrs.

(Shri Nitish Kumar *in the Chair*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : How much time you will take?

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : I will take less time than you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That you have already taken.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Chariman, Sir, You are a farmer. You should have sympathy with us. I would like to state that the Government has spent Rs. 45000 crores on providing water so far. As a result thereof, a total 16 million hectare of land is being irrigated. But even then only 33 percent land is being irrigated and 67 percent land still remains unirrigated. Our fields are dry even after spending Rs. 45,000 crores in 50 years. These figures have been provided by the Government itself and if we take figures of private company, in this regard, I am sure that they will be very worrissome. Now I would not Like to mention about water resources, water management as our hon. Chairman Nitishji was speaking and referring to Anna Hazare. We can pay tribute to his ability, sacrifice and penace. The Government should make it as a model and sent to the villages. I was surprised to see that village. That village has become like a heaven. It seems like a India of old times. People do not lock their houses as in old times. There is a golden statue established in a temple there. The gate of that temple is not locked. That village belongs to Anna Hazare. Nothing is stolen in that village. Nobody goes to a police station or Court. No policeman goes there. I am afraid it may not catch your eyes, if it does it will be bad for that village.

I will conclude after 1-2 points. Today, how much investment is being made on Agriculture? The

Government talks of giving a status of an industry to the Agriculture but the investment is being made on other works. Today, 70 percent people are engaged in agriculture, and they are providing food to the 92 crore people. Whereas the investment being made on agriculture is very less. The Government should do something for that and this point should be included in the Agriculture policy...*(Interruptions)*

There are 370 million cattle in our country of 92 crore people. Cattle are also living creatures. The Government is not thinking about them. They are the backbone of our agriculture. Today, the number of cattle is reducing. As a result thereof, the quantity of manure is also declining. Urine and dung of cattle are very useful for agriculture. Government should pay attention to that and it should declare in its Agriculture policy that the flesh of cattle will not be exported to earn dollars. If a cattle head dies, it will die at its peg only. We will get the manure from it till the end. Today, healthy cattles are being slaughtered and their flesh is being exported. If their master has to pay even Rs. 20/- to the doctor for their treatment, he says that it is useless and should be slaughtered. This is a very serious matter and it should be checked. About oilseeds and pulses, I would like to appeal to the scientists of our country that they should create such varieties which require less water. Today, why the production of pulses is decreasing? Why the prices of gram are going up. Previously, the poor used to eat grams and the rich rice but today things have reversed. Now gram is eaten by rich people and wheat by the poor. At that time, gram was grown abundantly because we had no such fertilizers which require more water. Today, gram crop is getting spoiled in every field. Government should earmark those areas where gram is grown.

The Government is spending millions of rupees on family planning. Population clocks have been installed on intersections. Will the Government ever make plan for Agriculture? Has the Government ever made assessment about wheat, rice, sugarcane, pulses and vegetables required for in this country? I do not say that a law should be framed in this regard because I am opposed to it. For this, farmers should be educated. It will be beneficial to both, Government and farmer himself. Sometimes import of sugar is resorted to because the production of sugarcane is very low. Government should make a plan for Agriculture Management and educate farmers accordingly. Farmers can be educated by starting an additional channel on Radio and Television and it can be publicised. Agriculture scientists and farmers should be brought in the programmes whether they know to speak English or not but they should be allowed to speak. I am very sorry to say that all the researches made in the field of Agriculture till today, have not been published in such a language which the farmers understand.

Literature is not being published in regional languages. English literature is abundantly available in Krishi Bhawan and in the library of Agriculture Ministry but it has not been got translated. How much English an Indian farmer knows? My submission is that it should be translated in regional languages. Is it not possible in this country to write original literature in regional languages?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was a member of ICAR. When I went to attend a meeting there, I saw that all were speaking in English. I had gone there to attend a meeting of ICAR but I felt as if I was attending a meeting of some council of England. Hon. Minister Sir, you will be surprised to know that in that meeting a Keralite was speaking very good Hindi. It is not that they all do not know Hindi but the fact is that they do not want to speak in Hindi because they feel that they are officers of group 'B'. All should speak in Hindi... *(Interruptions)*

Literature should be available in regional languages. It appears that they have not freed themselves from the slavery of English mentality.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, though I have lot of things to say but time is very short. However, it will be very useful if the hon. Minister includes the points raised by us, in the draft of Agriculture policy. The draft made by them should be thrown into the waste paper basket. Moreover, if the report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture is accepted as it is, it will be beneficial to all. Government should have control over all the Ministries but I am afraid that your position has become very awkward. There is a saying that "Arba Satta Jyon Ka Tyon, Sara Kunba Dooba Kyon," In this regard, I remember an incident that there was a wiseman. He had to cross a river alongwith his family as no bridge was there. First of all he measured himself and then his wife and children and after guessing, he said that all can cross the river. Therefore, come forward and cross the river. But they all drowned as soon as they entered the river. He was surprised over this and uttered as quoted above. Same is the position of this Government. The figures provided by the Government are correct even then why the farmers are so much backward? Why their poverty is not being removed? If Government brings all these things into practice, it will benefit the farmers and then I will appreciate its efforts.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister and Agriculture Ministry for bringing this policy and it is fortunate for me that I have been given a chance to speak on Agriculture policy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, India is predominantly an agricultural country. Among all other points which many of my friends have raised here, I agree with

one of them that the purpose will not be served by merely bringing this policy here. However, I welcome the step Government has taken and I am sure that it will succeed in achieving the target. Agriculture is the historical and traditional occupation of India in which more than 70 percent people are engaged. If the names of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi Rajiv Gandhi and Choudhary Charan Singh are not mentioned, history of development of agriculture will not be called as complete.

In 1950, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had said.

[English]

'Every thing can wait, but not agriculture.'

[Translation]

Choudhary Charan Singh wrote in his book "The Economic Nightmare of India" that —

[English]

"Our economy would have developed several times faster, if only our investment priorities had been proper."

[Translation]

This is the gist of this policy which the hon. Minister has brought. He also wants to say that the investment made in agriculture sector has not been sufficient and as a result thereof.

[English]

"Indian agriculture has lost to industrial sector in race for financial allocation. Agriculture has lost to grand alliances of urban elites and industrialists."

[Translation]

In the Agriculture policy, the hon. Minister has specifically mentioned many challenges, which we have to face. The hon. Minister has stated 17 challenges. Out of which investment in agriculture, agriculture credit, Agriculture price policy, Export of agricultural products and to provide manure, electricity and sources of irrigation on low rates are the main challenges. If we do not take decision on these points considering far reaching consequences of them. Our liberalisation policy may cause heavy loss to the farmers instead of proving to be beneficial. There is a lot of confusion with regard to the food policy of the country. There are four secretaries in The Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. Perhaps they themselves do not know on which subject they have to take decision.

In this draft, irrigation is the most important issue. As far as the availability of water is concerned, if the price of water is paid in the same way, then in the

coming time it would become unaffordable. At the same time, if we do not think seriously on this issue our agriculture sector will not make development even after bringing many such policies. I would like to request the hon. Minister that

[English]

"water should be a national wealth"

[Translation]

and it should be managed by a nation.

Speaking on the issue, my friends stated that Punjab and Haryana have the surplus production of foodgrains. It's reason is that the concept of Bhakhra Dam was put forward by Choudhary Chhotu Ram in 1946 and Pandit Nehru got it completed and then water could be made available. That is why, today Punjab and Haryana are able to provide sufficient foodgrains to entire country. As far as the water management is concerned, Government should pay attention to it. Only 10 percent water of total surface irrigation is sufficient to the plants and 90 percent water goes waste. The Government has made surface irrigation canals but arrangements for sub-soil drainage have not been made so that there can be a better utilisation of water. The Government has given 50 percent subsidy on drip irrigation which should have been started seven years ago from today. Still it would be in the interest of our country to make its better use. Today, there is a water dispute between Punjab and Haryana. The same dispute is between every two states. If water management is good then water dispute between Punjab and Haryana will be over itself. Today the distribution of water is not equal whether it is a dispute between Punjab and Haryana and between the areas within Haryana. In Haryana, 70 percent water is available for 20 percent population and 30 percent area of the state.

18.00 hrs.

On the other hand, only 30 percent water is available to 80 percent population and 70 percent area. This problem can be solved only by water Management. The Government has invested Rs. 25,000 crores in big projects by which 16 million hectare potential has been prepared.

But we have not utilised 6 million hectares' potential so far. In one hectare of irrigated land, four to five tonnes foodgrains can be produced. But, at present, our production average is 1.7 tonne per hectare. About 7 million hectares land has been rendered useless due to water logging and salinization. I am quoting the views of scientists. If the problem of water logging continues, the soil of Punjab, which is giving higher yield today, will not be able to produce anything after 10 years. Therefore, water management has become an important issue. Only 33 percent of the total cultivable

land of our country is irrigated so far. This area was 17.8 percent in 1949-50, which has reached 33 percent till 1990. During this period, only 15 percent area could be added. If this trend continues, then, keeping in view the population explosion in the country, it will be difficult to achieve the target fixed for foodgrains.

Shri Prataprao Bhonsle and yourself has spoken same thing in different ways. Both of you advocated single window system facility for the farmers. So far as I think, single window system can bear fruit only when this system is governed by your Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is 6 p.m. now. If the hon. Minister agrees, I may extend the time.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): We intend to complete today the discussion and the reply on this. So you may extend the time of the House by one hour.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : This is a very important issue. Therefore, the time must be extended.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are 25 Members to speak.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The time should at least be extended by the one hour.

[English]

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : Sir, I am waiting since morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will get your chance.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : You are not calling anybody from our Party, but you are calling the names of the Members of all other parties.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The name are being called as per the list. When your turn will come, I will call your name. Please do not worry and do not get irritated. You will get your chance.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time of House is extended for one hour.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was stating that Single Window System can be successful only when this scheme is governed by the Ministry of Agriculture.
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He want to conclude. Let him finish his speech. You yourself had stated that it was an important issue.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time of the House has been extended upto 7.00 p.m. and the Chair has also been informed about it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA : I am of the view that through the existing departments of the Ministry of Agriculture, in isolation with other departments, there can be no complete development of agriculture, be it water resources, rural development or fertilizers. Development of Agriculture will not be so easy until the Central Government go in for 'Integrated Single Window System'.

Issues raised by the hon. Minister of Agriculture are just and there solution can be found out in an integrated manner. So far as fertilizers are concerned, the price of fertilizers have increased by 236 percent after the with-drawal of subsidy from July, 1991 onwards. Earlier DAP fertilizer be used to cost Rs. 180 but now the price of the same bag has gone upto Rs. 450/-. The prices of urea have increased by 60 percent. The urea bag, which costs Rs. 108 earlier, is now available at Rs. 175. It has adversely affected our agriculture. One can notice this effect from the fact that when a farmer uses 1 kg fertilizer, only seven and half kilogram foodgrain is produced therefrom. This is the reason that we could produce only 185 million tonnes of foodgrains as against the fixed target of 195 million tonnes.

Shri Rajveer Singh has just mentioned that there is 650 million tonnes of rural compost availability in our country. Out of it, we utilising only 263 million tonnes. Besides, there is 16 million tonnes of urban compost available in the country but we are utilising only 6 million tonnes of it. If fertilizer is produced in full quantity and delivered in time to farmers, they can get benefited a lot. Our farmers are facing the problem of non-availability of fertilizer at the time of their need and its solution is not so easy.

So far as the remunerative prices of different commodities are concerned, hon. Minister of Agriculture has fixed the minimum support price of 25 commodities. He has tried to fix the remunerative price of every commodity but it is a fact that the farmers have got the maximum remunerative price during the tenure of this Government and the Minister of Agriculture than ever before. The Government claims that the remunerative prices are being increased by Rs. 40 to 50 each year but the living standard of the farmers is deteriorating because the farmers are not getting the benefit in real terms. When we see the figures, we find that if in 1980-81,

the farmers used to get Rs. 100 per quintal for any commodity, they are getting Rs. 60 today for the same commodity. It means, their income, as compared to 1980-81, has come down from Rs. 100 to Rs. 60. It has many reasons.

The issue of rural credit has also been raised here. Indiraji had nationalised the banks in the country during her tenure. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri and Chaudhary Charan Singh equally contributed to it. During the tenure of Indira Gandhi, priority sector was also fixed with the nationalisation of banks. Out of that, 18 per cent was earmarked for agriculture, but today it has come down to 11 per cent. Today, the merger of rural banks is being talked about in the country. But when rural banks were set up, their aim was not to earn profit.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, rural banks were set up to help the farmers in agriculture. If the subsidy, being provided today, is withdrawn, the cost of production of wheat will increase by 51 per cent in Haryana and 34 per cent in Punjab. Similarly, the production cost of paddy will increase by 56 per cent in West Bengal and 21 per cent in Punjab. The wheat which is available at present at the rate of Rs. 4 per kg. will not be available even at Rs. 8 per kg after the withdrawal of subsidy. In such a situation people will not be able to purchase wheat and they will have to sleep without meal.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as regards rural credit, I would like to state that all the existing banks, cooperative institutions or other institutions meet only 35 per cent loan demand of the farmers and villagers. 65 per cent loan is sought by them from money lenders at the interest rate of 4 to 5 per cent. Today, the contribution of agriculture sector in national income is 35 per cent and that of industry is 20 per cent. However, the industrial sector having 20 per cent contribution in national income is getting 35 per cent loan, while for agriculture sector, which has 35 per cent contribution in national income, the loan limit has been fixed at 18 per cent, but this sector actually gets less than 11 per cent. In this situation, how can the nation progress?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, comprehensive crop insurance scheme has also been discussed here and I agree with the views of Shri Prataprao B. Bhonsle who has termed the crop insurance scheme as a loan recovery scheme. In this connection, a comprehensive scheme is under consideration for the last two and half years and that should be implemented expeditiously. This scheme should cover all the crops and its unit should be considered a village or revenue circle instead of Tehsil or district.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the question of exports has also figured in the debate. There are not two opinions that with the increase in the means of communications, the world has come closer. Now,

with the export of agricultural products, the nation can earn a lot of foreign exchange. In 1950, the share of agricultural and allied products in the national export was 95 per cent. But today, that percentage has fallen down. We need Rs. 15 thousand crore to build up infrastructure and with this facility, we would be able to process and export only 25 per cent of the total fruit and vegetable being produced in the country. It should also be mentioned in agricultural policy the actual profit of this export will go to farmers. The farmer does not get the actual benefit, be it the export of wheat, processed food or Basmati rice. The middlemen get the actual benefit. Therefore, I would like to request hon. Minister to make such a provision in the agriculture policy so that the farmer can directly get benefited. Today, the price of Basmati rice in the international market is rupees four thousand per quintal while the farmer gets hardly rupees one thousand or rupees one thousand one hundred per quintal. Therefore, arrangements should be made to give direct benefit to the farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now conclude please.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA : Sir, you yourself had said that this subject is very important. Therefore, it would naturally take more time. However, I will try to finish quickly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Did the House accept my point?

I am still in the Chair.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA : Now, I am in your place.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time has been increased for one hour only. If you consume less time, other hon. Members will be able to get a chance to speak.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA : I am speaking on relevant points only. I was speaking on agriculture-education and research. As has been stated by my colleagues, only 0.3 per cent is being spent on agriculture education and research out of total GDP of agricultural whereas as per the recommendations of the Standing Committee, this should be atleast 1 per cent. If we do not spend on research education, we shall not be able to produce good quality seeds. As Mahatma Gandhi had said that unless investment is made in the villages, the country, particularly rural areas, cannot be developed. But I regret to state that there is persistent decline. Public Sector Capital formation in the field of agriculture has been constantly declining since 1980. The capital formation in 1980-81 was Rs. 1892 crore, which has decreased upto Rs. 1313 crore in 1990-91, the public investment on agriculture, be it on link roads, canal system or rural power supply has been less. Due to this, private investment has also been declining. However, there has been increase in private investment for the last two-three years but

unless there is adequate public investment, the private investors will also hesitate to come forward. The per capita income in 1988-89 in agriculture sector was 420.7 whereas in non-agriculture sector; it was 1783. The disparity ratio which was 1-2.2 in 1970-71, has gone upto 1-4.2. The per capita income in agriculture sector is continuously decreasing.

The third point is about mechanisation. If we go through the term of trade today, we find that it is not in the interest of agriculture. Twenty years ago, a farmer could buy a small tractor by selling small quantity of wheat but today, he is required to sell ten times more wheat to purchase a tractor. Our holding has drastically gone down. The Government has not brought agriculture machinery and implements commensurate with it. I had been to South Korea and Japan where I found small tractors and agricultural implements available for half an acre of land. We cannot develop in the field of agriculture unless we make available such type of agriculture implements and tractors to farmers. Besides, I would also like to add that there should be single window system at every stage.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no need to repeat it.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA : I am not repeating. The hon. Minister of Agriculture is present here and all eyes are centred on him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : And the whole House is looking at you.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA : Despite, our hon. Prime Minister, hon. Minister of Agriculture, hon. Minister of Food and hon. Speaker as well as the Chairman being the sons of farmers, the Government could not develop agriculture. I think, this is right time to bring in such a policy. I had mentioned irrigation in total plan outlay. If we go through the first five year plan, we find that 28.1 percent of the total plan outlay was allotted for irrigation. But today it is 7-8 percent. Seventy percent population of the country which is dependent on agriculture, can not develop unless and until 40 per cent of the total plan outlay is allotted to agriculture. I support this policy. The hon. Minister of Agriculture has taken initiative and I hope that he will take the nation to its destined goal.

18.21 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fifty-third Report

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): I beg to present the Fifty-third Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

18.22 hrs.

MOTION RE : CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT AGRICULTURE POLICY RESOLUTION (AS MODIFIED) — CONTD.

[English]

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunneveli) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the debate after a long waiting since this morning. I am going to make only points. Point No. (xiv) of the Draft Resolution says :

"Providing improved variety of seeds, agricultural implements and machinery and other critical inputs to farmers in or near their village."

That is the sentence written in the Draft Resolution.

First of all, the most important thing for a farmers is seed. That is the basic cuisine and the vital input. For the sustainable growth of agricultural production, we must have good seeds. For that there are two National Seed Corporations, one State Farm Corporation of India, thirteen Seed Corporation, nineteen State Certifying Agencies and 86 State Seeds Testing labs. Breeder seed is the first stage, foundation seeds is the second stage and the third and last stage is the certifying seed. I want to submit to the House that the breeder seeds are not easily available to any farmer who is residing in the village. But in the Annual Report I am very much surprised to find the sentence:

"To ensure access of the Indian farmers to the best seeds available anywhere in the world with a view to maximising their yield and farm increase".

This is the sentence written in the Annual Report. But our farmers are not able to get the basic breeder seeds easily. Only those who are influential are able to get the breeder seeds. Therefore, I bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister who is a well-wisher of the farmers that the breeder seeds and the foundation seeds are not easily available to the ordinary and marginal farmers and certifying seeds that he needs also are not available to him. The basic foolproof seed is not available to the farmer.

The main and basic thing the Central Government should do is to see that the foolproof seeds are distributed to the farmers easily and on timely basis. For the rabi crop kharif seeds are being sold and for kharif crop rabi seeds are being sold. This is because in the seed industry private people

are taking up distribution. Only 20 or 10 per cent of seeds are being distributed through the Government agencies and most of the seeds are being distributed through private industries. Therefore, a strict monitoring system should be there. Without proper and foolproof seeds there is no use of the insurance scheme to be employed. As an agriculturist, you know it.

Therefore those private industries who supply seeds to the farmers must know that the germination process is alone not the main thing. They must look into the seasonal crops also. Secondly, so many details have been given here on this. Farmers' land and seeds are the main thing. A farmer who is owning a land either in my village, Kadambur or at any other place in India, will earn a few lakhs or a few thousands of rupees, while a person residing in Delhi or in Madras or in Calcutta who has a land, may earn a few crores of rupees. That is, the imbalance. That is the common men's imbalance, according to me; and it needs no statistics. We are all farmers; but no one in this Parliament can say that he is a real farmer. Here, all are farmers, but at the same time, we are not farmers which is a reality which everyone must accept because when we got independence at that time, Gandhiji was alive and the symbol of 'bullock cart' was there which indicated that the Government is for the peasants, by peasants and of the peasants. But once that 'Bullock cart' symbol has gone, the policy has also gone.

I am speaking in English here, but that does not mean that I am slave to English. One hon. Member has told that those who speak in English are slaves to that language. I may say that I am slave to no other language in the world except Tamil which is my mother-tongue and it is the King for me. That world of the hon. Member has gone on record and therefore, I must also tell my views or opinion. We say that only Tamil is the leading language.... (Interruptions) It is because I want the Minister to understand and I want you to understand. I can speak in Tamil also, but you should not have said like that. The trees and plants do not have any language. They give fruits to us; they yield only result ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not get excited ... (Interruptions)

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : It is because he has gone on record. We want to tell this to the hon. Member. Our Tamilian MPs are here only because of the language issue; I am not a great man otherwise. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jha, please sit down. If you want to speak, you will have to seek permission from the Chair.

[Translation]

Shri Bhogendra Jha, Please sit down.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are no two opinions in the country or in the House about what he has spoken regarding Tamil.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no need of your arbitration. You sit down. The time is running out.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Tamil is one of the most ancient languages of India, except Sanskrit.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is expressing his sentiments. Let him express his sentiments, then he will speak on agriculture.

[English]

Now, Shri Janardhanan may continue. Now, we move on from language issue to agricultural policy.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : Sir, he has uttered the word and the sentence has gone on record. So, I said that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay, you continue your speech.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : Coming to the 13th point, the policy says that, 'increasing the utilisation of irrigation potential and promoting water conservation and its efficient management'.

Here I want to say to the Government that the ground water goes down. In India we are having all the new economic policy, globalisation policy, etc. But we want water. There are so many rivers in India. God has given Bhramaputra, Yamuna, Ganges, Cauvery, Godavari, etc., The waters of the rivers go to the sea.

The statistic given in a book gives classification of States according to the share of irrigated area to the total area under all crops. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura comes under 0 - 20 per cent category; Gujarat, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur comes under 20 - 40 per cent category; Jammu & Kashmir, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, UP comes under 40 - 60 per cent category. Tamilnadu which has no water comes under that category. Haryana comes under 60 - 80 per cent category. Punjab comes under above 80 per cent category. These are the statistics given here. But, hon. Members from Punjab are saying that water resources are less in their State.

We spend a huge amount on watershed irrigation. The percolation scheme, which is being used to improve the water table, is being misused by the officers because they do not select the right places. In my constituency I have requested the officers a number of times to choose the right percolation point but in vain. As a result of this, the whole scheme is

getting wasted. Instead of wasting all the money on schemes named after Gandhiji and Nehruji, I say it is time for us to use the water which God has given us. Water in the form of rivers is a God given gift to us but it is getting wasted. We should have the proper watershed management scheme, only then we can make adequate water available for our agricultural needs.

You have one scheme for correcting the terms of trade to make them favourable for agriculture thereby increasing the flow of resources and augmenting the rate of capital formation. In this regard I would like to say that you are taking the sowing time as the basis for making the estimates. Because for the uncertainty of monsoon and the climate, we often go wrong in our estimates. So, I feel that the tentative estimates should be made only during the flowering season. If you take the flowering season as the base for price estimation, then only farmers will be benefited. You are merely counting the chickens before they are hatched. If you take inflation by making the sowing seasons as the base, you will always go wrong. Last year also we went wrong with our estimates about cotton and we all know the result. That is why, I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to take the flowering season as the base for making price estimation, which is for the welfare of the country. Flowering season differs from State to State. In North the flowering season for cotton is in October whereas in South it is December or January. Especially for the cash crops, the price estimation should be made keeping in view the flowering season of different crops, like cotton, groundnut, chillies, etc. Only then the price speculation will not be there and it will go to the benefit of the farmers.

Many Members talked about the prices of fertilizers. In Kodaikanal hills the farmers who are producing shoots by using the natural manure are getting 15 per cent more yield than those farmer who are using the chemical fertilizers. Even with regard to cotton, the yield is better from untreated soil, i.e., the soil which is not at all treated by the chemical fertilizers but is treated by composed manures like cow-dung. The time is changing fast. As you have rightly said, the life of the topmost soil is finished because of the excessive application of chemical manures. Therefore, the Central Government must pay more attention to land, seed and water. In agriculture the same solution does not hold good everywhere because seasons changes from Tamil Nadu to Kashmir. Every State has got a separate sowing season and has different rate of soil fertility. Punjab's soil is more fertile than Tamil Nadu's soil. Fertility of soil varies from State to State. Implementation of various schemes is an important thing and in this regard the States must be given more power and more money. The Central

Government should have a monitoring system to monitor the implementation of various schemes that are there.

Let me say this in Tamil

"UZHUTHAVANUKKU ULAKKU THANN MICHAM".

This in English means that he who tills the land, he whos ploughs the land gets one fourth of a measure. Now, the situation is the even that is not available for him.

There is a proverb in Tamil which says : "KAIYILE VENNAI VAITHUKONDU NEYIKKU ALAIVA NEN". This in English means : "When there is so much butter in your hand, why do you wander for ghee?" When the river Gods have given so much water to us, why do we worry for water? Link the rivers. Create integrity in the hearts of youngsters. Stop all other thing. Money will follow. Unity and integrity of the country will automatically follow and the land of the farmers will produce gold. All the rivers of India must be linked. Then only Gandhiji's double bullock-cart and Nehruji's principle which got freedom for this country will have a meaning. With these words, on behalf of AIADMK, I conclude my speech.

I am very sorry to all the hon. Members. I got irritated and became emotional because of the remark made that whoever speaks in English is a slave of that language. That should not have gone on record. It is not fair for this Parliament and it is not fair for any Indian. If there is any party which holds language only as its card, it will be utterly defeated.

I conclude with these words, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the subject of national importance is being debated in the House. Today, seventy five percent people are dependent on agriculture India is an agriculture dominant country. Our country would not develop unless and until our agriculture is developed. The draft of our agricultural policy was laid on the Table of this Houses on 14th May 1993. We had studied three tenses in school days is present, past and future there is another tenses — conditional past tense also in which nothing is said with certainty. Likewise, this is an ambiguous draft. It does not look like a national policy. It has been presented here like an agenda. The Government wants to stretch this issue further since the election is near. The farmers feed entire nation. Today, villages have become synonymous with poverty. It is not the question of 75 percent population only. This is the community which feeds entire nation and they cannot be dishonest.

I would like to mention here a very practical point. Unless and until fields are ploughed, irrigation

facility is made available, good quality seeds are supplied to farmers and labour of supervision is done, the target of production cannot be achieved. As regards engineering sector, if 5 km road is required to be constructed, only one kilometre road is constructed and the funds for remaining 4 kilometres road are manipulated. I mean to say that there is a room for corruption in every sector. But if there is corruption in agriculture then the targets can not be attained. Therefore, we will have to plough the fields, provide irrigation facility and do hard labour. Shri Hooda is a good friend of mine. We both are Member of a Committee of Lok Sabha. He belongs to farmers' community. But it seems that the bench on which he is sitting has an effect on him. He says that Shri Narsimha Rao is the son of a farmer. Sir, there are different categories of farmers like big farmers, marginal farmers and small farmers. I do not know which category of a farmer he is referring to. This draft favours big farmers and is ambiguous. *(Interruptions)* I have drawn your attention towards this because this agricultural draft is not a Resolution. The word 'Resolution' should be deleted before we discuss it. As a matter of fact, there is nothing in this agriculture Policy. It is like a wondercasted. They have presented it like an agenda here and now they want us to decide the policy. This resolution was moved in this House in 1993 and not it is being discussed in 1995. It is still not clear when this will be enforced. This policy is likely to be enforced by the time when the present and future of our country will be in danger.

First of all, I want to say that today cultivation has become a non-profitable occupation. Who are responsible for this? It was the responsibility of those people who were at the helm of affairs in Government during the last 47 years of independence. They cannot backout of their responsibility. It is a good step that they have come up with this draft. When there will be awareness, farmers will unite. Earlier farmers hesitated to speak but today they are raising their voices. As regards the reasons for agriculture being the non-profitable occupation today, I would like to point out one thing. He has just now referred to the support price of agriculture produce. The support price is decided by the Agriculture Price Commission. The Members of this Commission do not know the cost involved in producing a foodgrain as well as requirement of water, seeds, labour and the labour of supervision. On The other hand, the prices of items manufactured in Industries, are decided by the Industrialists themselves. They do not care of buyers and their purchasing power. The prices of foodgrains produced by farmers are decided by the people sitting in air conditioned rooms.

"Dukh Jane dukhiya Ki Maya,
Jake paon na phate phate Bival,
Wo Kya Jane Pir Paral."

Those who do not understand farmers' sentiments, decide the prices of food-grains. There may be persons who have not heard the names of millet, barley, maize and mandua, (a kind of millet). *(Interruptions)* Jakharji may be knowing about them because these varieties would have come to him for test.

I would also like to say something about 'makhanas'. A large quantity of makhanas is produced in Madhubani, Darbhanga and Saharsa Districts of North Bihar. The Agriculture Department calls it seed of lotus, whereas fishermen grow it in water with great difficulty. But they get only Rs. 45 for a kilogram. It is sold at a rate of Rs. 160 per kilogram in Delhi and in America, it is sold at a rate of Rs.3300 per kg. It can be converted into a fast food through processing. Moreover, it is cholesterol free. A large amount of foreign exchange can be earned through its export.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should make it available to hon. Members so that they could have a taste of it.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The Agriculture Department calls it a seed of Lotus.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is why I want you to make it available to us to have a taste of it.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The Government has not paid any attention towards its processing. No sales centre or processing centre has been set up for this purpose.

Today, the Government is proclaiming in Rajya Sabha about the increase in support prices but the reality is different. It has been said that price of this foodgrain has been increased by Rs 20 per quintal and that foodgrains by Rs 40 per quintal. But the prices of those foodgrains are raised which are generally consumed by rich people. No attention is paid towards the support prices of coarse foodgrains which are consumed by the people living below the poverty line. Farmers in hon. Minister's home states i.e. Punjab and Haryana get benefited most by the increase in support price because agricultural markets are available there at every place. Do the farmers in Rajasthan, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Northern Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa get the support price for their produce. Whether any employee of FCI goes to a village for providing remunerative prices to farmers? There is a circular of the Government of India, which provides that the employee of FCI will go to the village to give remunerative prices to the farmer. The middlemen earn huge profit by purchasing the foodgrains produced by poor farmers in villages. Farmers are compelled to sell their grains to them because they are in dire need of money to purchase essential items of their daily use. Thus farmers are being

exploited by middlemen as they purchase their produce at lower prices. I challenge that poor farmers of villages do not get the support price. I would like to quote from the Economic Review, 1994-95 of the Government of India. The hon Minister can himself see it.

The Government claims that production of agricultural produce has increased. It is a matter of pride for the country. However, production of Basmati rice and special variety of wheat is increasing, but the position regarding coarse foodgrains is different. It is clearly stated in Economic Review that during 1992-93, coarse foodgrain was produced in an area of 344 lakh hectares, which was 3 percent more than the previous year. But the production of coarse grain declined during 1993-94 in comparison to preceding year and there is a possibility of increase in the production during 1994-95. Secondly, 40 percent people of our country are living below the poverty line. They eat coarse foodgrains like barley, millet and maize and production of these grains is declining continuously. In the Economic Review, it has been stated that costlier crops are grown in more areas by reducing the area under coarse grains. The Government does not care for raising the production of coarse foodgrains for poor. That is why, I have raised the issue regarding coarse grain here.

Mr. Chariman, Sir, I have already referred to the issue of support price. This draft Agriculture Policy to be changed drastically from the legal, budgetary and credit point of view. I would not like to say any thing on the support prices announced by the Government because it has already been published in newspapers. The prices of paddy have been raised from Rs.340 to Rs.360 per quintal. Likewise, prices of 'Arhar' 'Moong' and 'Urad' have been raised from Rs.760 to Rs.800 per quintal. The they say that produces of coarse grain will be given more encouragement. This is all what has already been published in newspapers and there is no truth in it. I am bringing these facts to the notice of the hon. Agriculture Minister. I hope that during his reply to this debate, he will clarify the position. I have tried, to place the facts regarding the condition of poor people, who consume coarse grain. Since production of coarse grain is declining, the poor will face a lot of problems. A few days back, the Government had said that the International food policy research Institute has praised its efforts. This institute has laid emphasis on diversification and more investmetn in agriculture sector, more budgetary outlay for Agriculture Research early completion of current irrigation projects, increase in institutional loans and involvement of governmental and other organisations in building basic rural infrastructure. I do not want to quote anything from this report. However, I would like to say that in the report of S.R. Sen Committee,

a reference has been made to misuse of ground water in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa. Growth rate of food production also finds a mention in it. But, there is no mention of water logging problem in the command area of Kosi and Gandak. The land of Bihar is fertile. The growth rate of food production was five percent during 1951 to 1961 and after 1981 it has come down to 1.2 percent. In the annual report of Reserve Bank of India for 1985 it has been said that Orissa, Bihar, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bengal have only 33 percent irrigated land. During the kharif season, the land of Darbhanga, Sitamarhi, Madhubani and Muzaffarpur is damaged due to flood. In such a situation, how could crops be grown there. Whether the Government has prepared any special scheme to tackle this problem? This draft is silent about it.

No remedial measures have been proposed in the agriculture policy. According to the report, the land of Saran, Siwan and Vaishali is also washed away during this season. We should be more liberal in giving loans to the poor in Bihar, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Orissa so that the poor could be benefited by it. NABARD gives small amount of loans. It has been said in the report that Rs.50 crore were given to Bihar, Rs.37 crores to Orissa and Rs.130 crores to Eastern Uttar Pradesh...(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have been very kind to me. I would like to take two minutes more.

19.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Farmers feed the whole country and they are being given loan at the rate of 23 percent interest, whereas industries are given loan at a rate of 18 percent interest. Can the Government not reduce it up to 8-9 percent for farmers? Farmers can also be provided facilities and we should be more generous so as to raise their standard of living.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to say that Agriculture universities should be set up in every State Headquarter but nothing has been said about it in this policy. This draft policy is not correct. There is no mention of storage facility for fruits and vegetables produced by farmers. In the absence of the storage facilities, 30 percent fruit and vegetables get perished. There should be storage facility at block level. We have only 25 percent irrigated area, whereas in China, it is 50 percent. I do not know in which direction this Government is moving?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Government has been trapped in the linement of Dunkel proposals and economic liberalisation policy. It wants all American companies to set up industries here. But, it is not going to improve the economic condition of farmers.

This will lead to end of employment opportunities in the country. As a result, there will be more unemployment and poverty. I want to say in explicit terms that this Agriculture policy is of no use. It will pose danger to the present and future of the country. On the one hand, support prices are declining and on the other hand, governmental assistance is also being reduced. Our Government is working under the pressure of GATT. In 1947, the foreign policy of the country was evolved. But in the absence of any Agriculture policy, the economy of the country is being controlled by foreign companies.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the quantum of foodgrain under PDS is being reduced. Therefore, I fear PDS will gradually be abolished. The subsidy being given to farmers is also likely to be withdrawn.

While concluding I would like to recite the following couplet about the ultimate end of this Agriculture Policy which is being discussed here :—

“Sheeshe ki adalat mein Pathar ki gawahi hai,
Katil hi muhafiz hai katil hi sipahi hai”

MR. CHAIRMAN : I take the sense of the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : It is a very interesting and important discussion. The point is four hours were fixed for this discussion. Now seven hours have gone. It is not the only point.

The other point is, today all Members wanted to have this discussion. On 11th 14th, we are not sitting.

So, we have to complete the business. So, there is no way in which we can postpone this discussion beyond today. It must be completed today. Kindly ensure this ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, this has been agreed to by the Leaders in the Committee. This is what was agreed to by the Leaders yesterday in the meeting...*(Interruptions)* We will fully cooperate with you. But some time has to be fixed. Some sort of a cooperation should be there.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is an important issue. The time of the House was extended for one hour. Now the House should be adjourned till tomorrow.

[English]

AN HON. MEMBER : It is not possible for us to sit late.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is an important issue and should not be taken lightly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Can we all sit for some more time.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : No, Sir.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 9th August, 1995 at 11 a.m.

19.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, August 9, 1995/Sravana 18, 1917 (Saka)

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