

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Tenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. VI contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, November 28, 1991/
Agrahaya na 7, 1913 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Funds For Plantation of fruit Bearing Trees

*102 SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) the funds earmarked by the Union
Government for plantation of fruit bearing
trees in the rural areas of the country during

1990-91 and 1991-92; and

(b) the amount actually released to
each State/Union Territory during the above
period?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) The
Government of India are implementing two
schemes for the development of fruit trees:

- i) Establishment of nutritional
gardens in rural areas;
- ii) Central Sector Scheme on
integrated development of
Tropical and Arid Zone fruits.

The funds earmarked under these two
schemes during 1990-91 and 1991-92 are
Rs. 132.41 lakhs and Rs. 369.34 lakhs
respectively.

(b) Statement I and II showing statewide
funds released during 1990-91 and allocation
of funds during 1991-92 is laid on the Table
of the Sabha.

STATEMENT- I

Statewise release of funds during 1990-91 for Development of fruit Trees in various
schemes of Central Government

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.110
2.	Bihar	4.030
3.	Goa	0.298
4.	Gujarat	4.030

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)
5.	Haryana	1.910
6.	Karnataka	5.200
7.	Kerala	0.298
8.	Madhya Pradesh	4.030
9.	Maharashtra	9.810
10.	Orissa	5.110
11.	Tamil Nadu	11.030
12.	Uttar Pradesh	22.435
13.	West Bengal	1.920
14.	Punjab	2.134
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.125
16.	Rajasthan	2.388
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.513
18.	Assam	0.513
19.	Meghalaya	0.513
20.	Manipur	0.513
21.	Mizoram	0.513
22.	Nagaland	1.026
23.	Sikkim	0.513
24.	Tripura	1.026
25.	Indian Agri. Research Institute New Delhi	2.201 *
26.	Indian Agri. Research Institute Karnal, Haryana	2.201 *
27.	Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Maharashtra	4.402 *
		96.792

* for multiplication of grafts of fruit trees

STATEMENT-II

State-wise Allocation of funds during 1991-92 for Development of fruit Tress in various schemes of Central Government

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Name of State/UT</i>	<i>Amount allocated (Rs.inlakhs)</i>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32.361
2.	Bihar	35.391
3.	Goa	1.441
4.	Gujarat	18.810
5.	Haryana	8.460
6.	Karnataka	20.310
7.	Kerala	10.691
8.	Madhya Pradesh	27.560
9.	Maharashtra	30.111
10.	Orissa	15.960
11.	Tamil Nadu	26.810
12.	Uttar Pradesh	52.111
13.	West Bengal	26.426
14.	Punjab	8.519
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.000
16.	Rajasthan	15.519
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.301
18.	Assam	10.551
19.	Meghalaya	2.551
20.	Mizoram	2.201
21.	Nagaland	2.301
22.	Sikkim	2.151
23.	Tripura	4.852

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Amount allocated (Rs.inlakhs)
24.	Manipur	2.551
25.	Himachal Pradesh	1.750
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.100
27.	Chandigarh	0.100
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.100
29.	Delhi	0.100
30.	Daman Diu	0.150
31.	Lakshdweep	0.100
32.	Pondicherry	0.100
33.	Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Maharashtra	4.405*
TOTAL		369.344

*for supply of grafts of fruit trees.

**Release during 1991-92 will depend upon utilisation by the State Governments.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many other issues are related to the question that has been raised. Even trees are of different types- some are fruit bearing trees and others are ornamental trees. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission in regard to irregularities being committed in respect of planting trees. Will the Government hold enquiry into the matter?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know as to how much amount is earmarked in the Budget for planting and maintaining these trees separately. The Central Government should select a state as a test case and find out the number of trees planted there during the last 8-10 years. Supposing that 50-60 percent is the rate of mortality of these plants, even then the number of surviving trees shown in the records is a matter to be investigated.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to relate the present position in Delhi. The total area of Delhi is 1496-1500 Sq. kms. If 50-60 percent of the total trees recorded on papers as planted during the last ten years are taken as dead, even then the entire area of Delhi should have been covered by trees. As per the figure shown in the documents, there should have been trees even under this roof where we are occupying these chairs.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: And instead of sitting in the Chairs, each one of us would have been sitting on the branches of those trees.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Where there is a will, there is a way. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the Government proposes to examine the matter in a particular State taking it as a test case? The most significant factor in it is to find out the number of surviving trees as also the

reasons why the rate of survival is low, and whether the staff is utilized properly or not. Has any criterion been laid down to ascertain the percentage of the surviving trees? What are the reasons for the low percentage? Will the hon. Minister furnish information in this regard?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Khurana is a close friend of mine. That is why I did not consider it proper to interrupt him. When he raised the question, he should have specified the type of trees he was referring to. He referred to fruit bearing trees and not to afforestation. He should ask a separate question for that purpose. Grants are given for planting fruit bearing trees, the whole question concerns the same. Had he asked question on tree plantation in general, I would have given the reply accordingly and removed all his doubts on this score.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second supplementary question is whether any survey has been conducted to find out the average amount spent on the maintenance of each fruit bearing tree and the income therefrom during the last 4-5-years?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the scheme was introduced in 1990-91. It was started to provide nutritional food to a common man who cannot afford to buy fruits. The average per capita nutritional intake in our country is just 40 gms as compared to 140 gms laid down as the minimum health standard in other countries. It was for this reason that this scheme was introduced so that those who neither possess much land nor much money are benefited. However the scheme is meant only for the people of rural areas and not the urbanites who live in concrete houses and flats. Provision of grant of Rs. 5/- for planting 10 trees has been made so that rural people develop a love for trees. The Government had chalked out another plan for the resurrection of the gardens which have outlined their life. Extra grant would be sanctioned per hectare for that purpose; for instance Rs. 1200/- for mango trees, Rs. 2200 for citrus and a similar amount for guava trees. But that is a

separate scheme. It contains the record of the earning and also expenditure. Only those persons who have interest in horticulture and grow fruit bearing trees will be able to furnish such record. The Government want to take measures for their benefit. The Government are aware that this scheme would be more beneficial as compared to growing conventional crops. Only if proper attention is paid to it. Hence, I would like to pay special attention to horticulture.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier, fruit bearing trees were grown on both sides of roads, but that practice seems to have been given up; if at all trees are grown, only ornamental trees are grown there. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to collaborate with PWD in States to give incentives to the people for this purpose?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has given a good suggestion. I would write to the PWD on your behalf, you too should do the same. They may take up this work.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I went through the detailed figures given by the hon. Minister I thought that Himachal Pradesh would top the list...

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, it is the question of the whole country.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: I am drawing the attention towards the same. In the Budget, for the year 1990-91, the name of Himachal Pradesh do not figure at all because no funds have been granted to the State. In 1991-92, the State got just Rs. 1.750 lakh. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the funds earmarked for Himachal Pradesh against State Government's demand for subsidy to the apple growers? How much is the total production of this crop in the State and how much of it the Centre propose to purchase?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Your supplementary is not relevant to the question. Earlier the subsidy was being given on 50:50

basis if available, I will give the complete details....(Interruptions)....Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh too grown apple crop in good measure and no State is discriminated.

[*English*]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Sir, the Minister has explained two schemes on the fruit bearing trees and the amount earmarked of each State. Considering that the amount earmarked for each State is a very meagre amount and it is not likely to have an impact on the basis of the amount earmarked, will the Government allow the State Governments and the forest departments to include fruit bearing trees in their afforestation programme? Sir, I am not asking a question about afforestation. Under the social forestry scheme, which is financed by the World Bank, now the norms are that only Eucalyptus family tree can be grown. It is consuming lot of water and makes the soil useless. In view of this, will the Government please consider including fruit bearing trees also, instead of trees of Eucalyptus family the social forestry and afforestation schemes.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Last year, the allocation was Rs. 132 lakhs but the expenditure was only Rs. 96 lakhs and this year, we have been provided with Rs. 369 lakhs or something. If they provide us with all the expenditure data and statistics, then we can say that much can be done and we want that much more progress should be made. There is no binding or limit on that. About the other scheme, we have the same facts.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: I want to know whether this scheme can be utilised for additional employment. As Khuranaji very sharply drew your attention, even 50 per cent of the fruit bearing trees are not kept alive. If individuals are assigned a bunch of trees along the rural roads or anywhere and are allowed to garner the harvest, then additional employment and income can be generated. I know that under the IRDP scheme in the country side, such projects are there and particularly in West Bengal where panchayat system is very

strong. If these are channelised via panchayats, through IRDP or independently, then perhaps, along with income generation, some amount of employment would also be generated. Would you consider such a scheme?

MR. SPEAKER: This is already included in the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: This has to be thought out by PWD but this is a good suggestion.

[*Translation*]

It will yield double benefit.

[*English*]

I appreciate that. I have seen in other countries also. They plant such trees. Why cannot we also do it? That has to be done. I will try to promote this scheme with them. I think we can do this in social forestry also and I have a scheme for that; I am going to do something about it and see whether people can be employed or not. This much of trees, this much of pay, this much of interest and profit after five years, etc. can be calculated and can be done. This will be something very interesting to protect the environment also in this country.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Mr. speaker, Sir, from the figures of allocation of funds as shown in reply to the main question, I find that the funds allocated for States like Madhya Pradesh are like a drop in the ocean. Six districts each of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh comprise Bundelkhand region. A part of Jhansi district and a part of Tikamgarh district which is my constituency also in Madhya Pradesh....The soil of that area is also ideally suited for raising fruit bearing trees.

But no incentives have yet been given to these two areas. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether a special allocation will be made for such backward areas, where

the land is fertile enough to grow fruit bearing trees?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Even last year's allocation has not been utilised fully. Last year, the allocation was Rs. 4 lakhs and this year, it was Rs. 27 lakhs. If she can make more efforts, I am with her and will provide more funds.

SHRI ANKUSHRAORAO SAHEB TOPE: The Government of Maharashtra has launched such a scheme for which a provision of Rs. 100 crores has been made by them. The State Government is providing 50 per cent subsidy to the marginal farmers for this work. Will the Central Government also launch such a scheme so that more fruit bearing trees could be grown?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I have already congratulated the people and the Government of Maharashtra for showing the way. Under the irrigation scheme, they are providing 50 per cent subsidy for drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation. We have made the largest contribution for that scheme. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I used to be the Speaker of Lok Sabha at that time. I have also made contribution to that scheme. It is necessary that we all should contribute for proper implementation of that scheme. I am making every effort in this regard.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government scheme for planting fruit Government scheme for planting fruit bearing trees in rural areas for which survey work was done by the department is very ineffective. Schemes are launched for growing fruit bearing trees in places where the chances of growing trees are remote. I would like to know whether centres would be opened at divisional level in every state for rearing fruit trees and for surveying the areas where such trees could be grown?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: The State Governments are my resources. I want to reach the people through them. It depends on them as to how much work they can extract from their Agriculture Ministry and engage their people to work at divisional

level. We are ready to provide what we from here.

Scheme for identification of non-irrigated land

*103. **SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to conduct survey for identification of the non-irrigated land in various States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). The Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is publishing on year to year basis Land Use Statistics which inter-alia include the State-wise details of irrigated lands, total cropped area, total culturable area. According to the latest available Land Use Statistics for the year 1987-88, out of the gross sown area of 172881 thousand hectares, gross irrigated area is 52216 thousand hectares which is about 33% of the gross sown area. The remaining area is un-irrigated.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is publishing land use statistics on year to year basis. I am distressed to say that the figures given here by the Minister related to 1987-88. Actually, he should have given the figures for 1990-91. If they were not available, he should have given the figures for 1989-90. According to the figures, the hon. Minister has said that there is 33 per cent gross irrigated area in the country. I have asked about the unirrigated land in the country. The hon. Minister has replied..

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question. You are repeating the same thing

what the hon. Minister stated in his reply.

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, out of the land area of 22214 thousand hectares in Madhya Pradesh, the total irrigated area is only 3,000 hectares and the same is the position with regard to the entire country. I would like to know what steps the Government is going to take to approve the schemes sent by the State Governments for irrigating the unirrigated land and particularly, what is being done for the schemes of Madhya Pradesh so that there is an increase in the irrigated area and the country can become self-reliant in food grains through green revolution.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me clarify the point, I have made in the reply. The gross irrigated area is 33 per cent. That is the sown area and the remaining is unirrigated area. I cannot say what is the share of Madhya Pradesh in it. I can only say this much that out of the total irrigation schemes sent by the Madhya Pradesh Government, in most of the cases either full data was not given or the information furnished was not correct or there was no information about the action taken for environment or for rehabilitating the people. They were sent back to the State Government for doing the needful so that further action could be taken on them.

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: The unirrigated area in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh is 22 lakhs, 10 lakhs, 9 lakhs and 6 lakh hectares respectively. If irrigation facilities could be made available for these areas, there would have been an additional production of 200 lakh tonnes of foodgrains and the country could earn Rs. 3,000 crores out of it. The practice of giving exaggerated figures by the department is not proper. When we come to reality we find that the actual production was very less. What efforts are being made by the Government to remove this disparity?

MR. SPEAKER: Is anything being done to rectify the mistakes in the figures?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, sir, these figures are prepared very carefully. They are not provided by any one agency. I would like to say that if there is any shortcoming in these figures, it is that they are not up-to-date and relate to 1987-88. As this data is collected from different States, it is thoroughly checked.

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: The figures of 1987 have been given whereas 1991 is going to end now. I would like to know as to what plannings are being made on its basis as some States are small and some are large and their schemes also differ. Some are minor and some are major. Then how to take a decision.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, these figures have been worked out after they were sent by the State Governments. On their basis, we make an assessment and prepare the future scheme. We will make efforts to collect more figures as soon as possible so that the scheme can be implemented. But we have to depend on a number of agencies, due to which, we are delayed. Even then, we prepare the schemes on the basis of data provided to us every year.

[English]

SHRI RAJA SEKHAR REDDY: Sir, we are aware that there are certain drought prone areas in the country, especially in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. In these drought prone areas the rainfall is less than 90 inches. We all appreciate that where the rainfall is abundant, even without irrigation crops can come up. Whereas in these drought prone areas, concrete efforts will have to be made from the Government side to see that the irrigation facilities are given at least for protective irrigation. So, my question here is this.

Will the Government create some statutory bodies for these drought prone areas wherein some special funds be provided by the Government so as to make

the major irrigation facilities available to them and also for lifting water to these drought prone areas?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: The fact is that there are drought prone areas in this country. Our policy is to provide them irrigation facilities on a priority basis. But it is not necessary to have a statute or a law for providing irrigation facilities on a priority basis to these drought prone areas.

As a matter of policy this can be done and this is being done.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said it clearly that there is no scope for distorting the figures as it is taken from different agencies. In this context, I would like to say that there is 35 per cent irrigated land and 68 per cent unirrigated land in the country. Out of that the command area is fixed on the basis of the per centage fixed for irrigation. 20 per cent land remains unirrigated but it is also included in the command area. Thus that unirrigated land is also taken to be irrigated. So it is clear from it that the figure is distorted one. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether there is any such agency which has given a report excluding that 20 per cent from the command area.

MR. SPEAKER: This question is like as to how much water is in the tank.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Does the hon. Member know that whenever we give figures regarding irrigation we take only 75 per cent dependable irrigation in our account. We exclude 25 per cent from these figures. So, there is no possibility of distortion of figures in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI SHANKAR RAO KALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the percentage of irrigation at the national level is thirtythree. As far as Maharashtra is concerned, it is very less.

Will the hon. Minister be kind enough to give more funds to Maharashtra for increasing the percentage of irrigated land to bring at par with the national level?

MR. SPEAKER: You want the Central Government to control them?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: We give grants to various States on the basis of the projects that are received by us and the work done by the various State Governments. Maharashtra is one of those States which receives grants from the Central Government in this respect.

The hon. Member has pointed out that Maharashtra Government has done a lot of work in this regard which I agree. We will certainly help them in this regard.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the projects of irrigation department started between 1971 and 1980, are mainly located in the Chottanagpur and Santhal Pargana of Bihar. Prior to execution of these projects there was 10 per cent irrigation facility in those areas but now it has come down to 6 per cent after execution of these projects. The State Government has stated in its reply that one third of total unirrigated land is in Chottanagpur and Santhal Pargana only. The main reason of this according to the State Government is that... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question. This is a question of the whole country not of Chottanagpur only.

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: I would like to know from the hon. Minister the reasons for per centage of the irrigation coming down instead of increasing. Although, the irrigation schemes are being implemented for a long time in Chhotanagpur and Santhal Pargana yet there is no improvement in the situation. Besides, the State Government complains that it does not get adequate funds from the Central Government, due to which the State Government could not complete those

projects. So I would also like to know the reasons for non-allocation of funds to the State Government on the basis of schemes.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, what are the reasons for decrease in the percentage of Irrigation in Chottanagpur.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of Bihar is a unique in itself in the whole country. So, certainly I would try to find out the reasons for decrease in the percentage of irrigation in that area despite implementation of new projects there. In regard to the second question put by the hon. Member I would like to say that this is not correct that the Central Government sanctions very little account as grants to the State Government, due to which State Government is facing difficulty in execution of those projects.

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to this question it has been stated by the Government that the figure regarding irrigation is prepared after excluding 25 per cent in the command areas or the irrigated areas. It means that the Government itself admits that 25 per cent lands of the command areas remain unirrigated. So I would like to know whether the Government would consider to waive of the irrigation cess or revenue levied on that 25 per cent unirrigated land?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Irrigation cess is levied by the State Government.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: He is asking about the general policy.

[Translation]

I would not like to comment on this because cess is levied by the State Government. There are certain provisions in the agreement made with the farmers or the cultivators in the command area, which are required to be followed. I think wherever such agreement is made there are Irrigation Panchayats and everything is done according

to that agreement. To levy the tax or not to levy is a state subject. Hence, I am not in a position to say anything regarding that.

SHRIMATI KESHARBAI SONAJI KSHIRSAGAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in our State Maharashtra the irrigated area is even less than 20 per cent. In the rural and hilly areas it is even less than 2 per cent. Keeping such circumstances in view, whether Government propose to conduct a special survey there?

MR. SPEAKER: In view of the lack of irrigation facility in Maharashtra do you propose to conduct any special survey there?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: On the basis of the question put by the hon. Member I will try to find out the facts and if found necessary certainly a special survey will be conducted.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply to a supplementary question stated that they consider only 75 per cent of command areas to be dependable irrigation areas. In reply to another supplementary question he said that as far as the question of waiving of irrigation cess is concerned it is a state subject and Central Government has nothing to do with it. It is decided according to the agreement reached between farmers and the State Government which provides irrigation facilities. Sir, since irrigation is a subject in the concurrent list, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Central Government would consider to issue some directives and guidelines to the State Governments for providing reliefs and benefits to the peasants of the command areas in general and those of the unirrigated areas in particular and for making such agreement under which revenue could be collected only from the irrigated land-holders not from those of unirrigated land and agreement between farmers and State Government should also be based on it.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, irrigation is not a subject in the

concurrent list. If the hon. Member makes his efforts to bring it into the concurrent list, then I will do my best whatever he wants in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: On the one side we are fighting for Cauvery waters in three States and on the other side the water is not available there. The water of Tapi river is not being fully utilised and the normal practice is to construct dams near the State where the river starts. On Tapi river it is the reverse case. The dam built on Tapi river is near Kakrapara because of some political reasons and the dam which was proposed in Khanjaguti and Navatha has not been started.

MR. SPEAKER: This is about unirrigated land in the entire country, not about a particular dam as such.

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: I want to know the policy of the Central Government about dams which are involved in inter-State financing. Khanjaguti and Navatha are having inter-State financing.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the policy of the Government of India, with respect to the financing of inter-State projects?

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: The Madhya Pradesh Government says that it is bordering seven States and that is why it is not able to contribute for the construction of Khanjaguti and Navatha projects.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Inter-state projects are taken up normally after an agreement between the States concerned and if there is agreement we take up such useful projects and complete them in time.

[*Translation*]

Bisalpur Project In Rajasthan

*104 **SHRI RAM BADAN:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ongoing Bisalpur project

(Tonk). In Rajasthan has been approved by the Union Government;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether environmental survey of this project has been conducted;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Union Government have accorded approval to the use of land for the construction of roads for the project;

(f) whether the Government have received some complaints regarding the project; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA):

(a) and (b). No, Sir. The modified Bisalpur Project Report estimated to cost Rs. 328 crores comprising water supply and irrigation components has been received only in November, 1991 in Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal.

(c) and (d). The State Government has entrusted the work of preparation of status report and action plan for environment and ecology to the Centre for Management studies, Harish Chand Mathur Rajasthan Institute of Public Administration.

(e) As the project is executed by the State Government, proposals for acquisition of land are not required to be looked into by the Union Government.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

SHRI RAM BADAN: Sir, the hon. Minister's reply is not satisfactory. This project was to be completed by June 1991 i.e. in five years. Its estimated cost was Rs. 52 crore in the beginning. But upto now Rs. 55 crore and 8 lakhs have been expended and even

one fourth part of its construction has not been completed yet. According to a new estimates now, it will cost Rs. 450 crore and is expected to be completed by June 1995. Even on the basis of the current figures the State Government will have to bear the additional loss of Rs. 400 crore due to this delay. Had it been completed in time, there would have been an income of Rs. 200 crore from the irrigation point of view. Thus, the State Government has incurred a total loss of Rs. 600 crore. Hence, I would like to know about the report which had been sought for?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we cannot initiate any action in this regard unless and until we get satisfactory report.

SHRI RAM BADAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that according to the report we have received Rs. 15 lakh have been spent but what are the reasons that the environmental report has not been received as yet?

[*English*]

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, I did not say that the report has not come. It is not satisfactory. Therefore, it was delayed. Unless it is done in a satisfactory manner, we would not undertake to do any work there.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AYUB KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you know there is acute shortage of water in Rajasthan. We have full confidence that being an able Minister we will get his full co-operation in regard to supply water to Rajasthan. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether water from Indira Gandhi Canal will be supplied to Jhun Jhunu and Sikar through the sawa scheme in Rajasthan...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This question is related to Bilaspur Project of Rajasthan. This cannot be allowed.

SHRI AYUB KHAN: But water is the

same...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, not like this.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The supplementary question should be relevant to the question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply to a question it has been stated that the revised report of the Bilaspur Project was received in November 1991. But is it not a fact that the preliminary report regarding that project was submitted many years ago for the approval of the Central Government and since then it has been pending?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the action had already been taken on the original report in the early 80's and even 50 per cent work was completed but later on some defect was detected in it. So a revised estimate and report was sought, which we have received this month. Whatever action has been taken on this will serve both the purposes, supply of drinking water to the town and irrigation to the fields. We shall try to complete this soon after studying the revised report submitted by the Rajasthan Government this month.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, basically the Bilaspur Project is meant for supplying drinking water to Ajmer city, Byawar, Naseerabad, Vijay Nagar and Kekri. As the Central Government itself shows a great concern over the problems of drinking water in Rajasthan and its solution. So, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Central Government after considering this report sympathetically would send it to Rajasthan Government soon and also give green signal from environment point of view so that this project is completed at the earliest and thereby the problem of drinking water may be solved in the State? Would he provide financial aid also for this purpose?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: We will do whatever we can.

[English]

Talks between Prime Minister of India and Pakistan at Harare

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*105 **SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA:**
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan during their visit to Harare for the Commonwealth Heads of Government meet held talks on various bilateral matters including the issue of supply of arms and encouragement to the militants by Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the follow up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was agreed that tensions should be eased and renewed efforts made to resolve all issues peacefully through bilateral negotiations. The Foreign Secretaries of the two countries, who met subsequently on October 30-31, 1991 agreed on several measures to carry the Confidence Building process and the bilateral dialogue forward.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: We are happy to hear from the Minister's answer to question (b) that the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries have met on October 30 and 31st. However, I do not know whether it is part of this confidence building process that they have talked about. On November 27 reportedly the Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad has made a statement about Pakistan giving the people of Kashmir full moral and political support in their demand for the right of self-determination. I want to know whether the Government is aware of this. And in view of

such statements being made, what are the specific measures which have been discussed by the two foreign Secretaries? I also want to know whether the Minister is aware that the Governor of Kashmir has made a statement that about 2500 militants are waiting to enter the Kashmir border and as a result of that, there has to be a selective, re-deployment of Army in Kashmir. Now, of course, as a precautionary measure, such military actions have to be taken so far as the re deployment of Army is concerned. But since the people of Pakistan and India have no interest in being hostile to each other in being unfriendly to each other, may I know, apart from the military measures, what other measures are being contemplated by the Government?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: It is true that the Pakistani leaders have off and on and always been making these statements and that is their position that they will provide political and diplomatic support to what they call the struggle in Kashmir for self-determination. Unfortunately, it does not end there. It goes further. While Pakistan denies that it is supporting militants and giving them encouragement as suggested by the second part of the supplementary, yet the evidence on the ground shows that this support is being given. This is against all international practice of conduct between states that is, supporting terrorism and subversion in another country. This is against the letter and spirit of the Simla Agreement. Therefore, while we are fighting on the ground against the threat posed by the terrorists which are supported from across the borders, we are taking diplomatic initiatives and political initiatives.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: What are those initiatives?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: The initiatives are being taken in bilateral contacts with different countries of the world as well as Pakistan. We have brought it to the notice of the Pakistani leadership at the highest level. Our own Prime Minister has brought it to the notice of the Pakistani Prime Minister in Harare. That was followed up in the meeting of the Foreign Secretaries. That was also followed up by our Foreign Minister

when he met the Pakistani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in New York when he was there to address the General Assembly. This is our approach towards Pakistan and towards different countries of the world. I am happy to inform the House that our democrats have yielded the results in the sense that countries which were dubious in their approach to this particular issue, now swear by the Simla Agreement, they feel that the issue must be settled bilaterally, peacefully and by negotiations.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: The second supplementary specifically relates to countries which the hon. Minister has said have been dubious in their approach.

MR. SPEAKER: You would be interested in giving the reply in a positive manner.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: It is true that it has been agreed by such countries that matters between India and Pakistan relating to Kashmir and Punjab should be bilaterally settled. But I would like to know whether or not by recommending Pakistan Prime Minister's proposal regarding the nuclear non proliferation treaty to India, US Government is trying to influence the bilateral negotiations. If that is so, how are we going to face this kind of an interference.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Our position on this is well-known to the House. We are for peace globally, we are for peace in this region and we will do all in this context which safeguards the national security and national interests.

As far as any sort of a regional arrangement for a nuclear free zone, is concerned, our views are well-known. By the very nature of nuclear weapons, the approach has to be global. A regional approach will not do.

Now when you are speaking about the recent visit of the representatives from United States Administration and when you are speaking about the views of United States Administration, the view is that they support

all confidence building measures to defuse tensions in this region, all confidence building measures between India and Pakistan including the confidence building measures in the nuclear field.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is related to the recent Harare Summit. It is about the Indo-Pak relations in context of Pakistan's moral support and arms supply to the terrorists of Jammu-Kashmir and Punjab. I would like to know from the hon. Minister in clear terms as to whether the Indian Prime Minister asked his Pakistani counterpart for giving a concrete assurance and undertaking to stop the arms supply to the terrorists of Jammu-Kashmir and Punjab or not when they met each other in Harare, if not, the reasons therefor?

[*English*]

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, the answer is 'Yes'. The Prime Minister in Harare when he met his counterpart from Pakistan, did raise this issue and mentioned that this is the major obstacle really to normalisation of relations with Pakistan. This was followed-up and is followed-up at all meetings and subsequent meetings which he has mentioned and it is really a major obstacle.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek one re-conciliation and one clarification from the hon. Minister of State. Post Harare, the Prime Minister was good enough to describe his talks with Mian Nawaz Sharif, the hon. Prime Minister of Pakistan, in extremely eulogistic terms and he categorised them as "very satisfactory". Almost simultaneously, the Defence Minister expressed his great concern about Pakistan's continued assistance in Jammu and Kashmir, in Punjab to terrorists etc. Therefore, would the Government reconcile its stand? Is the Prime Minister's satisfaction with Harare talks with Mian Nawaz Sharif the Government's stand or is the Defence Minister's expression of concern about Pakistan's continued assistance is the Government

stand? That is one reconciliation.

The second clarification that I seek is this. The hon. Minister himself introduced the aspect of Foreign Secretaries level discussions at the end of October. What are the components of the confidence building measures that were discussed, what are the various confidence building measures; and is there any progress on any of those confidence building measures?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, the hon. Member seeks a reconciliation between the statement of the Prime Minister and the statement of the Defence Minister. In substance, the reconciliation that the hon. Member seeks is between the words of the Pakistani leadership and the deeds on the ground and that is precisely what the problem is. While at the political level, at the official level they keep on harping on this that we must start a new era of cooperation and they will stop and they will not support terrorism; on the ground the reality is different and from all evidence the support to terrorism continues.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: That is not my question.

MR. SPEAKER: He has answered very ably.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: The second point the hon. Member wanted to find out is what is the nature of the confidence building measures. What has been achieved out of the discussions on the components of confidence building measures is the following:

"Agreements have been worked out on notification of military exercises, and on prevention of airspace violation by military aircraft."

Since January 1, 1991, the Directors-General of Military Operations of the two countries have initiated regular weekly contact. Instruments of ratification of the Agreement on prohibition of attack against nuclear installations and facilities were

exchanged on 27th February, 1991. Pakistan still has some reservations regarding joint border patrolling. A military delegation from India visited Pakistan from September 24 to 27....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I think it need not be read out fully.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: If you want, Sir, I can lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I seek your indulgence, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, there are other Members also who want to ask questions on this.

SHRI ANANDGAJAPATI RAJU POOSAPATI: Sir, we find that Pakistan is in a bind because of the Pressler Amendment which has not been brought in and the certification by the United States' President that Pakistan is non-nuclear. So, what they are trying to do is to put India in a bind by, on one side, saying that they want a nuclear-free zone in south Asia and, at the same time, asking India to sign the NPT. Thus, they are compelling India in a bind. So, I would like to know what are the steps the Government is going to take to see that India is not put in a bind by the proposal of Nawaz Sharif to make South Asia a nuclear-free zone and by the American effort to make us sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, our position is and has been that we are for disarmament and specifically for nuclear disarmament. But we feel and we believe and it is true that by the very nature of nuclear weapons, their reach and impact is global. In this context, at the special conference of the United Nations on disarmament, our late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi, who attended the special conference, had made a specific proposal for global disarmament, which is very realistic and very appropriate. We have made it clear to everyone concerned; therefore, that whether it is the Pakistani proposal or any other such proposal - because they are

regional while nuclear weapons are global and the nuclear question is global in its nature and impact - that proposal will not be really workable.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Mr. speaker, Sir, since the hon. Minister is fresh from his SAARC visit, I would like to know what are the concrete results of the various diplomatic, political and, of course, economic initiatives which he has taken that we got precisely three votes in the United Nations and our traditional friends Soviet Union, Ukraine and Bylorussia also voted against us as proposal put forward at the Pakistan's initiative was passed by the United Nations General Assembly by 103:3 votes. Does this Government consider this as the achievement and does this Government consider that Pakistan will not supply arms and not extend other facilities to the terrorists in Punjab and Kashmir? I would also like to know what has happened during the talk which the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister had with their new-found common patron, the State Department of the Government of America.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, my illustrious predecessor is obviously speaking about the Soviet vote, particularly on the question of Pakistani proposal.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: It is 103:3.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Yes, of course. They were there during my colleague's time and others' time also. Now, Sir, what it shows is that they are for nuclear disarmament and they see regional arrangements, perhaps in their own perception, as ~~won~~ while.... (Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: We are not lovers of such a strange choice of words, Sir. The Government of India has expressed its anguish. This is no way to express discontent to a foreign country.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: However, Sir, the point is that the Soviet Union, as far as the Kashmir question is concerned - as

distinguished from nuclear disarmament which is a broader question swears by the Shimla Agreement - this is the October position which is the latest - and feels that it must be solved bilaterally and peacefully.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: That is precisely what I was referring to as an achievement of our diplomatic efforts. More and more countries are actually coming around and have come around to this position.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Sir, I will ask a very small question. I think that China is also an important factor in the relationship between India and Pakistan. I am straight away asking the hon. Minister, whether the Government will use the opportunity of the visit of Chinese Premier to India and take up this issue bilaterally so that some moral or diplomatic pressure is put on Pakistan?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: We have noted your suggestion for action and we will consider it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

(English)

Setting up of an Oil Refinery in Orissa

*101. **SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:**
DR. KARTIKESHWAR PATRA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought any foreign collaboration for setting up an Oil Refinery in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the place where this refinery is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Postponement of Sixth SAARC Summit

*106. SHRIC.P.MUDALAGIRIYAPPA:
SHRISANATKUMARMANDAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sixth SAARC Summit scheduled to take place at Colombo had to be postponed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the alternate date fixed for the Summit;

(d) whether India was consulted before the postponement;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Sri Lanka held India responsible for the postponement of the said summit;

(g) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(h) whether the postponement of the Summit is likely to affect the regional balance in South Asia?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (h). The Sixth SAARC Summit was scheduled to be held at Colombo on November 7 to 9. However, on November 1, Member states were informed that the king of Bhutan would be unable to attend the said Summit on account of unforeseen problems.

The President of the Maldives in his capacity as Chairman of SAARC, carried out consultations with other Heads of State/Heads of Government on this Summit. After giving careful thought to the views expressed to him by Heads of State/Government, he

came to the conclusion on November 6 that the Sixth Summit could not be held on schedule as Bhutan would not be represented at the Head of State or Government level. At the same time, he expressed the hope that after further consultations in the near future, the Heads of State/Government of the SAARC Member States may be able to agree on fresh dates for the Sixth SAARC Summit.

Following this advice, President Gayoom has already initiated consultations with Heads of State/Government on the possibility of convening a short, functional Summit in Colombo, preferably during the current calendar year. For this purpose, he sent his Foreign Minister, Mr. Fathulla Jameel, to India from 19 to 21 November as his Special Envoy to consult with EAM and PM on this question. We conveyed to him our hope that it would be possible to hold a Summit Meeting on the kind proposed during the year.

India's view as conveyed to the SAARC Chairman, President Gayoom, on the possibility of convening the Summit in the absence of one of the Heads of State or Government was that this would not conform to propriety or principle.

We have seen the statement made on November 12 by the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, Mr. Harold Herat. It is not our intention to comment in any detail on the statement since we would not wish to add to the element of acrimony which has been needlessly injected into SAARC affairs. We should prefer to let the facts speak for themselves.

The postponement of the Summit is not likely to affect the regional balance in South Asia.

[Translation]

Oil and Natural Gas Reserves in Bihar

*107. SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: [Translation]

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has discerned great prospects of oil and natural gas reserves in areas of Madhubani, Purnia, East and West Champaran districts of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the scheme proposed to be formulated by the Government for exploring the oil and natural gas in those areas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, exploration for hydrocarbons is in progress in various parts of Bihar.

[English]

Price of Poultry, Eggs

*108. **SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH**: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of poultry eggs in the country is higher than the price prevailing in International Market;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring down the price?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Allotment of Petrol/Diesel Retail outlets and LPG Agencies to SC/ST

*109. **SHRIMRUTYUNJAYANAYAK: SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:**

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG agencies in the country, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the number out of these allotted to the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(c) whether the allotment made to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes is in conformity with their reservation quota; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). As on 1-10-91, there were 15077 petrol diesel retail outlets and 3999 LPG distributorships in the country, of which 980 retail outlets and 651 distributorships pertained to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(c) and (d), The prescribed percentage reservation for different categories including SC/ST is maintained by the oil industry for each State/Union Territory on the basis of a 100 point roster adopted on a rolling basis while preparing the marketing plans.

The progress is monitored.

STATEMENT

State	LPG		Retail Outlet	
	Total	SC/ST	Total	SC/ST
Andhra Pradesh	337	47	1192	74
Arunachal Pradesh	12	5	26	20
Assam	108	17	321	25
Bihar	143	28	912	55
Goa	29	3	65	4
Gujarat	292	42	965	59
Haryana	119	23	491	35
Himachal Pradesh	39	7	76	8
Jammu & Kashmir	55	5	115	3
Karnataka	238	41	925	48
Kerala	171	37	698	29
Madhya Pradesh	217	34	868	34
Maharashtra	550	70	1521	64
Manipur	9	3	28	10

State	LPG		Retail Outlet	
	Total	SCST	Total	SCST
Meghalaya	14	5	48	22
Mizoram	10	3	12	8
Nagaland	14	6	26	9
Orissa	82	16	325	31
Rajasthan	171	30	893	83
Sikkim	2	-	9	1
Tamil Nadu	305	57	1402	110
Tripura	11	4	29	3

[English]

Reduction in prices of Petrol and Petroleum Products

*110. SHRI KARIA MUNDA:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS to be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the prices of diesel, petrol and petroleum products raised during the Gulf war; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) does not arise.

[Translation]

Central Funds for control of Water Logging in Bihar

*111. SHRI SHEDI PASWAN:
SHRI RAM TAHAL
CHOUHARY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES to be pleased to state:

(a) the funds sanctioned by the Union Government for control of water-logging in Bihar, through the special Task Force, during the last two years;

(b) whether the full amount has been released;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the amount actually released for that purpose; and

(d) whether the Government propose to increase the amount of Central grants and loans in view of the severity of water-logging in the State?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). No separate funds the schemes to control water logging in Bihar as identified by the Task Force, have been sanctioned by the Union Government. The work is to be carried out by the State from their Plan funds. Assistance is given to the States as block grants and is not tied to any specific sector including flood sector.

(d) No, Sir.

[English]

Enhancement in Visa Fee

*112. SHRI V.S. VUAYARAGHVAN:
SHRI BHUVNESHVAR
PRASAD MEHTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to enhance the visa fee recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this will affect our tourism industry adversely;

(d) whether the Government propose to reconsider its decision particularly in regard to tourists;

(e) whether any representation has been received by the Indian Embassies in Singapore and Malaysia on this issue; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Visa fee which prior to November 91 was different for different nationalities and differed for single/double/triple/multiple entries has been now rationalised. It now

depends upon duration of its validity. Reasons for increase in visa fee are:

- (i) In 1990 the visa regime was liberalised and the duration of visa was extended upto 5 years but the visa fee was not appropriately increased.
- (ii) The recent devaluation of Indian rupee made it imperative to revise the visa fee upwards.
- (iii) Indian visa fee was reduced unnaturally in favour of nationals of UK, USA, FRG, France, Spain, Italy and Netherlands. But these countries did not reciprocate to our action.
- (iv) Increasing local cost of running consular and visa services at Mission Post abroad.
- (v) Mobilising funds for proper staffing and modernisation of Consular Section in our Mission abroad, for further improving the quality of services.

(c) Visa fee is a very small fraction of total expenses incurred by a tourist. The upward revision of visa fee therefore, may not materially affect the tourism industry adversely. Tourists are not attracted so much by low visa fee as by internal peace and tranquillity, tourist value of a country, tourist infrastructure, expeditious special services to tourists etc.

(d) Government policies are reviewed from time to time.

(e) and (f), Yes, Sir. A few representations have been received by Indian Embassies in Singapore and Malaysia. Details are awaited.

**Funds for Command area
development Programme in
Maharashtra**

*113. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the

Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds have been obtained from the European Economic Community or other international institutions for the implementation of the Command Area Development Programme in the Konkan region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure proper utilisation of such funds?

**THE MINISTER OF WATER
RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN
SHUKLA):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Agreement was signed in October 1988 with European Economic Community for assistance of 15 million ECU (Rupees Twenty two crores) for development of water control system for diversification of crops in Konkan region of Maharashtra.

(c) Government of Maharashtra has been advised to provide additional staff and additional funds, and to prepare additional new schemes according to a specified time schedule.

**Foreign Collaboration for
Exploitation of Natural Gas**

*114. SHRI SHANKERSINH
VAGHELA:
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for collaboration of Oil and Natural Gas Commission/Gas Authority of India with France for providing technology for exploitation of natural gas available in South India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is

expected to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

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

[*Translation*]

Damage caused by Earthquake

*115. SHRI SIMON MARANDI:
SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR
SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States/Union Territories rocked by the earthquake on October 20, 1991 and after shocks thereafter;

(b) the estimated loss caused by the earthquake to property, crops, livestock;

(c) the number of persons killed, injured and rendered homeless in each affected State/Union Territory;

(d) the Central assistance sought by each such State/Union Territory and the amount actually released;

(e) the State/Union Territory visited by the Central Team (s) in this regard;

(f) the follow up taken by the Union Government on the report of the Central Team(s);

(g) the total aid received from various sources for the relief of the earthquake victims; and

(h) the relief measures taken by various voluntary organisations and the Government?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) An earthquake occurred in the very early hours of October 20, 1991 in the west Uttar Pradesh

Hills. The impact of this earthquake was felt more severely in Garhwal Region of Uttar Pradesh. Its impact was also felt in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Delhi. India Meteorological Department's seismological Observatory at Delhi has recorded 56 aftershocks till 17th November, 1991.

(b) and (c) Though the impact of this earthquake was also felt in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Jammu Kashmir and Union Territory of Delhi but no damage is reported to have taken place in these States/Union Territories. The State of Himachal Pradesh reported the death of one person, injury to six persons and damage to three houses only. The exact details of the damage caused by earthquake in Garhwal Region of Uttar Pradesh are still being assessed by the State Government. The details of damage so far reported by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh are at statement below.

(d) The State of Uttar Pradesh, where extensive damage has been caused by the earthquake, are yet to submit a memorandum seeking Central assistance over and above the amount available in the State Calamity Relief Fund for 1991-92. The question of seeking assistance by other States/Union Territories does not arise, since no damage had taken place in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Delhi. Himachal Pradesh Government also did not seek any Central assistance as the damage caused by earthquake was insignificant.

(e) and (f). Under the existing scheme of Financing the Relief expenditure, the earlier procedure of sending the Central Teams to the States in the wake of natural calamities has been done away with from 1.4.1990. The Central Teams are deputed to the States only when a State seeks assistance over and above the amount available under the Calamity Relief Fund by treating a particular Calamity as a calamity of rare severity. In the wake of recent earthquake only Central Reconnaissance Team visited earthquake affected areas in

Garhwal Regional to have first hand information about the impact of earthquake, relief measures being undertaken by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and the immediate assistance required by them. The report submitted by the Reconnaissance Team was preliminary in nature.

(g) and (h). Non-Governmental agencies are routing the relief material through Indian Red Cross Society, State Government of

Uttar Pradesh and their Own channels. The details of assistance being provided by the various sources for the relief of the earthquake victims are, therefore, not available at one place. The details of the assistance provided by the Central Ministries/ Department so far are at statement and the relief measures being taken by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh are at statement below.

STATEMENT I

Extent of Damage due to Earthquake in Uttar Pradesh

District	No. of Villages affected	Population affected (in lakh)	No. of Houses damaged	No. of Persons died	(Provisional)		No. of Cattle Heads lost (Big & Small)
					No. of Persons injured	No. of Persons injured	
1	2	3	4	5	6	6	7
Uttarkashi	175	1.35	24,000 (14,000-F) (10,000-P)	703	4,678	4,678	3,000
Tehri Garhwal	605	1.00	10,278 (4,000-F) (6,278-P)	63	367	367	71
Chamoli	413	0.72	7,184 (573-F) (6,611-P)	2	18	18	18
Dehradun	101	N.A.	458 (64-F) (394-P)	-	-	-	9
Pauri Garhwal	-	N.A.	474 (34-F) (440-P)	-	3	3	5
Nainital	-	N.A.	6 (2-F) (4-P)	-	-	-	N.A.
Total	1,294	3.07	42,400 (18,673-F) (23,727-P)	768	5,066	5,066	3,096

- Fully
- Partially

STATEMENT II**Details of the Assistance provided by various Central Government Department**

1. Ministry of Food allocated additional 5,000 tonnes each of wheat and rice.
2. Air Force made available 6 Chetak and 2 MIT helicopters for relief and rescue operations.
3. Border Road Organisation repaired the damaged roads under their charge and made them motorable on priority basis.
4. Ministry of Communication provided STD facilities to Uttarkashi, Tehri and Chamoli districts on emergency basis. They also repaired all the nine damaged telephone exchanges and made operational by 2nd November, 1991.
5. Ministry of Health maintained close liaison with the state health authorities to ensure medical aid to the affected people. Relief articles comprising of blankets, woolen garments, milk powder, high protein biscuits, polythene sheets and C.I. sheets for roofing material etc. valued at Rs. 67.05 lakhs got despatched through Indian Red Cross Society with assistance from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund, other sources and the Society.
6. Rs. 80.00 lakhs were sanctioned to the State Govt. from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.
7. Rs. 25.00 crores were released as ways and Means advance to the State Government.
8. National Housing Bank released Rs. 10.00 crores to UP Land

Development Bank and Rs. 10.00 crores to HUDCO as a part of assistance of Rs. 30.00 crores proposed to be provided to State Govt. of UP for undertaking reconstruction of houses in affected areas.

9. Ministry of Rural Development released Rs. 6.51 crores under JRY for the three affected districts of Uttarkashi, Tehri and Chamoli. In addition, Rs. 5.80 crores were also released as additional assistance under Indira Avas Yojana for construction/repair of houses in the earthquake affected areas.
10. Ministry of power undertook repair of damaged transmission lines and made them functional on priority basis.
11. A sum of Rs. 8.00 lakhs has been sanctioned to the State Govt. from Indian People's Natural Calamity Trust.
12. Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas assured adequate availability of petroleum products in the affected areas.

STATEMENT III**Details of the Relief measures undertaken by Government of Uttar Pradesh in the earthquake affected areas.**

Commissioner, Meerut and District Magistrate, Dehradun have been nominated as Nodal Officers to coordinate relief measures with other Departments and Agencies.

Control Rooms are functioning round the clock at the State headquarters as well as Dehradun, Uttarkashi, Tehri Garhwal and Chamoli districts.

- Concerned District Magistrates have been authorised to draw the amount needed for relief work from Government Treasury.
- State Government has allocated Rs. 332.70 lakhs to Uttarkashi, Rs. 162.17 lakhs to Tehri, Rs. 92.60 lakhs to Chamoli, Rs. 7.70 lakhs to Dehradun and Rs. 4.60 lakhs to Pauri Garhwal for immediate relief.
- An amount of Rs. 747.00 lakhs allocated to various Departments for repairs/reconstruction of damaged properties.
- 7 mobile vehicles of essential commodities are deputed in different affected areas.
- 232 Medical Teams are working in these areas.
- 15 relief camps in Uttarkashi, 4 in Tehri and 5 in Chamoli have been opened.
- 20 Kg. of foodgrains distributed free of cost to each affected family.
- Ex-gratia payment of Rs. 20,000/- in case of each of death, Rs. 5,000/- in case of each seriously injured person and Rs. 2,000/- in case of each minor injured person.
- Rs. 20,000/- for each of fully damaged house and Rs. 5,000/- for each of partially damaged houses are undertaking repairs/reconstruction work. The assistance of Rs. 20,000/- consists of Rs. 10,000/- cash, Rs. 3,000/- for tin-shed and Rs. 7,000/- for timber.
- State Forest Department has distributed 534 Sq. Metres wood to Uttarkashi, 471 Sq. Metres to Tehri and 22 Sq. Metres to Chamoli for its use in building the houses.

- Assistance as house subsidy, gratuitous relief and ex-gratia payment has been provided amounting to Rs. 269.16 lakhs in Uttarakashi, Rs. 107.03 lakhs in Tehri and Rs. 94.15 lakhs in Chamoli.
- Kerosine, flour, Rice, And Salt also being distributed.
- 33,605 numbers of Tarpaulines supplied to the affected districts.
- 67,354 numbers of Blankets supplied to the affected districts.

[English]

Commonwealth Heads of Government meet at Harare

*116. SHRIDILEEP SINGH BHURIA:
SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR
SHARMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the subjects discussed at the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet (CHOGM) at Harare;

(b) the decision arrived at;

(c) the part played by the Indian delegation;

(d) whether the issues such as linking of economic aid to human rights and democratic reforms were also raised at the meeting; and

(e) if so the stand taken by India on these issues and the recommendations made by the CHOGM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDURDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e). A Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) was held at Harare from October 16-22. The Central theme of the

Meeting was the 'Role of the Commonwealth in the 1990s and beyond'. Other major subjects discussed were: Global political trends in the light of recent changes in international relations, South Africa, disarmament, Uruguay Round, Environment and Commonwealth Functional Cooperation.

The Harare Declaration reaffirms traditional emphasis on such issues as the struggle against apartheid and cooperation for development; at the same time it stresses the importance of democratic institutions, human rights and the rule of law.

On South Africa, the CHOGM endorsed the recommendations of the New Delhi meeting of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers for a 'programmed management' and phased easing of sanctions.

The Indian delegation led by the Prime Minister, and which included the External Affairs Minister, played an active and constructive part. As a lead speaker on Global Political Review, the Prime Minister put across the perspective of the developing countries on the challenges of a changing world. The Indian Delegation contributed to securing a balanced declaration in line with our view of the future priorities of the Commonwealth.

The issues such as linking of economic aid to human rights were raised by some countries. Many countries, including India, do not consider such linkages appropriate. The CHOGM Communiqué does not contain any reference to such linkages.

Revision in Price of Steel

* 117. SHRI CHETAN P.S.
CHAUHAN:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHLIA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. and the Tata Iron & Steel Company

Limited have approached the Union Government for revision in the price of steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Steel Authority of India has forwarded the proposal for revision of steel prices to the Ministry of steel. Tata Iron & Steel Company has forwarded the same to Chairman, Joint Plant Committee (JPC).

(b) It is not in the public interest to disclose the details.

(c) The proposals are under examination by the JPC.

Drought in Maharashtra and Gujarat

* 118. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:
SHRI RAM NAIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra and Gujarat are facing unprecedented drought conditions at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these States have sought additional assistance from the Union Government to tackle the situation; and

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b). The State Government of Maharashtra reported that drought conditions have affected 12607 villages in 19 districts 141.47 lakh population and cropped area of 58.6 lakh hectares.

Government of Gujarat has reported that about 10,000 villages in 16 districts are

facing drought conditions.

(c) and (d). The State Government of Maharashtra submitted a Memorandum seeking additional Central assistance of Rs. 576.58 crores for 1991-92 and Rs. 212.83 crores for 1992-93 for meeting expenditure on management of drought. Request of the State Government has been considered in the light of existing policy for financing relief expenditure and it was felt that no additional Central assistance can be provided for this purpose at this juncture. The State Government of Maharashtra has been advised to meet the expenditure on management of the drought out of the corpus of the Calamity Relief Fund. Ministry of Finance has been requested to release the fourth installment of the Central share of the Calamity Relief Fund amounting to Rs. 8.25 crores in advance which in normal course would have been released in January, 1992.

The State Government of Gujarat has written to this Ministry on 23.11.1991 seeking additional Central assistance of about Rs. 600.00 crores for drought relief operations. The request of the State Government of Gujarat is being examined in the light of the existing policy for financing relief expenditure.

Draft National Policy on Agriculture

*119. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:
SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the State Governments/ Union Territories and Agricultural Universities have forwarded their comments to the Union Government on the Draft National Policy on Agriculture;

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

(c) the likely date by which the Government propose to introduce this policy and the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b).
Fourteen States/Union Territories and nine

agricultural universities have sent their comments so far. They have generally agreed with the broad framework of the policy and have made suggestions which are mostly in the nature of specific programmes relating to geographical and functional areas.

(c) State Governments/Agricultural Universities have been again reminded to send their comments immediately.

Further action on the draft Agricultural Policy Resolution will be taken after the receipt of comments from the State Governments.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects and Dams in Uttar Pradesh

*120. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD:
Will the Minister of WATER
RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the irrigation projects and dams in Uttar Pradesh pending clearance with the Union Government;

(b) whether some of these proposals pertain to the districts of Bundelkhand region in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons for delay in according clearance to these projects and the time by which they are likely to be cleared;

(e) whether some of the ongoing projects in the state are running behind schedule;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(g) the extent of cost escalation as a result of delay?

THE MINISTER OF WATER
RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN
SHUKLA): (a) to (g). A Statement I & II are
laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT-I

*Status of Appraisal of Major and Medium Irrigation Projects of Uttar Pradesh with Reference to Parts (a) to (d) of the question
(Cost in Rs. Lakhs/benefit in thousand hectares)*

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Districts Benefitted	Estimated Cost	Expenditure Incurred upto 3/91	Benefits	Date of Receipt	Status of Appraisal
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Major Projects							
1.	Bewar Feeder Project	Etah	2537.00	2384.00	9.80	9/88	Considered by the Advisory Committee in 1/90. The State Government is required to finalise water availability, design flood, water requirement and working tables.
2.	Raighat Canal Project	Jhansi Lalitpur	7828.25	3837.00	109.05	9/88	Comments on basic aspects like Irrigation Planning, Canal design, conjunctive use and cost estimate sent to State Government for compliance.
3.	Bansagar Canal Project	Allahabad Mirzapur	10927.00	591.00	150.132	6/89	Considered by the Advisory Committee in 7/90. The State Government is required to obtain clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forests and concurrence of Government of Bihar.
4.	Uttar Pradesh Composite Irrigation Project (Modernisation of Upper Mathura, Meerut Ganga Canal).	Aligarh, Bulandshahr, Etah, Ghaziabad,	48500.00	21913.00	35.00	3/91	Considered by the Technical Advisory committee in 9/90 for Rs. 48600.00 lakhs, updated estimate of the project received in 3/91 is being processed.

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Districts Benefitted	Estimated Cost	Expenditure Incurred upto 3/91	Benefits	Date of Receipt	Status of Appraisal
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Gyanpur Pump Canal	Aliahabad, Mirzapur Varanasi.	17051.00	5299.00	65.44	4/89	Accepted by the Advisory committee in 3/91. The State Government is required to submit concurrence of State Finance Department for latest estimated cost.
6.	Majdaha Dam Project	Hamirpur	6682.00	5079.00	27.70	3/90	The State Government is required to comply with the observations on Irrigation aspects cost estimates and environmental issues.
7.	Raising Meja Dam	Aliahabad Mirzapur	4032.00	3766.00	47.96	11/90	Accepted by the Advisory Committee in 3/86, with certain observations. Compliance of State Government in the form of updated report received in November, 1990.
8.	Hindon Krishin Doab	Meerut, Muzaffarnagar	1644.15	316.00	8.50	4/86	The State Government is required to send compliance to the observations of Central Water Commission on Irrigation planning, financial and cost aspects and conjunctive use of surface and ground water.

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Districts Benefitted	Estimated Cost	Expenditure Incurred upto 3/91	Benefits	Date of Receipt	Status of Appraisal
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Medium Projects

1.	Pathral Dam Project	Jhansi	1254.00	337.00	2.80	12/90	Techno-economic appraisal completed for consideration of Advisory committee.
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Note: 1. Clearance of projects depends upon the compliance to the observations by the State Government as acceptable to the Central Appraising Agencies, resolution of Inter-State issues and availability of environmental and/or forest clearance.

2. Districts of Jhansi, Lalitpur, Hamirpur fall in Bundelkhand region.

STATEMENT-II

Status of ongoing Major and Medium Irrigation Projects of Uttar Pradesh with Reference to paras (e) to (g) of the question

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Date of Commencement (Plan)	Approved Estimated Cost	Schedule of completion (Plan)	Latest estimated cost (1989-90)	Expenditure upto March, 1991	Outlay for 1991-92
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
World Bank assisted Project							
1.	Modernisation of Upper Ganga Canal (1st time slice)	IX	249.77	IX	397.70	219.13	76.00
Multipurpose projects							
1.	Tehri Dam	IV	197.92	IX	284.77	156.02	0.05
2.	Lakhwar Vyasi Dam Irrigation Department share	V	147.97	IX	283.45	169.79	30.00
Other Projects							
3.	Gandak Project	II	50.38	VIII	140.42	127.74	6.00
4.	Sardar Sahayak	II	199.87	VIII	1102.02	707.51	42.99
5.	Madhya Ganga Canal	V	66.01	VIII	356.55	261.00	27.00
6.	Saryu Nahar Pariyojna	V	78.68	Spillover to IX	1010.00	317.60	40.00
7.	Eastern Ganga Canal	V	48.46	VIII	223.53	133.91	20.00

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Date of Commencement (Plan)	Approved Estimated Cost	Schedule of completion estimated (Plan)	Latest completion estimated cost (1989-90)	Expenditure upto March, 1991	Outlay for 1991-92
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	Remodelling of Bhim Goda Barrage	V	17.45	VIII	34.12	33.60	0.52
9.	Rajghat Dam	V	61.60	VIII	106.83	84.80	6.00
10.	Rajghat Canal	V	20.00	Spillover to IX	110.87	38.37	10.00
11.	Jamranti Dam	V	61.25	Spillover to IX	117.00	16.64	8.00
12.	Bansagar Dam Uttar Pradesh share	V	22.82	VIII	112.00	52.35	5.00
13.	Increasing Capacity of Narain Pur Pump Canal	V	9.96	VIII	51.65	39.33	6.25
14.	Urmil Dam	V	8.56	VIII	23.23	17.06	4.00
15.	Sone Pump Canal	V	5.67	VIII	57.22	38.24	1.12
16.	Mawdaha Dam	V	26.75	VIII	69.54	50.79	13.50
17.	Jewar Feeder	78-79	17.48	VIII	29.74	23.84	3.50
18.	Raising Meja Dam	V	15.00	VIII	37.66	37.66	.
19.	Kanhar Irrigation	V	55.80	Spillover to IX	150.21	32.93	0.50
20.	Increasing Capacity of Zamania Pump Canal	V	15.53	VIII	38.78	31.31	7.47

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Date of Commencement (Plan)	Approved Estimated Cost	Schedule of completion estimated (Plan)	Latest cost (1989-90)	Expenditure upto March, 1991	Outlay
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
21.	New Okhla Barrage	V	25.37	VIII	66.84	48.33	-
22.	Gyan Pur Pump Canal	76-77	17.86	VIII	99.13	52.99	8.00
23.	Chambal Lift Scheme	78-79	25.65	VIII	22.00	3.16	0.50
24.	Providing Paddy Channel	78-79	25.65	VIII	22.00	3.16	0.50
25.	Increasing Capacity of Benkali Pump Canal	IV	14.29	VIII	35.33	35.33	-
Medium Schemes							
1.	Remodelling of Ken Canal	69-70	0.48	VIII	3.43	3.69	0.25
2.	Chittorgarh Reservoir	V	1.05	VIII	21.06	19.54	3.96
3.	Kishanpur Pump Canal	IV	1.34	VIII	19.43	20.79	2.05
4.	Yamuna Pump Canal	V	4.46	VIII	15.54	16.69	-
5.	Revised Tons Pump Canal	V	1.75	VIII	17.10	21.66	2.00
6.	Revised Kiwana Pump Canal	V	0.80	VIII	16.37	13.38	1.50

Note: The completion of projects has been delayed due to inadequate allocation of funds, land acquisition problems and non-availability of scarce materials such as Cement, Diesel, and steel.

[English]

**Denial of Visa by Pakistan to
Indian Pilgrims**

1115. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware
of recent reports on Pakistan's refusal to
grant visas to 400 Indian pilgrims to visit
Katasraj in that country:

(b) if so, whether the Government have
taken up the matter with Pakistan;

(c) if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(d) whether any memorandum of
understanding was signed with Pakistan to
allow such visits to various places in both the
countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI
EDURDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e). The Protocol
on visits to Religious Shrines, signed between
India and Pakistan in September, 1974,
provides for pilgrims from either country to
visit specified shrines in the other country. At
the meeting of the India-Pakistan Joint
Commission in July 1989, it was further
agreed that there would be two visits to
Katasraj every year, with each visiting group
comprising 200 pilgrims. One such visit was
scheduled for 20-25 October, 1991. On
October 15, 1991, Government of Pakistan
informed us that the proposed dates for the
visit to Katasraj were coinciding with those
proposed for another visit by Indian pilgrims
to Hayat Pitafi, and that it was difficult to
organise two visits at the same time. Since
the late cancellation would have caused
inconvenience to the intending pilgrims, at
Government's request the Government of
Pakistan subsequently agreed to the visit.
Due to the short time available, however,
only 52 pilgrims could undertake the journey.

Utilisation of Irrigation Potential

116. SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Will

the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be
pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a gap between the
creation and utilisation of irrigation potential
in the country under major, medium and
minor irrigation projects; and

(b) if so, the break-up thereof during the
last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WATER
RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN
SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cumulative gap in utilisation of
irrigation potential at the end of the last three
years was an under:-

(in million ha.)

	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91
Major & Irrigation	4.75	4.10	4.09
Minor Irrigation	3.06	3.18	3.48

**Acquisition of Land by Public Sector
Steel Plants**

1117. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will
the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land acquired for public
sector steel plants, plant-wise;

(b) the area of land actually being utilized
at present and the area unutilized in each
plant;

(c) the ultimate purpose for which the
plant concerned proposes to make use of
the unutilised land; and

(d) whether the plants propose to utilise
these lands for any other productive purpose,
directly or indirectly, during the Interim
period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH
MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). The details are
as given below:

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of the Steel Plant	Area Acquired (Acres)	Area Actually utilised (Acres)	Area Unutilised (Acres)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Steel Authority of India Ltd. & subsidiaries			
1.	Bhilai Steel Plant	22,369.76	18,933.22	3,436.54
2.	Durgapur Steel Plant	16,424.00	10,816.00	5,608.00
3.	Rourkela Steel Plant	19,785.22	11,202.00	8,583.22
4.	Bokaro Steel Plant	31,030.47	31,030.47	...
5.	Indian Iron & Steel Company Ltd.	3,092.39	2,776.31	316.08
6.	Alloy Steel plant	1,154.51	1,154.51	...
7.	Salem Steel Plant	3,962.70	2,729.00	1,233.70
8.	Visveswaraya Iron and Steel Company Ltd.	2,211.00	1,402.00	80.00
2.	Visakhapatnam Steel Plant	8,456.32	8,456.32	...
3.	Vijayanagar Steel Plant	9,341.73	10.00	9,331.73
4.	Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd.	16.74	16.74	...

(c) and (d). Individual steel plants of SAIL have plans to use the unutilised acquired lands for further expansion programmes as and when resources permit. Details are given in statement below. In respect of Vijayanagar Steel Plant, the land acquired has remained unutilised as an investment decision on this project is awaited.

STATEMENT

1. **Bhilai Steel Plant:** The vacant land of 3436.54 acres is proposed to be utilised for future expansion of the plant and expansion of township facilities.

2. **Durgapur Steel Plant:** The vacant land of 5608 acres is proposed to be used for expansion of plant, expansion of township, ancillary industries, afforestation, environmental parks, etc.

3. **Rourkela Steel Plant:** Out of 19,785.22 acres of land acquired by RSP, 3788.06 acres is in the process of being handed over to the State Government. So the land with RSP is 15,997.16 acres. Out of this unutilised land, 1887.06 acres is covered under lagoons, hills, nallahs, sewerage line, buffer zone for railway track, air tunnel for airport belt. Area already eroded by rivers and area required for ring road and green belt are also covered under this. Thus, the balance land is only 2,958.10 acres. Out of this, 1172.25 acres is available in the plant zone and 1785.85 acres in the township zone, which are required for future expansion and modernisation schemes of the plant and for expansion of township respectively.

4. **Indian Iron and Steel Company:** The acquired but unutilised land of 316.18 acres is meant for modernisation of IISCO which would consist of adding additional units like coke ovens, Blast Furnaces, Sinter Plant, Steel Melting Shop, Railway yards, Raw Materials storage yards, dumping yards, etc. which will be built on the entire acquired land.

5. **Salem Steel Plant:** The land acquired for Salem Steel Plant is being utilised in stages to suit the progressive expansion of the plant.

6. **Visveswaraya Iron and Steel Co. Ltd:** Out of 2211 acres of land acquired by VISL, 192 acres of land has been sold to Government Departments/SSI, etc. and 466 acres of land is under dispute. Hence, the net land in possession of VISL is 1552 acres. Unused land of 150 acres are required for construction of houses for employees.

Supply of Coal by Coal India Limited to Steel Industries:

1118. **SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL:**
SHRI C.P. MUDALA-
GIRIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited is able to meet the requirement of coal for the steel sector;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the quality of coal supplied to them was also not upto the required standard;

(d) the steps taken/being taken for adequate supply of coal to steel sector/coal based industries; and

(e) the foreign exchange spent on the import of coal during the last two years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). The entire coal demand of steel sector could not be met by Coal India Ltd. for the following main reasons:-

(i) The capacity of existing cooking coal mines is depleting;

(ii) Some of the newly identified mines are afflicted by fires, surface structures, etc., and will have a long gestation period before reaching their full capacity;

(iii) Due to part exploitation of superior

grade seams, the overall quality of coal currently being mined has come down. Thus the indigenous cooking coal is not able to meet the quality parameters of steel industries.

(d) Some of the steps being taken to increase the supply of cooking coal to steel sector are;

- (i) Enhancement of production of existing mine by increasing capacity utilization,
- (ii) Faster development of newly unidentified mines,
- (iii) Taking action to control under ground fires in coking coal mines,
- (iv) Enhancement of capacity utilization of washeries, etc.

(e) According to information given by the Ministry of Steel, the approximate cost of imports of cooking coal for steel industries in last 2 years has been as follows:

Approximate cost of imported coal including freight (Rs. in crores).

1989-90	533.64
1990-91	705.04

**Bilateral relationship with
Kampuchea**

1119. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are taking any steps to strengthen further the bilateral relationship with Kampuchea; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) in order to strengthen bilateral ties, we agreed to give a grant of Rs. 1.5 crores to be used, at the Cambodian request, for medicines. Commercial credit of Rs. 1.5 crores has also been extended. Items requested by the Cambodians under the grant and credit are being supplied. This is in addition to the ongoing assistance for the Angkor Wat Restoration project and humanitarian assistance including artificial limb fitment camps. In response to an appeal relief supplies worth Rs. 5 lakhs are being despatched to Cambodia for flood victims.

At the request of the UN, we have contributed civil and military personnel to the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia. We have also conveyed our willingness to participate in the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

**Capacity Utilisation of DMS and
Mother Dairy Plants**

1120. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity utilisation of the Delhi Milk Scheme and the Mother Dairy Plants in Delhi during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the profit/loss of the Mother Dairy and DMS during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) the capacity utilisation during the last three years is as follows:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Mother Dairy</i>	<i>D.M.S.</i>
1988-89	97.98%	95.5%
1989-90	89.75%	107.1%
1990-91	88.39%	110.7%

(b) The profit (+) loss (-) during the last three years is as follows:-

<i>Year ending</i>	<i>Mother Dairy (Rs. in crores)</i>	<i>D.M.S.</i>
1988-89	(-) 11.71	(-) 18.88*
1989-90	(+) 0.16	(-) 16.51*
1990-91	(+) 0.31	(-) 15.38*

* provisional.

[*Translation*]

Survey of Ground Water Resources in Rajasthan

1121. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have conducted any survey to identify the availability of ground water in drought-prone areas of Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on the results of Hydrogeological surveys and Scientific exploration, the ground water resources of drought prone areas of Rajasthan have been estimated at 5.67 cubic kilometers. Districtwise details are given in statement below.

STATEMENT

Ground Water Resource Estimates as per norms of Ground water estimation committee

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Total Replenishable Ground Water Resources	Provision for drinking, industrial and other uses	Utilisable Ground Water Resources for Irrigation	Provisional and Tentative			Level of Ground Water Development Present %
					Net Draft	Balance Ground Water Potential available for exploitation		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1.	Ajmer	0.544	0.102	0.442	0.261	0.181	59	
2.	Banswara	0.408	0.061	0.347	0.063	0.294	15	
3.	Dungarpur	0.299	0.047	0.252	0.053	0.199	21	
4.	Jhalawar	0.587	0.088	0.499	0.165	0.334	33	
5.	Kota	1.222	0.184	1.038	0.156	0.882	15	
6.	Sawaimadhopur	1.148	0.172	0.976	0.233	0.743	24	
7.	Tonk	0.513	0.077	0.436	0.141	0.295	32	
8.	Udaipur	0.949	0.170	0.779	0.440	0.339	56	
Total		5.67	0.901	4.769	1.502	3.267	31.87	

Control of Floods In Andhra Pradesh

[English]

1122. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had issued any instructions to the Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding control of floods in the State, especially floods caused by Moosi river; and

(b) if so, whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh acted in accordance with those instructions?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). The Government of India has issued Guidelines and Instructions to all the State Governments for the implementation of the recommendation of the Rashtriya Barh Ayog in September, 1981. Central Water Commission has also issued general guidelines for preparation of detailed Project Reports for Irrigation and Multipurpose Projects which include guidelines for flood control and drainage aspects. No flood control scheme in respect of Moosi River has been received in Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal. The State Governments are not required to submit the flood control scheme costing less than Rs. 100 lakhs individually to the Centre for techno-economic appraisal and investment clearance.

Solution of Bilateral Problems with Neighbouring Countries

1123. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the major developments in finding solution to bilateral problems with out neighbouring countries during the last one year;

(b) the important areas of agreement

reached with our neighbouring countries during the last one year;

(c) whether any talks are going to be held in the near future with the neighbouring countries for this purpose; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). We are continuing to accord the highest priority to strengthening our relations with our neighbours in South Asia on a bilateral basis as well as through the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

We have welcomed the establishment of a democratically elected Government in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Foreign Minister visited India in August 1991 at our invitation. Wide ranging discussions were held on bilateral issues and it was agreed that the two sides would seek to resolve them through dialogue.

The emergence of multi-party democracy in Nepal would further strengthen the unique closeness of our bilateral ties. We are looking forward to the formatting visit to India of the Prime Minister of Nepal which will be preceded by the meeting in New Delhi of the Indo-Nepal Joint Commission for promoting cooperation between the two countries in the areas of economic, trade, transit, industrial, multiple uses of water resources and other mutually agreed matters. During the then Prime Minister's visit to Nepal in February 1991, numerous steps for speedy intensification of mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation were agreed upon including a high level task force to prepare a comprehensive programme of bilateral cooperation, which will be submitting its report very soon.

Our close relations and cooperation with Bhutan are being further consolidated and strengthened and this has been highlighted by the recent visits of the King of Bhutan. On these occasions detailed

discussions on all issues of mutual interest were held.

Our close and friendly relations with Maldives have been strengthened by a number of high level visits including visits in January, June and August this year of the President of Maldives.

The visit to Colombo in January 1991 by the then External Affairs Minister was successful in re-establishing communication with Sri Lanka Government and restoring a working relationship with it. On the ethnic issue, it is our view that the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement provides available basis for and reasonable settlement of the problem. While there were differences between the two countries on the ethnic issue, efforts were made by us to strengthen bilateral ties with Sri Lanka. This led to the signing of the Agreement on 29th July 1991 to establish the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission, the first session of which is likely to be held in Delhi in January 1992. Meanwhile the Sub-Commission on Culture finalised the Cultural Exchange Programme and the Sub-Commission on Trade discussed measures for mutual expansion of trade and for stimulating investment in selected areas.

With Pakistan we have been making efforts for a tension-free, cooperative and good-neighbouring relationship. Even while Pakistan is involved in violating canons of conducting inter-state relations and the basic provisions of the Simla Agreement, we are engaged in a dialogue with that country for building confidence and for making progress in resolving bilateral issues. However, Pakistan's support to secessionists and terrorists in Punjab and in Jammu and Kashmir and its propoganda campaign against India and efforts to internationalise the subject of Kashmir in violation of the Simla Agreement stands in the way of normalisation of relations between our two countries.

We are now looking forward to welcome to India next month Prime Minister Li Peng of China. Since the visit of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi to China in December 1988

improvement in relations between India-China has been notable. A Trade Protocol for 1991-92 and a Cultural Exchange Programme for 1991-93 were signed earlier this year. The two countries have also agreed in principle to reopen their Consulates General in Shanghai and in Bombay and also to resume border trade. The two sides have recently held the Third Meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group set up to deal with the boundary question.

[Translation]

Oil Exploration In Ganga Valley

1124. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM:
SHRI RABI RAY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil India Limited have struck oil in the Ganga Valley;

(b) if so, the places where exploration work was undertaken;

(c) the names of the wells where oil has been struck;

(d) whether the Government propose to undertake further exploration work in this area; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Seismic surveys are being conducted in Western Uttar Pradesh in Ganga Valley Basin by Oil India Limited.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) In addition to seismic surveys being conducted/planned by the OIL and ONGC, one well is also being drilled by ONGC at Kadamaha in West Champaran District of

Bihar. Seven blocks from this area have been offered by the Government of India for exploration in the IVth the Round of Bidding.

[English]

Allocation of Kerosene Oil to States

1125. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the quantity of Kerosene Oil allocated to States and Union Territories during July and August, 1991. State-Wise and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): As per statement attached.

STATEMENT

(Figs. in Tonnes)

<i>STATES</i>	<i>JULY 1991</i>	<i>AUGUST 1991</i>
Andhra Pradesh	46440	46440
Assam	19541	19541
Bihar	39297	39297
Gujarat	60887	61277
Haryana	12397	12397
Himachal Pradesh	3071	3071
Jammu & Kashmir	5061	5061
Karnataka	35638	35638
Kerala	21529	21529
Madhya Pradesh	29504	29504
Maharashtra	122058	122058
Manipur	1508	1508
Meghalaya	1246	1246
Mizoram	345	345
Nagaland	762	762
Orissa	12671	12671
Punjab	27258	27258
Rajasthan	21118	21118

STATES	JULY 1991	AUGUST 1991
Sikkim	384	384
Tamil Nadu	53464	53464
Tripura	1436	1436
Uttar Pradesh	76441	76441
West Bengal	57410	57410
Andaman & Nicobar		
Islands	312	312
Arunachal Pradesh	679	679
Chandigarh	1697	1697
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	312	312
Delhi	18779	18779
Goa	2337	2337
Pondicherry	1068	1068
Lakshdweep	71	71
Daman & Diu	239	239
Total	674960	675350

**Foreign Technology
for Exploration of Gold at Kolar Gold
Mines**

1126. SHRI G. MADEGOWDA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for importing foreign technology for exploration and exploitation of the gold ore at Kolar Gold Mines, Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of the countries from which the technology is being imported; and

(c) the time by which the exploration

and exploitation work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM
SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Exploration of Minerals in Andhra
Pradesh**

1127. SHRI GANGADHARA
SANIPALLI: Will the Minister of MINES be
pleased to state:

(a) whether any surveys has been
conducted for exploration of minerals in
Anantpur District of Andhra Pradesh during

the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme for exploitation of lime and Iron-ore in Anantpur District; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gold: Preliminary explorations for gold have established low-grade mineralised zones in the Jubital, Kottapalle, Penukonda blocks of Ramagari schist belt and minor gold mineralisation in Penakecheria -Kudur block also.

Drilling indicated reserves of Gold ore of 23,734 tonnes with an average grade of 3.84 g/t. 10,700 tonnes with £0 m. in Bhadrampalle block. In Ramapuram block a reserve of 1.53 lakh tonnes of gold are as saying 1.88 g/t was indicated upto 70 m. depth.

Diamond: Investigation for demand in Kimberlite pipe rocks of Anantpur district indicated incidence of 0.33 to 0.50 carats for 100 tonnes in Lattavaram pipes and 8.52 carats in Kimberlite rock and 48.23 carats in the over burden for 100 tonnes in the venkatampalle pipe.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Supply of HDS Gas to Waghria Industrial Areas of Baroda (Gujarat)

1128. KUMARI DIPIKA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to supply HDS Gas through HDS pipeline to Waghria Industrial town of Baroda

(Gujarat) ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Allocation to Kerala under Intensive Paddy Production Scheme

1129. SHRI T.J. ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the amount allocated to Kerala under 'Intensive Paddy Production Scheme' during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): There is no such Scheme. However, there is a Scheme namely 'Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for Rice Development.' The amount allocated to Kerala under this Scheme is Rs. 153.33 lakhs, out of which the Central Share is Rs. 115.00 lakhs and State share is Rs. 38.33 lakhs.

World Bank assistance for coal projects

1130. KUMARI VIMLA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds were sanctioned for the development of some coal projects in the country during 1990-91;

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

(c) the details of the coal projects proposed to be developed with the World Bank assistance during the Eighth Five Year Plan doing with the costs thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUA): (a) to (c). The list of new

coal projects and Revised Cost Estimates sanctioned by the Government during 1990-91 is given in the Statement below:

The undermentioned coal projects are being implemented with the assistance of the World Bank:

<i>Project</i>	<i>Company</i>	<i>Amount of World Bank loan (US \$ million)</i>
Dudhichua CC	NCL	109.0
Block-II CC	BCCL	57.7
Sonepur Bazari CC	SECL	114.8
Gevra CC	SECL	65.2

The following coal projects/schemes have been sent to the World Bank for consideration for loan assistance:-

1. Improvement in productivity of underground mines (34) of Coal India Ltd. - Total; estimated investment on this is expected to be Rs. 655.73 crores.

2. Dudhichua Phase II CCP of NCL -The total investment on this project is expected

to be Rs. 497.32 crores.

3. K.D. Hesalong Expansion CCP, CCL- Total investment of this project is expected to be about Rs. 156 crores.

4. Jambad CCP of ECL- The sanctioned cost of the project is Rs. 210.55 crores.

5. Dealing with coalfield fires in Jharia- Total investment on this scheme would be around Rs. 250.00 crores.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Project	Company	Capacity mpa	Capital Cost (Rs. crores)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	RCE for Central Workshop*	NCL	...	68.72
2.	RCE for Amlohri OCP	NCL	4.00	527.11
3.	RCE for Katras UG	BCCL	0.90	91.81
4.	RCE for North Amlabad	BCCL	0.57	69.48
5.	RCE for Satgram UG	ECL	1.20	148.26
6.	Goleti Longwall project	SCCL	0.76	102.07
7.	RCE for Bharatpur OCP	SECL	3.50	158.97
8.	RCE for Dhanpuri OCP	SECL	1.25	54.69
9.	RCE for Ghugus OCP	WCL	1.50	98.07
10.	RPR for J.K. Nagar UG	ECL	0.87	95.28
11.	Lingaraj OCP	SECL	5.00	229.84
12.	RCE for Captive Power Plant*	OCL	2 x 10 MW	58.80

* Non-mining projects.

RCE: Revised Cost Estimates

UG : Underground

OCP : Opencast Project

Irrigation Projects in Andhra Pradesh

1131. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh pending with the Union Government;

(b) since when those are pending along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which those are likely to

be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). A statement giving the details of irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh received for appraisal is enclosed.

(c) The time by which the projects can be cleared depends upon how soon the State Government complies with the observations of Central Appraising Agencies, get inter-state issues resolved and obtains environmental and/or forest clearance.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Latest	Benefits in Thousand Hectares	Date of receipt in Central Water Commission	Status of Appraisal
1	2	3	4	5	6
A. Major					
1.	Telugu Ganga Project	63653 83449	199.00	5.12.83 19.1.86	The Project, after examination, was put up to Advisory Committee in its meeting held in 4/88. The Advisory Committee deferred consideration as the inter-State issues had not been resolved. The three Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra & Karnataka have decided to resolve the issues connected with sharing of Krishna water among themselves.
2.	Jurala Project	7640 20475	47.835	10.9.80 31.3.86	The project was found acceptable by the Advisory committee in its meeting held on 4/88 subject to the State Government's obtaining clearance from Environment and Forest angle, clearance from State Finance and Planning Departments.
3.	Vansadhara Project Stage-II/7453	27574	50.958	2.3.79 26.9.88	The Advisory Committee in its meeting held in October, 1986, deferred consideration pending submission of requisite information to Ministry of Environment & Forests and concurrence of State Government of Orissa. Efforts to get concurrence of Orissa are being made.
B. Medium					
1.	Modikunta-vagu	3190.29	6.60	31.12.85 27.3.89	Comments sent to State Government for compliance in September, 1991. The project requires forest clearance and updating of estimate.

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Latest	Benefits In	Date of	Status of Appraisal
1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Palangagu	2106.05	4.90	16-1-86 27.3.89	Comments sent to State Government for compliance in December, 1990. The project requires forest clearance and updating of estimate.
3.	Bhupatipalms Scheme	1660.00	4.897	4.8.89	The project was earlier returned in December, 1989 in view of many basic deficiencies. The replies received in November, 1990 have been examined and further comments relating to design, flood, competency of the reservoir, benefit-cost ratio, rehabilitation plan for tribal population sent in December, 1990 to the State Government for compliance.

[*Translation*]**LPG connection priority to Members**

1132. SHRI KESRILAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are extending the facility of priority quota of LPG connections for 1991 to the Members of the Tenth Lok Sabha who were also the Members in the Ninth Lok Sabha:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not allotting gas connections on the recommendations of such members of the Tenth Lok Sabha?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). The Members of 10th Lok Sabha, who were also members of 9th Lok Sabha will be given 48 connections minus the connections availed by them as a member of 9th Lok Sabha. This will be restricted to 12 connections per quarter per MP.

[*English*]**Profit of ONGC**

1133. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a declining trend in the profit earning by ONGC due to shortfall in production and rising operation costs;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to review the working of ONGC; and

(c) the details of the recommendations of the Working Group of Planning Commission for improving the production and profit of ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b): The Profit after tax of ONGC in 1990-91 was Rs. 1048 crores against Rs. 1624 crores in 1989-90. The reduction in profit was mainly on account of higher exchange loss, cost of dry wells written off, depreciation/depletion and operational expenditure. Working of ONGC is reviewed on a continuous basis.

(c) Planning Commission has not formed any working Group for this propose.

Quality control cell for coal

1134. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a quality control cell to ensure quality coal to the consumers;

(b) if so, by what time the decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government also propose to invite private sector for setting up of coal washeries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b). Coal India Ltd. already has independent Quality Control cells functioning in all its subsidiaries, who closely supervise and monitor quality of coal supplies. These cells are being further strengthened by CIL.

(c) and (d) No proposal to invite private sector for setting up coal washeries is under the consideration of the Government as on date.

Import of Petroleum products by Indian Oil Corporation

1135. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARARAJE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation

has been importing petroleum products;

(b) if so, the amount spent on such import during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have proposal to reduce the import of Petroleum products during 1991-92; and

(d) if so, the total amount spent on import so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Year	Amount in Rs./ Crores
1988-89	1482
1989-90	2202
1990-91	4555

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Petrol/Diesel Retail outlets and LPG Agencies in Himachal Pradesh

1136. SHRI D.D. KHANORIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG agencies in Kangra and Chamba districts of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government propose to allot more such agencies in the above districts;

(c) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) As on date, there

are 20 petrol/diesel retail outlets and 11 LPG distributorships in Kangra and Chamba districts of Himachal Pradesh.

(b) to (d). Retail outlets and LPG distributorships are opened as per Marketing Plans and policy in force from time to time.

Policy reforms in Steel Industry

1138. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the policy reform in Steel industry is long overdue;

(b) whether existence of the Joint Plant Committee has been a serious impediment in growth of Steel industry;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal for disbanding of the Joint Plant Committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof and time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether the Government propose to have a national consensus in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Review of Policies in the Steel is a continuous process.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Dual Pricing Policy of Fertilizers

1139. SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE: SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representation for reviewing the

dual pricing policy on fertilizers;

(b) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the number of small and marginal farmers in each State benefited after the implementation of this policy?

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

(b) Union Ministry of Agriculture have framed guidelines in consultation with the stage Governments about the preparation and implementation of a scheme to ensure the supply of fertilisers to small and marginal farmers, at the pre 25th July, 1991, revised prices. In view of the difficulties expressed by various States, flexibility has been kept in the guidelines to ensure that the States implement the scheme, with in the available funds.

(c) The guidelines of the scheme were communicated to the States on 14th August, 1991. The State Governments are in the process of implementing the scheme. At this stage of implementation, it is not possible to ascertain the number of small and marginal farmers who have benefited under this scheme in different States.

Restructing of Coal India Limited

1140. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government for restructuring the Coal India Limited; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to any proposed modifications in the status of Coal India

Limited as a holding company. There is no proposal to modify the status of Coal India as a holding company for the present.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Steel Plants In Orissa with Private Collaborations

1141. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has entered into an agreement with Swaraj Paul and Hinduja for setting up of steel plants in Orissa, and?

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the steel plants are likely to be set up there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). According to information received from the Govt. of Orissa, the State Govt. has on 1st November, 1991 entered into a Memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Dr. Swaraj Paul of the Capro Group to set up an integrated steel plants in Orissa. The Board of management of the Steel plant will be formed by the Capro Group in consultation with the Govt. of Orissa. It has been indicated that the Capro Group will arrange a financial package including foreign currency and rupee components. The time for completing the steel plant has not been decided. Though the broad outlines have been incorporated in the MOU, details are to be worked out and if necessary, the terms of the MOU will be modified and detailed in an agreement in due course.

Agricultural Seminars

1142. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the number of Seminars organised, directly and indirectly, by his Ministry during 1991 and the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): During the year 1991 so far 25 seminars/conferences/ workshops have been organised directly or indirectly and an expenditure of approximately Rs. 14.85 lakhs has been incurred.

[*Translation*]

Opening of more LPG Agencies in Trans Yamuna Area in Delhi

1143. SHIR B.L.SHARMA PREM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are very few LPG agencies in trans Yamuna area of Delhi due to which consumers have to face a lot of inconvenience;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to open more LPG agencies in this area; and

(c) if so, the detail of the agencies likely to be opened during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). LPG distributorships are opened in different towns as per Marketing Plans and policies in force from time to time.

Construction of Indian Oil Depot at Aonia

1144. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the construction of the approved depot of the Indian Oil at Aonia is likely to be started; and

(b) the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon and the time by which the depot is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B.

SHANKARANAND): (a) The construction work of the depot at Aonia will commence after the land is acquired and physical possession is made over to Indian Oil Cooperation by the Uttar Pradesh Government.

(b) The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 19.57 crores. The depot is expected to be completed in 36 months after taking physical possession of the land from the State Government.

Allotment of LPG Agencies at block level

1145. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had formulated a scheme to allot L.P.G. agencies at the Development Block Level;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) As per the present policy new LPG agencies are being set up a phased manner depending upon economic viability and product availability of 20,000 and above (as per 1981 census).

World Bank Assistance for Bihar Public Tubewells Project

1146. SHRI RAM SHARAN YADAV : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial assistance received from the utilised in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN

SHUKLA) : (a) and (b). Except for delays in implementation the financial assistance received from the World Bank is being utilised according to terms and conditions of the agreement. Slow progress is attributable largely to delays in procurement of Civil Works, submersible pumps, installation of dedicated feeder lines and budgetary resources.

[English]

Pakistan Minister's address to General Assembly regarding Jammu and Kashmir

1147. SHRISHRAVANKUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan in his recent address to the United Nations General Assembly *inter-alia* referred to the Kashmir issue; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Pakistan Minister in his address to the UN General Assembly on September, 30, 1991 had made a number of references and allegations against India in the context of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The Indian representative responded on the same day and effectively countered all charges. He also highlighted Pakistan's open interference in India's internal affairs and support to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

LPG Agencies in Madhya Pradesh

1148. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies

allocated in Madhya Pradesh during the last one year;

(b) whether the Government propose to allot more LPG agencies in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the number thereof and the place identified for that purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Five LPG distributorships were allotted in Madhya Pradesh during the year 1990-91.

(b) and (c) LPG distributorships are opened as per marketing Plans and policy from time to time.

Pakistan Prime Minister's Speech on Kashmir Issue at Colombo

1149. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: SHRI ANNA JOSHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned " Pak rakes up J-K issue in Colombo" appearing in the Indian Express dated November 9, 1991;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government's regret and concern was conveyed to the Government of Sri Lanka for permitting its soil to be used for rhetoric against India. The Government of Sri Lanka have informed us that while they could not have anticipated the remarks that the visiting Pakistani Prime Minister would make, they had duly noted the concern expressed by the Government of India.

Construction of Dams In Garhwal Himalayas

1150. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:
SHRI SONTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:
SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of major and medium dams being continued or constructed in the Garhwal Himalayas and the adjoining areas indicating separately their height, estimated cost, present stage, time schedule, the area of land to be submerged and the number of people to be affected thereby;

<i>Project</i>	<i>Estimated cost (Rs. crores)</i>	<i>Height of dam (m)</i>	<i>Families displaced (No.s)</i>	<i>Submergence (ha.)</i>	<i>Likely date of completion</i>
Tehri Dam on river Bhagirathi	1974	260.5	14639	5200	1996-97
Srinagar dam on river Alaknanda	372.3	85	32	340	1996-97

In addition it is also proposed to take up construction of 103.5 metre high Koteswar dam at a cost of displacement of 460 families.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh are also investigating 7 new major and medium storage projects. These are in the early stages of investigation and detailed project reports indicating heights of dams, attendant submergence of land and displacement of people are yet to be prepared.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Storage dams are necessary for full utilisation of the surplus waters of the river Ganga available during monsoons for meeting round the year requirement of irrigation, power and drinking water for a large region including cities like Delhi.

(b) whether the Government are aware of the reservations voiced against the construction of big dams in the area;

(c) If so, the reasons for constructing a number of big dams in the region;

(d) whether the Government propose to review the construction of those dams in view of the recent earthquake in the region and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to replace the big dams in such fringe areas by run-of the river dams and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Two dams as detailed below are under construction in the Garhwal region:-

(d) During techno-economic approval of projects all relevant factors are considered including adequacy of design to counter seismic forces. Only those projects are accepted that meet with the relevant standards and guidelines laid down for the purpose. The information from the recent earthquake has not so far brought out any features that are not already taken care of in the prescribed standards and codes of practices and has not indicated any need for review.

(e) Run of river schemes are not able to provide the full benefits as available from the storage schemes. Hence it is not proposed to replace the storage schemes by run of the river schemes, for utilising the regulated water released into the river channel from the storage schemes.

[*Translation*]

**Fifth Round of Talks between
foreign secretaries of India and
Pakistan**

1151. SHRIMATI SUMITRA
MAHAJAN:
SHRI BARAELALL JATAV:
SHRI GOPINATH
GAJAPATHI:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI AMAR RAJYRADHAN:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR
MANDAL;

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the bilateral issues that figured at
the fifth round of talks held between the
foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan;

(b) the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the issues of Sir Creek in
Rann of Kutch and Tulbul Water barrange
in Kashmir also figured in the talks; and

(d) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI
EDUARDO FALEIRO):

(a) during the fifth round of talks held
at Islamabad on 30-31 October 1991, the
Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan
discussed the entire range of bilateral issues
including, inter alia, the question of Pakistan's
support to terrorism, disarmament and
measures to carry the bilateral dialogue
forward.

(b) Both sides agreed to consider issuing
a Joint declaration on chemical weapons,
and to convene a meeting of experts of the
two sides on mutually convenient to exchange
views on a bilateral agreement to ban the
development, production, deployment and
use of chemical weapons. It was also agreed
to resume the dialogue on Siachen, to hold

further meetings on the Tulbul Navigation
project, boundary in Sir Creek area, and to
exchange before 1 January, 1992 the
coordinates of their nuclear installations and
facilities in pursuance of the Agreement on
Prohibition of Attack Against Nuclear
Installations and Facilities signed in
December 1988.

(c) and (d), While expressing satisfaction
at the outcome of Secretary level talks on
these issues held earlier in the month, it was
agreed to hold another round of talks before
the next meetings the Foreign Secretaries.

[*English*]

Modernisation of IISCO

1152. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI HARADHAN ROY:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased
to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have
taken any final decision for modernisation of
IISCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time
by which the modernisation work is likely to
be started; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred
thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH
MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

L.P.G. connections in Chandigarh

1153. SHRI PAWANKUMAR BANSAL:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants on the
waiting list for LPG connections in

Chandigarh; and

(b) the time by which LPG connections are likely to be issued to all the applications?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) About 0.64 lakhs

(b) Efforts are on to give LPG connections to as many applicants as early as possible.

[*Translation*]

Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas In Rajasthan

1154. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the districts in Rajasthan where Seismic survey was conducted to explore oil and natural gas and when such survey was conducted;

(b) the number of places where drilling work was undertaken and the number of wells in which oil and natural gas has been found;

(c) whether ONGC and OIL have adequate number of rigs which can drill to the maximum depth and if not, whether they propose to arrange more rigs;

(d) whether according to experts there are a number of places in Rajasthan where oil and natural gas can be found;

(e) if so, whether there is proposal to conduct survey in regard to find out such places for the purpose of exploration of oil and natural gas; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Since 1958, in Jaisalmer, Barmer, Jalore, Bikaner and

Ganganagar Districts.

(b) 57 wells have been drilled in Rajasthan, and as on 1.10.91, gas/oil has been discovered in 25 wells.

(c) OIL and ONGC arrange for rigs as per requirement and availability.

(d) to (f) Exploration is still going on in Rajasthan.

[*English*]

Closure of Gold Mines at Kolar

1155. SHRI RAM KAPSE:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Gold Mines Limited has taken any decision to close down the gold mines at Kolar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of gold mines closed down or proposed to be closed down in the near future;

(d) the anticipated loss, in terms of quantity of gold; and

(e) the number of workers rendered likely to be unemployed as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d). Due to depletion of gold ore, ultra-deep mining operations, lower grade of gold ore and high costs of production, gold mining at Kolar has become uneconomic and the Company has sustained losses of over Rs. 118.16 crores in the last 5 years.

Government have decided to phase out the uneconomic mining at Mysore, Champion and Nundydroog mines while simultaneously exploring the possibility of economic mining at shallow levels in Kolar Gold Fields. There

is marginal shortfall in quantity due to lower production of gold ore, poor grade of ore and phasing out of mines.

(e) No worker has as yet been retrenched. Over 1000 persons have come forward to avail a Voluntary Retirement Scheme for workers being implemented by Bharat Gold Mines Limited.

Consumption of Petroleum Products

1156. SHRI SUKH DEV PASWAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) the average monthly growth rate or consumption of petroleum products since the beginning of 1991 as compared to the corresponding period in the previous year 1990;

(b) the basis and assumptions on which the statistics are based;

(c) whether the Oil Coordination Committee has recommended substantial reduction in the supplies of oil products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision, if any, taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The consumption from January, 1991 to October, 1991 was 1.2% less than the consumption during the corresponding period of 1990.

(b) These are based on figures as reported by the Oil Companies.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Indians in Kuwaiti Jails

1157. SHRI BARE LAL JATAV: Will the

Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Indian nationals are languishing in the jails of Kuwait and other Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for their early release; and

(c) the number of Non-Resident Indian killed during the Gulf war?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: (a) There are some Indian nationals in the jails of Kuwait and other Gulf countries.

(b) Embassy officials have been meeting Indians lodged in jails and taking up issues relating to their treatment and release with host Government on merits of each case. General advice is also tendered to such Indian nationals about local legal proceedings with a view to assist them.

(c) The information is being collected.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

1158. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal for opening of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Bilaspur, Una, Hamirpur and Dehra Tehsil of Kangra district in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the time by which the Krishi Vigyan Kendras are likely to be opened at the aforesaid places; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No decision in this regard

has been taken.

projects in Kerala;

[*English*]

(b) the progress made thereon so far;
and

**On-Going Irrigation Projects in
Kerala**

(c) the time by which those are likely to
be completed?

1159. SHRI P.C.THOMAS: Will the
Minister of WATER RESOURCES be
pleased to state:

THE MINISTER OF WATER
RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN
SHUKLA): (a) to (c). A statement giving
details of on-going major and medium
irrigation Projects in Kerala is enclosed.

(a) the details of the on-going irrigation

STATEMENT

The Details of ongoing major and medium irrigation projects in Kerala Progress Made
hereon and time by which these are likely to be completed

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Plan in which started	Status of Approval	Estimated cost as per A.P. (1991-92)	Expenditure Recommended upto end of 1990-91 (Provisional)	Outlay for 1991-92	Ultimate Potential	Potential created upto end of 1990-91 (Provisional)	Potential upto target 1991-92	Scheduled date of completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Major										
1.	Periyar Valley	II	Approved	69.51	67.51	2.00	85.60	85.31	0.29	1991-92
2.	Pamba	III	Approved	61.25	61.10	1.50	49.46	49.46	...	1991-92
3.	Chihitripuzha	III	Approved	21.40	20.40	1.00	26.97	27.13	...	1991-92
4.	Kuttiadi	III	Approved	56.50	52.32	0.50	35.85	35.21	0.64	1991-92
5.	Kanhirapuzha	III	Approved	66.74	51.42	3.20	21.85	17.49	2.00	Proposals for VIII Plan have not been finalised
6.	Pazhassal	III	Approved	89.12	66.93	3.40	23.05	12.96	1.50	-00-
7.	Kallada III (1961)		Approved/ Ext. aided	457.80	319.24	32.00	92.80	51.43	30.00	-00-

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Plan in which started	Status of Approval	Estimated cost as per A.P. (1991-92)	Expenditure upto end of 1990-91 (Provisional)	Recommended outlay for 1991-92	Ultimate Potential	Potential created upto end of 1990-91 (Provisional)	Potential target 1991-92	Scheduled date of completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8.	Muvathupuzha	V	Approved	89.25	39.38	8.00	34.74	...	2.00	-do-
9.	Chimoni	V	Approved	36.66	28.92	5.00	26.00	13.00	13.00	-do-
10.	Idamalayar	VI	Unapproved	67.40	39.30	4.00	43.19	...	...	-do-
Medium										
1.	Attapady	V	Unapproved	50.00	7.41	0.00	8.38	...	...	-do-
2.	Karapuzha	V	Unapproved	44.89	15.74	4.00	9.30	...	...	-do-

[*Translation*]

Demand for Opening of Petrol/Diesel Retail Outlets in Mandasaur and Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh

1160. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations for the allotment of petrol/diesel retail outlets from Mandasaur and Ratlam districts of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). The representations received in this regard have been forwarded to the Oil company for suitable action.

[*English*]

Starvation Deaths

1161. SHRI JEEVAN SHARMA:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRIMATI GEETA
MUKHERJEE:
SHRI SHRIBALLAV
PANIGRAHI:
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several starvation deaths have been reported in the country during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the circumstances/reasons for these starvation deaths; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government against its recurrence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a). No State has reported any starvation death during the last six months.

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

Cancellation of Petrol Pumps

1162. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons to whom petrol/diesel retail outlets were sanctioned during November, 1990 to March, 1991;

(b) the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes among them;

(c) whether most of the sanctions have been cancelled later on due to irregularities in the procedure of sanctioning; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a). 34

(b) 5

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Malwi Cattle Research Cum Breeding Centre in Madhya Pradesh

1163. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya (M.P.) has forwarded a proposal for setting up a Research cum Breeding Farm for Malwi cattle at Rajgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union

Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Sir, no such proposal has been received in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

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

Tenders for Dehri-on-sone Coal Stockyard.

1164. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tenders were invited for setting up of coal stockyard at Dehri-on-sone;

(b) if so, when the tenders were finalised; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Coal India Ltd. had invited tenders for Dehri-on-sone stockyard along with stockyards on other locations. The tenders have not yet been finalised because the policy on operations of Stockyards is presently under review by the under Government.

[*Translation*]

Western Kosi Canal Project

1166. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount allocated for the construction of the branch canals of the Western Kosi Canal Project has been withdrawn;

(b) if so, the reasons there-for; and

(c) the time by which the construction of the main canal and the branch canals is

likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Government of Bihar has reported that no amount has been withdrawn from the construction work on Western Kosi Canal Project. However, due to financial stringency, works have been curtailed substantially during the financial year 1991-92 as has been done for other Projects.

(c) The scheduled date of completion is June, 1995.

Waiting List for LPG Connections

1167. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are formulating any scheme for meeting the demand of LPG connections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the total number of persons on the waiting list in Delhi and various parts of the country specially in Uttar Pradesh seeking LPG connections and the time by which they are likely to be given LPG connections?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). Efforts are on to provide LPG connections to as many persons and as early as possible. This will, however, be subject to product availability, pending waiting lists with the distributors and annual programme for enrolment of customers.

L.P.G. Connections in Rural Areas of U.P.

1168. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide LPG

connections in rural areas of Agra, Aligarh and Bharatpur in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the dates upto which the registered applicants are being given the connections; and

(d) the criteria adopted by the Government for providing LPG connections in new areas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d). As per the existing policy LPG facility is being provided in a phased manner to places with a population of 20,000 and above which offer viable distributor ships, subject to overall availability of the product. Efforts are, however, on to give LPG connections to as many applicants as early as possible.

[English]

Cost of Crude Oil

1170. **SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the landed cost of crude oil, per metric tonne, in Indian Ports as on January, 1, 1989, 1990 and 1991;

(b) the average production cost of one tonne, of domestic crude on the corresponding dates;

(c) the administered prices of Petrol, diesel, kerosene and aviation-grade fuel, per metric tonne and the retail prices per litre of those items in different States on the corresponding dates; and

(d) the number of times the administered prices have been revised in the corresponding period and the rationale behind these increases?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The landed cost of crude oil varies from port to port and also with the source of supply.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The requisite information is given in the attached statement.

(d) Twice between 1.1.1989 and 1.1.1991. Any change in the prices of petroleum products is made by the Government, keeping in view supplies, growth in demand and other socio-economic factors.

STATEMENT

The ex-storage price of MS 87, HSD, SKO and ATF are as follows:

<i>Product</i>	<i>Rs./MT</i>			
	<i>As on 1.1.1989</i>	<i>As on 1.1.1990</i>	<i>As on 1.1.1991</i>	
1	2	3	4	4
MS	10856.33	10856.33	15775.11	
HSD	3745.62	3745.62	3195.71	
SKO (For domestic use)	2514.66	2514.66	3143.32	
ATF (Other than for international airways)	6748.93	6748.93	10562.09	

The retail prices vary from place to place within a State due to the difference in freight and local levies.

Supply of Coal to State Electricity Boards

1171. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any decision in regard to supply of coal to State Electricity Boards only against advance payments by them;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Electricity Boards thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI. S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). A number of State Electricity Boards had been making continuous default had risen to a level of over Rs. 1900 Crores as on 30.9.91. A situation was reached where it became difficult for the coal companies to continue their operations for want of funds. As such a decision had to be taken to supply coal to State Electricity Boards only against advance payments with effect from 1.10.1991. The Electricity Boards have since been making advance payments as requested by the Coal Companies.

New System for Sale of Coal by Coal India Limited

1172. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to introduce the "CASH and CARRY" system for the sale of coal from Coal India Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(c) the measure proposed to be taken to prevent misuse of the new system?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c): Under the "Case

and Carry" system all consumers, including State Electricity Boards and Power Utilities, will have to pay coal price in advance, before coal is despatched to them. The scheme has been introduced with effect from 1.10.1991. In order to prevent any possible difficulties to consumers, all Coal Companies have been advised to ensure proper weightment and quality of coal despatched to consumers.

Indo-Pak Clash in UN Over Kashmir

1173. SHRIM.V.CHANDRASEHARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a news item captioned "Indo-Pak Clash in UN over Kashmir" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated October 10, 1991, and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DUARDO FALEIRO): (a). Yes Sir.

(b) The news item refers to statements by Pakistan and India at the United Nations. India has categorically and effectively rebutted the allegations made by Pakistan concerning Jammu and Kashmir.

Target of Oil Exploration for Eighth Five Year Plan

1174. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to reduce the target set for exploration of oil for the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps the Government propose to take for stepping up of production of Indigenous crude;

(d) whether the Government are decided to reduce the exploration activities by the ONGC in West Bengal; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a). The Eighth Five Year Plan is still to be finalised.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A number of new projects are being implemented to augment indigenous supply of crude oil.

(d) and (e). The exploration programme in different areas will depend on the requirements and resource availability.

Ken Irrigation Project

1175. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3972 on August 22, 1991 and state the details of steps taken by the Union Government to obtain the modified report on Ken Irrigation Project from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for the techno-economic appraisal in Central Water Commission?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): Since Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh could not reach agreement on quantum of water available at the dam site, the Central Water Commission is assisting National Water Development Agency in finalising yield of river Ken at Greater Gangau.

[*Translation*]

Allotment of Additional Natural Gas to Gujarat

1176. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL

GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allocated additional natural gas to Gujarat;

(b) if so, the quantum of natural gas allocated to Surat during last three years and its corresponding demand in those years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). Allocations of gas are made on the basis of availability. All natural gas produced onshore in Gujarat has been allocated to various consumers in Gujarat itself. An allocation of 0.3 million standard cubic metres of gas per day has been made to Gujarat Gas Company for distribution in Surat City. A further request for allocating 0.7 million standard cubic metres of gas per day has been made.

[*English*]

Expulsion of Colombo Correspondent of AIR From Sri Lanka

1177. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Colombo correspondent of All India Radio (AIR) was recently expelled from Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have lodged any protest with Sri Lanka in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reinstate the AIR correspondent at Colombo?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Shri Karuppaswamy, All India Radio political correspondent in Colombo, was served a

notice by the Sri Lanka Government on 16 October 1991 and asked to leave Colombo by 21 October 1991 on the ground of mis-reporting. The charge of mis-reporting referred to his report on 15 October 1991 that the Sri Lankan Speaker of Parliament Mr. M.H. Mohamed had submitted his resignation. It was learnt later that this was not the case.

(c) and (d). On 17 October 1991, Government took up the matter regarding expulsion of the AIR correspondent with Sri Lanka Government through our Mission in Colombo. Government expressed regret at the expulsion order served on Shri Karuppaswamy in spite of the fact that both AIR and Doordarshan immediately retracted their earlier report about the resignation of the Sri Lankan Speaker. Notwithstanding our demarche, the Sri Lanka Government went through with Shri Karuppaswamy's expulsion. No action has yet been taken to replace the AIR correspondent.

National Research Centre for Oil Palm

1178. **SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the location for setting up of the National Research Centre for Oil Palm in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above Centre is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) No Sir.

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

National Oilseeds Grid

1179. **SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Dairy Development Board has any proposal to set up a National Oilseeds Grid;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the interests of the oil seed growers are adequately taken care in the proposed set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) National Dairy Development Board has a proposal to set up a National Oil Grid.

(b) The objective of the National Oil Grid is to link the major oilseeds producing areas with the demand centres which help in reducing wide fluctuations in the prices oils over seasons and regions. The proposal envisages :

- (i) creation of oil storage capacity at strategic locations;
- (ii) establishing packaging stations across the country to pack edible oils;
- (iii) developing an economical transport system to move oilseeds and oil from surplus to deficit zones.

(c) Yes, Sir. The proposal also envisages linking the above facilities with the already established oilseed processing refining and other infrastructure under the NDDDB financed oilseed Growers' Cooperative Project thereby benefiting member farmers.

Development of Fisheries in Andhra Pradesh

1180. **SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any team from Australia/World Bank visited Andhra Pradesh to survey the availability of fishery resources in the

state;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the additional financial assistance given to Andhra Pradesh for development of fisheries in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A FAO/World Bank Project Preparation Mission visited some selected States including Andhra Pradesh for preparing a report for development of brackish water shrimp and reservoir fisheries in the State, during May-June, 1990. The project was appraised by a World Bank Mission in June-July, '91.

An Australian Team from Australian International Development Assistance Bureau visited India including Andhra Pradesh in early 1991 for conducting a feasibility study for establishment of a fish processing Project.

(c) During 1991-92, an outlay of Rs. 720 lakh was allocated for fisheries development in Andhra Pradesh, as against an approved original outlay of Rs. 600 lakh for 1990-91 which was subsequently increased to Rs. 825 lakh during March, 1991.

National Perspective Plan

1181. **SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made under the National Perspective Plan for water resources development in the country;

(b) whether there is any time-schedule for completion of the investigation of the Himalayan component of the grid for constructing storages on the main Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The National Water Development Agency has taken up studies for the Peninsular and Himalayan Component of the National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development. So far prefeasibility Reports for Seven Water Transfer Links of the Peninsular Component have been completed and Survey and Investigation for three of these links are under progress. Studies for the Himalayan Component were initiated from the current year.

(b) National Water Development Agency has drawn up a time schedule for completing the studies and field investigations for both the Peninsular and Himalayan component by the year 2000 AD. Actual progress will depend upon the availability of required funds and staff.

(c) Nineteen Water transfer links have been identified under the Himalayan Component for pre-feasibility studies. Five of these links are proposed to be investigated in detail during 1994-95 to 1996-97 and the remaining during 1997-98 to 1999-2000.

National Research Stations In Andhra Pradesh

1182. **PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh/Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University have submitted proposal to the Union Government for setting up of National Research Stations in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the proposed locations where these stations are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

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

[*Translation*]**Irrigation Projects of Madhya Pradesh**

1183. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for irrigation projects submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh to the Union Government during the last and a half years;

(b) the number of proposals out of them approved so far; and

(c) the number of such proposals still pending along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Only one proposal namely modified report for the Sindh River Project Phase-II at an estimated cost of Rs. 607.67 crores to irrigate annually an area of 120,000 hectares has been received at the Centre in December, 1990.

(b) and (c). While the water availability and sedimentation studies of the project have been finalised, the State Government is required to sort out the issues regarding design, floods, irrigation planning, ground water, cost estimates, rehabilitation and resettlement. The State Government is also to obtain forest clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Allotment of Petrol/Diesel Retail Outlets in Rural Areas of Maharashtra

1184. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATH RAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allot petrol/diesel retail outlets in rural areas of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such outlets are

likely to be allotted?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) .

(a) to (c). New petrol/diesel dealerships are opened in different places as per Marketing Plans, availability of products, etc.

Indian Embassies Abroad

1185. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries where Indian Embassies/Missions do not exist; and

(b) the countries where Indian Embassies are likely to be opened along with the probable dates thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Out of the member countries of the UN, India does not have diplomatic representation either through a resident Mission or through concurrent accreditation in the following :

1. Dominican Republic
2. Fiji - closed in 1989
3. Haiti
4. Honduras
5. Israel
6. Liechtenstein
7. Papua New Guinea*
8. Solomon Islands*
9. South Africa
10. Vanuatu*
11. Lithuania

12. Estonia
13. Latvia
14. Mogadishu - Temporarily closed
15. Micronesia
16. Marshall Islands

(* Concurrently accredited from our resident Mission in Fiji till 1989)

(b) Steps are being undertaken to establish India's Diplomatic representations through concurrent accreditation in the following countries in near future.

1. Lithuania
2. Estonia
3. Latvia

[*English*]

Karnal Refinery Project

1186. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have permitted the Indian Oil Corporation to implement its Karnal Refinery Project on its own or as a joint venture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount likely to be spent on this project; and

(d) the progress made so far and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d). It has been decided that Karnal Refinery is to be set up by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) on its own. As per detailed feasibility report submitted by IOC which is under the consideration of Government, the cost of this project is

estimated to be about Rs. 2000 crores (April, 1991 prices).

[*Translation*]

Market Intervention Scheme for Apples

1187. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the amount released to Himachal Pradesh under Market Intervention Scheme during last two years for the purchase of Apples, Pears and Cherries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): No amount has been released to Himachal Pradesh for purchase of Apples under the Market Intervention Scheme which was launched for the first time in Himachal Pradesh during 1990-91. Government of India has to share 50% of losses under the scheme with the State Government on production of audited accounts of the operations which are yet awaited. There has been no market intervention operation with Himachal Pradesh in Pears and Cherries so far.

Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal Project

1188. SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work relating to the Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal project in Punjab has been entrusted to the Border Roads Organisation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). The Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal Project is under construction with the Government of Punjab. Necessary actions for entrusting the work to an appropriate new agency/agencies are under consideration of that Government. The time schedule for completing the project will

depend upon the nature and capacity of the new agency/agencies to be engaged by the Government of Punjab.

[English]

Allocation of Kerosene to Kerala

1189. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of kerosene allocated to Kerala during the last one year;

(b) whether there is any request to increase the quota of Kerosene to Kerala; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND)

(a) The quantity of Kerosene allocated to Kerala during 1990-91 was 265052 Tonnes.

(b) and (c). Requests have been received from Kerala as well as from other State Government for enhancement of SKO allocation. Requests, whenever received, are considered and decisions taken keeping in view various factors including products

availability etc.

[Translation]

Mining at Pathakhera Coal Belt, Maharashtra

1190. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether clearance has been given for extraction of coal in the Pathakhera coal-belt, Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith expenditure incurred and its production capacity;

(c) whether extraction work has been started there and if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be started; and

(e) the names of places where the new coal washeries have been set up/proposed to be set up to provide coal to power stations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (d). There are four sanctioned projects working in Pathakhera coalfield. The details are given below :-

STATEMENT

Project	Sanctioned Capacity (m.l.p.a)	Expenditure till March, 1991 (Rs. crores)	Coal production 1990-91 (m.t.)
1	2	3	4
Pathakhhera Expn. UG	1.32	32.51	1.07
Shobhapur Ug	0.60	23.85	0.53
Sami UG	0.42	13.50	0.27
Satpura UG	0.60	17.40	0.62

(e) So far Pathakhhera Coalfield is concerned there is no proposal for setting up a washery to supply coal to power plants. The Government have sanctioned the Piparwar Integrated-mine-cum-Beneficiation project (North Karanpura area) of Central Coalfield Limited for supply of washed coal to the linked power stations. Another similar integrated scheme has been envisaged at Kalinga project in Talcher area under South Eastern Coalfields Limited.

Fishes Affected by Unknown Disease in Kerala

[English]

Fishes Affected by Unknown Disease in Kerala

1191. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN
SHRI T.J. ANJALOSE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fish disease experts have identified the unknown disease which has affected the fish species in Vembanad lake the canals and ponds surrounding the lake in Kerala;

(b) if so, the cause for this disease; and

(c) the estimated loss due to this disease and the remedial measures taken so far and further steps proposed to be taken to eradicate this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). The Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Inst., Barrackpore and Central Institute of Brackish Water Aquaculture, Madras have identified the fish disease in Kerala backwaters as Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (E.U.S.). The causative factors of this disease are suspected to be bacterial, viral and fungal in origin, associated with environmental degradation in the affected area due to pollution.

(c) Government of Kerala have estimated a loss of about Rs. 19.8 crores. Various measures suggested to contain the disease are (i) treatment of the affected manageable water areas with lime and salt, (ii) Treatment of affected fish with potassium permagnate and (iii) to maintain hygenic condition in open waters.

Production of LPG

1192. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn any plan to increase the production of LPG, and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). It is proposed to increase the LPG production in the country through setting up of new production units and augmenting the production in the existing units.

Prices of Petrol and Petroleum Products

1193. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the prices of petrol and other petroleum products have been increased during the last two years; and

(b) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The prices of petrol and some other petroleum products have been increased three times during the last two years.

(b) Any change in the prices of petroleum products is made by the Government, keeping in view supplies, growth in demand and other socio-economic factors.

Diamond Processing Units

1194. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Diamond processing units in the country both in private and public sector;

(b) whether some of those units are in a deplorable condition at present;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to remove the bottlebeck in those units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Implementation of Indira Sagar Project

1195. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some prominent environmental scientists have advised the Government to stop the implementation of the Indira Sagar Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Voluntary organisations, including environmentalists, have been protesting against the construction of the Narmada Sagar Project, minly on grounds of rehabilitation and environmental issues. The State Government, which is implementing the project has drawn up a detailed programme for environmental safeguard measures and for rehabilitation of the project affected people. Narmada Control Authority has been directed to monitor the progress in respect

of these measures.

Mines and Metal Plants in Maharashtra

1196. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the mines in Maharashtra and the number of metal plants already set up there;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to expand these plants; and

(c) if so, the time bound programme thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) As per Information received from Govt. of Maharashtra, there are 280 mining leases for major minerals in the State of Maharashtra. The details are given in the Statement attached.

A total of 10 metal plants have been set up in the State of Maharashtra, out of these, 6 plants are for production of ferro-alloys and 1 is a sintaring plant for producing manganese sinters from fines.

(b) and (c). Expansion of three ferro-mangeness units has already been taken up in the recent past. Proposals are being worked out for expansion of the ferro-manganese plant of Maharashtra Electro-smelt Limited during 9th Plan. There is no plan at present for expansion of the manganese sintering plant.

List of mining leases for major minerals existing in the State of Maharashtra

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Mineral</i>	<i>No. of Mining Leases</i>
1.	Manganese ore	38
2.	Coal	34
3.	Iron ore	38
4.	Limestone	42
5.	Bauxite	8

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Mineral</i>	<i>No. of Mining Leases</i>
6.	Silica Sand	47
7.	Chromite	4
8.	Kyanite/Sillimanite	17
9.	Pyrophyllite	1
10.	Dolomite	6
11.	White clay/Yellow Ochre/Red Ochre	11
12.	China Clay	1
13.	Fire Clay	4
14.	Felspar	1
15.	Wolfram	1
16.	Barytes	4
17.	Sand for stowing	11
18.	Sand	1
19.	Mica	3
20.	Shale	1
21.	Quartz/Quartzite	6
22.	Fluorite	1
Total		280

Participation in activities of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation

1197. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had sent any communication to the Government of South Korea regarding participation in the activities of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the member countries of APEC; and

(c) the capacity in which India is likely to participate if invited to APEC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI
EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government had approached the Government of the Republic of Korea in its capacity as the then Chairman of APEC seeking participation in APEC activities. The Joint Statement issued after the conclusion

of the recent APEC Ministerial Conference in Seoul has noted the interest expressed by a number of countries and organisations in participating in or associating themselves with APEC. The Ministers of the member countries have requested their Senior Officials to further consider the issue of additional participation, reaffirming that APEC is an open and evolving process. The Senior Officials will report back to the fourth APEC Ministerial Meeting in Thailand in 1992.

(c) This will be based on the decisions taken at the fourth APEC Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok in 1992.

Assistance from Netherlands to Tap Ground Water in Andhra Pradesh

1198. SHRIDHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sought assistance from the Government of Netherlands to tap ground water in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project envisages construction and commissioning of 4,000 bore wells, 100 shallow tube-wells, 300 deep tube-wells 100 infiltration wells. The revised project cost is Rs. 55 crores and it is proposed to implement the project over a period of three years.

Marketing policy of coal gas from Dankuni

1199. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumption of coal gas from the Dankuni coal complex of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) could go up to 7 million cubic feet (CFT) a day from the present volume of a little over one million CFT a day with a

proper marketing policy;

(b) if so, whether the Coal India Ltd. has in consultation with the Government of West Bengal explored the ways for improving the marketing of coal gas from Dankuni, where much of the Gas is not being utilised presently and considerable quantity of gas is being burnt at the plant every day; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUA): (a) Yes, Sir. Dankuni Coal Complex project of Coal India Limited is fully ready to produce and supply 7 million cft of coal gas.

(b) and (c). Coal India Limited is constantly in touch with the Govt. of West Bengal and Greater Calcutta Gas Supply Corporation for improving off-take of Dankuni gas. Programme has been drawn up by the Govt. of West Bengal and GCGSC to gradually increase the gas consumption from the present level of 1 million cft per day to 7 million cft per day. In a recently held discussions between CIL and the Govt. of West Bengal, CIL has offered a rebate on the ex-works price of gas. This rebate will be linked with increased off-take of gas and more consumers are expected to come forward to buy gas.

Impact of India's Crude Oil Imports due to Shortfall in Soviet Oil Deliveries

1200. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made of the impact on India's crude oil imports consequent on a severe shortfall in Soviet Oil deliveries:

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the quantity of crude oil that is being purchased by India in spot market to meet the shortfall and the foreign exchange element involved therein; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure regular supplies to consumers?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There has been a shortfall in the supplies from U.S.S.R.

(c) and (d). The shortfall is being made good by making additional imports from alternate sources to the extent required so that regular supplies to consumers are maintained.

[Translation]

Resumption of Closed Mica Mines

1201. **SHRI BHUVNESHVAR PRASAD MEHTA:** Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the setting up of MITCO and taking over of mica industry by the Government, a large number of mica mines have been closed down and thousands of labourers engaged in mica mines and mica dealers have been rendered jobless;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Government for restarting these mica mines and provide jobs to the jobless labourers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Jamrani Dam Project

1202. **SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to abandon the Jamrani Dam Project in view

of the recent earthquake; and

(b) if not, the time by which the project is likely to be completed along with the details of progress made thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACAHARAN SHUKLA): (a) No, Sir. The work on the dam has not started. The recommendations of Department of Earthquake Engineering, University of Roorkee have been obtained for guidance in formulation of detailed designs of the dam to make it earthquake resistant.

(b) Jamrani Dam Project is envisaged under two stages. In Stage-I, construction of a barrage near Kathgodam in District Nainital along with the modernisation of irrigation system have almost been completed. Under Stage-II, a dam of 131 metre height is proposed upstream, of the barrage on the Gola river. In May 1989, the Advisory Committee has cleared the project technoeconomically subject to its approval from the Ministry of Environment and Forests. An estimated expenditure of Rs. 16.97 crores has been incurred against the estimated cost of Rs. 144.84 crores (1987 price level)

The project is scheduled to apill over to Ninth Plan.

Issues Raised at Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet (CHOGM) at Harare

1203. **SHRI SIMON MARANDI: SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations made by the Commonwealth Finance Ministers at Kuala Lumpur were taken up by the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government meet (CHOGM) at Harare;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved in this regard;

(c) whether any report was prepared

and presented by 'Appraisal Group' consisting of the Heads of Government of ten member countries during the summit;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the stand taken by India thereon;

(e) whether Pakistan raised Kashmir issue during the meet; and

(f) if so, what was the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The Common-wealth Finance Ministers meeting in Kuala Lumpur had recommended to CHOGM that steps should be taken to encourage consideration at a high political level of a number of developmental issues, identified in a Commonwealth Experts Group report entitled 'Change for the Better'. CHOGM had decided upon the steps to promote further consideration of the report and discussion of the issues raised therein.

(c) and (d). A High Level Appraisal Group of ten countries, at the Heads of Government level, deliberated mainly on the Future role of the Commonwealth in the 1990s and beyond. The Group identified the priorities for the Commonwealth in the future and these are reflected in the Harare Declaration, which was adopted by CHOGM. India was member of the Group and participated actively in the deliberations.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Raw Jute Production

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

(a) the target fixed for the production of raw jute during 1991-92; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target and to make Indian jute competitive in the global market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The production target of raw jute for the year 1991-92 has been fixed at 91 lakh bales of 180 kg. each.

(b) In order to achieve the production target, Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Special Jute Development Programme in 50 selected Districts of 8 major/mesta/sunnhemp growing states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Meghalaya, Orissa, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Under the scheme Government of India is providing financial assistance on production and distribution of certified/quality seeds of jute, mesta and sunnhemp, plant protection measures, demonstrations of improved technology, construction of retting tanks, distribution of fungal culture, etc. Expenditure on various development items are met in full by Government of India.

In order to make Indian Jute competitive in the international market, Govt. have taken several measures including grant of REP @ 30% on exports, extension External Market Assistance @ 10% on FOB value of diversified jute products meant for the export market, implementation of Export Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme to share losses, if any, on export of jute goods against high volume global contracts, allowing import of specified items of jute machinery at concessional rate of customs duty, implementation of modernisation programme to improve productivity and efficiency etc.

New coal making policy

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

(a) whether the Government propose

to announce a new coal making policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the concerned agencies would be consulted before implementation of the policy and the time by which this is likely to be announced?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to a new Coal Marketing Policy. A paper on the subject has been prepared and the views of State Governments on the paper have been invited. A decision on the proposals will be taken keeping in view all the suggestions received in this regard.

Setting up of a coal company in Orissa.

1206. DR. KARTIKESWARPATRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government for setting up of a coal company in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (b). The proposal for setting up of a new subsidiary coal company of Coal India Limited in Orissa is under consideration.

[*Translation*]

Prediction of Earthquakes

1207. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:
SHRI M.V.
CHANDRASEKHARA
MURTHY:
SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:
SHRI C.P.
MJDALAGIRIYAPPA:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian sub-continent is gradually drifting from ocean towards Asian tract with the result that the Himalayan mountain region is rising and there is possibility of frequent earthquakes in the entire Himalayan region;

(b) whether the earthquake in Uttar Pradesh on October 20, 1991 was due to this natural phenomena;

(c) if so, whether the Government had prior knowledge of the earthquake in U.P.

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is a danger to Tehri Dam also from earthquakes;

(f) whether the Union Government propose to import the technology from the developed countries from prediction of earthquakes;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Government propose to formulate any earthquake policy;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) the measures being contemplated by the Government for protecting the Himalayan region from earthquakes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir

(d) Earthquake science has not developed to the extent that scientists can forecast or predict earthquakes.

(e) Seismic potential of the region has been taken into consideration for safe designing of the Tehri Dam.

(f) No, Sir, because this is not available else where also.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) & (i). Earthquake is a natural disaster. Various Ministries of the Government concerned with scientific studies of earthquakes & disaster management take appropriate action.

(j) Earthquake is a natural phenomenon. Scientific studies for better understanding of the seismotectonics of the Himalayan region are continuing.

[English]

Dynamite Fishing in Kerala

1208. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether dynamite fishing is still continuing in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to stop this method of fishing?

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

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

Milk Processing Plant in Kerala

1209. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for setting up of Milk Processing Plants in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision of the Union Government

thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

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

Import of Copper Nickel Pipe Fittings by ONGC

1210. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has been importing various kinds of pipe fittings of copper nickel metals from abroad; and

(b) if so, the value and quantity of such fittings imported during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Allotment of LPG Agencies and Petrol/Diesel Pumps in Uttar Pradesh

1211. SHRI RAM BADAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of L.P.G. agencies and petrol/diesel pumps proposed to be allotted by the Government during 1992 in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the details of the places where these are likely to be opened, district-wise and Company-wise; and

(c) the number of the applications pending in regard to allotment of aforesaid agencies, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B.

SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c), The allotments of dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products are made on the basis of marketing Plans, product availability, etc.

made regarding the loss of life, damage to property and crops due to unprecedented rains in Karnataka during October, 1991; and

[*English*]

(b) If so, the details thereof?

Loss due to heavy rains in Karnataka

1212. SHRI C. P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The State Government of Karnataka has reported the following damage due to rains in October, 1991:-

(a) whether any assessment has been

i) No. of districts affected	- 6
ii) No. of human lives lost	- 37
iii) No. of houses fully damaged	- 24362
iv) No. of houses partially damaged	- 78285
v) No. of livestock lost	- 1099
vi) Cropped area affected (in lakh hectares)	- 0.45
vii) Public properties damaged (Rs. in crores)	- 22.18
ix) Total estimated loss (Rs. in crores)	- 55.12

Inquiry Re. over Reporting of Coal at Ballarpur area

1213. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

Consultative Committee of Parliament for the then Ministry of Energy had reported extensive shortages in pithead stocks of coal in WCL. CBI has been requested to investigate into these shortages. The enquiry has not been completed.

(a) whether the inquiry regarding the over reporting of coal at Ballarpur under Western Coalfields Limited has been completed;

In the meantime the coal company has intimated departmental action against four Sub-Area Managers of Hindustan Lelpeth, Ballarpur, Sasti and Dhuptala Sub-Areas. Besides, the managers of Chandrapur and Ballarpur areas have been transferred.

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

Employment to Local people in Coal mines of Chhota Nagpur

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMA GOUDA): (a) to (c). Shri Naresh Pugalia, M.P. as a member of the Sub-Committee of

1214. SHRI KARIA MUNDA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose

to give more employment in coal mines to the local people of Chhota Nagpur in Bihar and also give coal agencies to the poor people of that area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMA GOUDA): (a) to (b). As per prescribed procedure, requisitions for filling up vacant posts, if any, are sent to the local employment exchange of Chhota Nagpur for sponsoring suitable candidates to be considered on merit. In case the local employment exchange has no candidates to sponsor, resort to open advertisement is made. Actual extent of employment of local people, however, depends on the available vacant posts.

Coal India Limited does not have any policy for giving coal agencies to individuals.

Distribution and sale of Aluminium

1215. SHRI KARIA MUNDA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to undertake the distribution and sale of aluminium of all the aluminium companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government do not propose to control distribution and sale of aluminium as there is adequate availability of aluminium in the country.

[Translation]

Durgavati Reservoir Project

1216. SHRICHHEDIPASWAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of construction of the Durgavati Reservoir Project in Bihar;

(b) the expenditure likely to be incurred on the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). The work on earth dam has been nearly completed except for river portion and the portion adjoining the spillway and irrigation sluices. The work on spillway, spill channel and deep diversion channel is in preliminary stage. The progress of earth work on the right and left main canals is about 25 per cent. An expenditure of Rs. 69 crores has been incurred upto March, 1991 against the latest estimated cost of Rs. 147.40 crores.

(c) The project is scheduled for completion in VIII Plan.

Coal deposits in Bihar

1217. SHRICHHEDIPASWAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated coal deposits in Bihar, district-wise;

(b) the coal projects started during the last two years and those which are under consideration at present;

(c) the progress made in the on-going projects;

(d) whether the progress is in accordance with the programme formulated in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B.
NYAMAGOUDA):(a) A total reserves of

64063.85 million tonnes of coal has been estimated upto a depth of 1200 meters in the different coalfields of Bihar. District-wise break-up of coal reserves of the state of Bihar is furnished below:-

(*Figures in million tonnes*)

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Coal reserves</i>
1.	Hazaribagh	22343.21
2.	Plamu	3765.26
3.	Ranchi	700.53
4.	Dhanbad	21396.00
5.	Deogarh	399.85
6.	Giridih	5054.86
7.	Godda	6643.89
8.	Dumka	3710.25
9.	Bhagalpur	50.00
Total		64063.85

(b) 13 coal mining projects were sanctioned during 1989-90, 12 in 1990-91 and 3 more till October, '91 in 1991-92 in the State of Bihar. 10 new coal mining projects are under appraisal and scrutiny at the Government level for approval.

(c) to (e). There are at present 73 coal mining projects, each costing Rs. 2.00 crore and above, under implementation in the State of Bihar. 42 of these projects are on schedule and 31 projects are delayed in implementation. Major reasons for delay in implementation are, delay in land acquisition and rehabilitation of affected persons, delay in supply of equipments, difficult geo-mining conditions, shortage of funds etc.

Profit/loss of coal companies

1218. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment made and profit earned by the various coal companies during each of the last three years;

(b) whether some companies have suffered losses during the above period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve their production?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B.
NYAMAGOUDA): (a) The total investment and position of working results by the various subsidiary coal companies of Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company of Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited during the years 1988-91 year wise are given below:-

STATEMENT

1. Capital Expenditure		(Rs. in crores)			
Company	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91 (Provisional)		
1	2	3	4		
Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	178.85	204.84	432.59		
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	204.27	205.98	237.37		
Central Coalfields Ltd.	135.31	216.14	247.41		
Northern Coalfields Ltd.	304.29	345.91	278.03		
Western Coalfields Ltd.	158.37	153.68	144.52		
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	262.30	241.95	299.31		
North Eastern Coalfields	7.67	7.00	6.62		
Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited	8.34	8.58	6.07		
Dankuni Coal Complex	20.73	8.36	2.40		
Coal India Ltd. (HQ)	2.68	0.95	0.82		
Total Coal India Limited	1282.61	1393.39	1655.14		
Total Singareni Colliery Company Limited	140.00	150.00	213.00		

2. Working Results (Profit (+)/Loss (-) before reten price)

Company	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91 (Provisional)
1	2	3	4
Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	- 129.58	- 245.01	- 345.21
Bharat Coking coal Ltd.	- 256.25	- 282.53	- 337.54
Central Coalfields Ltd.	- 55.57	+ 11.61	+ 21.00
Northern Coalfields Ltd.	+ 169.14	+ 277.66	+ 292.76
Western Coalfields Limited	+ 159.82	- 294.80	+ 267.91
Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited	+ 2.42	+ 2.42	+ 2.06
Design Institute Limited North Eastern Coalfields (including stockyards)	+ 5.49	+ 0.74	- 34.42
Total Coal India Ltd.	- 59.88	+ 89.13	- 253.16
Total Singareni Colliery Company Limited	+ 5.48	- 35.72	- 163.19

(b) Eastern Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited have been continuously making high losses, before considering coal price retention account adjustments

Singareni Collieries Company Limited has also been incurring loss.

(c) The main reasons for losses in both KCL and BCCL are predominance of high cost underground mines, difficult mining conditions, exhaustion of reserves and large work-force. SCC: Higher percentage of production from the conventional UG mines which are labour intensive, low productivity and high wage cost; OC mines having high stripping ratio; industrial relations problems, and law and order situation.

(d) Following steps are being taken for improving performance and reducing the losses of Eastern Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited:

1. Rationalisation of manpower.
2. Redeployment of manpower.
3. Training for skill upgradation.
4. Voluntary retirement scheme.
5. Productivity improvement.
6. Increasing production of superior grades of coal, wherever possible.
7. Intensive monitoring of identified mines.
8. Segregation of feeder lines for uninterrupted power supply.

[English]

Chaliyar Irrigation Project

1219. SHRI V.S. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Kerala

has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for the construction of the Chaliyar Irrigation Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to include this project in the eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). The State Government have indicated that they have a proposal to formulate the Chaliyar major project on the basis of detailed topographical and geological investigations for submission to the Central Water Commission for appraisal by March, 1992.

[Translation]

Production of Oilseeds

1220. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is facing edible oil crisis due to increase in the prices of oil seeds and shortfall in oilseeds;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the production of oilseeds during the current year and the last year; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the production of oilseeds in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). Despite considerable increase in indigenous oilseeds production in the recent past, edible oil prices have tended to be high during the current year because the demand supply gap could not be adequately filled by imports. The position is not critical and with the kharif oilseeds coming into the market, improvement in the situation can be expected.

(c) Production of oilseeds during 1989-90 and 1990-91 was 16.75 and 19.10 million tonnes respectively. It is still somewhat early to arrive at firm estimates of the current kharif production.

(d) To increase the production of oilseeds, Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses (TMO & P) is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) in 18 important states of the country. The assistance is provided to the farmers through State Governments for the production and distribution of seeds, Rhizobium culture, Plant Protection chemicals and equipments, farm implements, Gypsum and pyrites and for organising demonstrations etc. under the Scheme.

[English]

Statement of Pakistan of Babri Masjid Issue

1221. SHRI KULEEP SINGH BHURIA:
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
DR. A.K. PATEL:
SHRI P.M. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a recent statement issued by the Foreign Office of the Government of Pakistan on the situation in Ayodhya and Babri Masjid;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to safeguard the interests of Indian nationals and their shrines in Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI

EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government's regret and deep concern was conveyed to the Government of Pakistan. Such attempts to interfere in our internal affairs are a violation of the universally accepted norms of Inter-State conduct and of the Simla Agreement are unacceptable.

(c) and (d). It is the duty of the Government of Pakistan to protect the rights, interests and places of religious worship of the minority communities in that country.

Government are of the view that neither India nor Pakistan should interfere in each other's internal affairs.

Supply of Copper Rods to Small Scale Units

1222. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:
SMT. BHAVNA CHIKHLIA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "HCL supply delay hits copper consuming SSIs of the South" appearing in the Economic Times of September 23, 1991;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in supply of copper rods to small scale units; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to non-availability of free foreign exchange, import of copper cathodes could not be arranged, which very adversely affected the production of copper rod in the Talaja Plant of Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL). Coupled with the restricted production at the Talaja Copper Rod Plant, a consignment of

about 2000 tonnes of continuous cast copper wire rods returned after toll smelting of copper concentrates abroad arrived at Madras port in a slightly fire damaged condition. Due to all these unforeseen reasons HCL could not fulfil its commitment, to the customers.

(c) HCL has taken steps to meet the commitments from its own production.

Opencast mining projects at Ananta and Khadia

1223. SHRICHETANP.S. CHAUHAN:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHLIA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to

state:

(a) whether the Union Government have approved opencast mining projects at Ananta and Khadia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on each of those projects; and

(d) the time by which the production is likely to be started in those projects?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. Both these projects have been sanctioned by the Government. Some of salient details are given below:-

<i>Item Company</i>	<i>Ananta OCP SECL</i>	<i>Khadia OCP NCL</i>
Capital cost (Rs. crores)	156.49	538.75
Capacity	4 mtpa	4 mtpa
Mineable reserves	68.68 mt	88.00mt
Average stripping ratio	0.51 cu. m.per tonne	4.08 cu. m.per tonne
Grade of Coal	F	E
O.M.S.	12.38 tonnes	10.00 tonnes

Both these mines are expected to contribute to coal production during the current year (1991-92).

Gold Mines

1224. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the gold mines where the cost of extracting gold is much higher

than its market value; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHIR BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The details of highly uneconomic gold mines which belong to Bharat Gold Mines Limited and the Cost of extracting gold is given below:

(In Rupees)

Name of Mines	Year-wise cost of production of 10 gram of gold		
	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91
Mysore Mine	11,778	)( )( 9,078*	10,904*
Champion Reef Mine	5,092)()(
Nundydroog Mine	4,534	9,479	10,588

*The tow mines were amalgamated in 1989-90 and is operating as an amalgamated mine.

(b) A decision has already been taken in November, 1987 to phase out the above mines over a period of 7 years.

Permanent Cell to OMB at Drug Trafficking

1226. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had made any proposal for the creation of a permanent cell in the Commonwealth to help member countries in combating the menace of drug trafficking; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the other member countries thereto and the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Blackmarketing of Petroleum Products

1227. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:
SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken against the petrol/ diesel retail outlets and LPG agencies, which were found indulging in blackmarketing of petroleum products during the last three years in different States, State-wise;

(b) the number of such cases in Uttar Pradesh, district-wise; and

(c) the number of licences cancelled in the State, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Grants to Agricultural Universities in U.P.

1228. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Agricultural Universities in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the quantum of assistance sought

and the amount released to each of these Universities during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C.

LENKA): (a) Sir, there are three Agricultural Universities in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The details of assistance provided by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research are as follows:

(in lakhs)

<i>Name of the University</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount demanded</i>	<i>Amount released</i>
G.P. Pant U.A. & T. Pantnagar	1988-89 1989-90 1990-91	11.8 13.34 77.63	10.00 13.44 30.00
C.S. Azad U.A. & T. Kanpur	1988-89 1989-90 1990-91	84.82 17.00 30.00	25.00 17.00 30.00
N.D. Uni. of Agri. & Tech. Faizabad	1988-89 1989-90 1990-91	15.85 27.34 95.00	15.70 27.37 30.00

**LPG Connections in Trans-Yamuna
area of Delhi**

1229. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether people living in the trans-Yamuna area of Delhi have not been issued gas connections even after a lapse of five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government to ensure early release of gas connections to them?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). While efforts are being made to give as many LPG connections as early as possible the clearance of the waiting lists depends on various factors such as product availability, number of persons on the waiting lists etc.

**Allotment of Petrol/Diesel outlets and
LPG agencies**

1230. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a new scheme for the allotment of petrol/diesel retail outlets and L.P.G. agencies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

[English]

Augmenting Supply of DMS Milk

1231. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mother Dairy carries

out regular checks on the quality and quantity of milk sold through its booths;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether spilled over milk are resold by DMS;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to augment the supply of DMS milk in the evenings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. On an average per month about 2500 samples are tested for checking the quality and about 10,500 samples are tested for checking the quantity of milk sold through the Bulk Milk Vending Booths of Mother Dairy.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The question does not arise.

(e) Significant augmentation of the supply of DMS milk in the evening would be possible after the proposed capacity expansion during the Eighth Five Year Plan materialises.

Allotment of Petrol Pumps, LPG Agencies to Unemployed Youth

1232. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 165 on January 8, 1991 and state:

(a) whether the information regarding the number of unemployed graduates who were allotted petrol pumps and LPG agencies during the last one year has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of SCs/STs who were allotted petrol pumps and agencies during the last three years;

(d) the details of the requests of the

unemployed graduates pending with the Ministry for the allotment of petrol pumps and LPG agencies till date; and

(e) the steps taken to expedite the action thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). During the year 1990-91 10 petrol/diesel retail outlets and 9 LPG distributorships were allotted to Unemployed Graduates.

(c) Petrol/Diesel retail outlets - 229
LPG distributorships - 103

(d) and (e). No such records are maintained by the Government.

[Translation]

Support Price for Agricultural Commodities

1233. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA
RAO VADDE:
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced the minimum support price for sugarcane and other agricultural commodities for 1991-92 season;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date by which the revised support price will come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). The Government have announced minimum support prices for the 1991-92 marketing season as per details given below:

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Crop	Variety	Marketing Year 1991-92	Procurement/Minimum Support Price (Rs./quintal)
1.	Wheat	FAQ	April-March	225
2.	Barley	FAQ	-do-	200
3.	Gram	FAQ	-do-	450
4.	Rapeseed/Mustard	FAQ	-do-	600
5.	Safflower	FAQ	-do-	575
6.	Toria	FAQ	-do-	570
7.	Paddy	Common	Oct.-Sept.	230
8.	Jowar, Bajra, Ragi	FAQ	-do-	205
9.	Maize	FAQ	-do-	210
10.	Groundnut-in-shell	FAQ	-do-	645
11.	Soyabean	Yellow	-do-	445
		Black	-do-	395
12.	Sunflower Seed	FAQ	-do-	670

Sl. No.	Crop	Variety	Marketing Year 1991-92	Procurement/Minimum Support Price (Rs./quintal)
13.	Cotton	F-414/H. 777	-do-	695
		H-4	-do-	840
14.	Jute	TD-5	Oct.-Sept.	375
15.	Tobacco (Rs. per Kg.)	F-2	-do-	14.75
		L-2	-do-	16.00
16.	Copra	FAQ Milling	1991 (Jan.-Dec.)	1700
		FAQ Ball	-do-	1850
17.	Sugarcane* (Statutory Minimum Price) (SMP)		Oct. Sept.	24.00

*Linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 per cent with a proportionate premium of every 0.1% above that level. It may, however be noted that the revision of the SMP is under consideration.

Foreign Assistance for Earthquake Victims in Uttar Kashi

of assistance received from such countries country-wise?

1234. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any foreign assistance for the earthquake victims in Uttar Kashi; and

(b) if so, the details of quantum and kind

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of relief supplies received from foreign countries for earthquake victims of Uttar Kashi, as available with the Ministry, are as follows :

BHUTAN	Rs. 10 lakhs in cash.	
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	Relief assistance worth US \$ 50,000 approximately to the Indian Red Cross Society in kind as follows:	
Acrylic pullovers	40 cases (1200 pieces)	680 Kg.
Cotton Blankets	75 cases (1500 pieces)	2850 Kg.
Biscuits	100 cases (3200 sacks)	640 Kg.
Milk Powder	100 cases (5000 sacks)	2270 Kg.
Fruit Powder	50 cases (1200 bottles)	600 Kg.
PAKISTAN	Three plane loads of relief supplies consisting of blankets and tents to Indian Red Cross Society.	
USA	US \$ 25,000 by the US Embassy in New Delhi.	
UK	Pounds 25,000 in form of cheque to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.	
FRANCE	Contribution of 2 lakh French Franc announced and would be in form of a cheque as contribution to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.	
POLAND	Rs. 1052 donated by some private individuals in Poland.	

**Indian Peace Keeping Force for
Kampuchea**

1235. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D.
CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to send a peace keeping force under UN command to Kampuchea;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any agreement has been entered into with that country in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) (a) and (b). At the request of the UN Secretary-General, Government of India has decided to contribute personnel to the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC). Three military liaison officers have so far been selected for the UNAMIC. The UNAMIC will be supported by the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) which will assist the Supreme National Council of Cambodia to administer the country and hold free and fair elections.

(c) No, Sir. Our participation in the UN Peacekeeping Operations is by arrangement with the United Nations.

[English]

Foodgrains Production

1236. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the kharif production was less than the target set during the current year;

(b) the reasons for the shortfall; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government

to grow more foodgrains during Rabi season in each State to meet the demand of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The final estimates of kharif foodgrain crops for 1991-92 have not yet become due from the States. However, as per the current assessment, the kharif foodgrain production this year is likely to fall short of the targetted level of 103 million tonnes.

(b) The reason for decline in kharif foodgrain production during 1990-91 is on account of long dry spells and aberrant weather conditions prevailing particularly in the north-western parts of the country including the States of Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan etc.

(c) To make up the shortfall in the production of kharif foodgrains, strategy for the rabi season of 1991-92 has been drawn in consultation with the State Governments during the National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi Campaign. These include contingency cropping, larger area coverage under rabi/summer rice, wheat, rabi/summer maize, pulses etc., bringing additional area under irrigation from major and medium schemes. These steps are in addition to the implementation of the ongoing developmental programmes like Special Foodgrains Production Programme (SFPP) and National Pulses Development Project (NPDP).

Foreign Firms in Refining of Crude Oil

1237. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to allow foreign firms in refining of crude oil,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the foreign firms.

thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) (a) No new decision has been taken.

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

[*Translation*]

Production and Demand of Aluminum

1238. SHRI RAM SHARAN YADAV: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of aluminium in the country is far short of its demand;

(b) if so, the quantum of short-fall and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

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

[*English*]

Closure of Rolling Mills in Bihar

1239. SHRI RAM SHARAN YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the rolling mills lying closed in Bihar and since when;

(b) the reasons for their closure;

(c) the total investment made in those mills and the number of persons rendered unemployed due to their closure; and

(d) the steps being taken to restart these mills and the time by which these are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House:

Linkage of Southern Rivers

1240. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:
SHRI C. P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:
SHRI B. DEVARAJAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have conducted the feasibility study regarding the linkage of southern rivers such as Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Cauvery;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project;

(c) whether any technical help has been sought from Israel in this regard and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any assistance from the World Bank is likely to be received for the project and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the World Bank has also conducted the feasibility study of the project; and

(f) whether the project is likely to resolve the Cauvery Water Dispute or any other water dispute and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI C. VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) National Water Development Agency has completed pre-feasibility reports for seven water transfer links including Mahanadi (Manibhadra)- Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) Link, Godavari (Polavaram) - Krishna (Vijayawada) Link and Godavari (Inchampalli)- Krishna (Pulichintala) Link.

(b) Estimated cost of all the links forming part of the proposed Mahanadi-Cauvery

links has not been worked out as yet. Estimated cost for the links for which pre-feasibility reports have been prepared by

National Water Development Agency are as follows:

-
- | | |
|---|------------------|
| (1) Mahanadi(Manibhadra)- Godavari(Dowlaiswaram) Link | Rs. 3616 Crores. |
| (2) Godavari(Polavaram)-Krishna(Vijayawada) Link | Rs. 1123 Crores. |
| (3) Godavari(Inchampalli)-Krishna(Pulichintala) Link | Rs. 2700 Crores. |
-

(c) No, Sir.

(d) At present there is no such proposal.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The concept of inter linking of rivers as envisaged in the National Perspectives of water resources development is for transfer of water from surplus to water short areas and will help in resolving water scarcity and flood inundation problems.

**Retrieval of Katchathivu Island
from Sri Lanka**

1241. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR
PATEL:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA
MAHAJAN:
SHRIDATTATRAYBANDARU:
SHRI ANNA JOSHI:
PROF. UMMAREDDY
VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI V.S.
VIDAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to hold talks with the Government of Sri Lanka on the issue of retrieval of Katchathivu island from Sri Lanka;

(b) if not, the reason therefor;

(c) whether the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has made any demand for the retrieval of the island;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the position taken by the Union Government thereon;

(e) whether the Union Government are aware of the increasing incidents of firing by Sri Lankan Navy of the Indian fishermen off the coast of Katchathivu; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b), Government regard the delimitation of Indo-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary through the Agreements of 1974 and 1976 as a settled matter.

(c) and (d), Tamil Nadu Chief Minister in her Independence Day address on 15 August 1991 is reported to have called on the Centre to take action for the retrieval of Katchathivu from Sri Lanka.

In terms of the Indo-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary Agreements of 1974 and 1976, the Island of Katchathivu lies on the Sri Lankan side of the International Boundary Line. There is no change in the Government's position in this regard.

(e) Yes

(f) All reported cases of hostile action by Sri Lankan Navy against our fishermen were taken up strongly by Government with Sri Lanka Government who have been asked to deal with it in a legal and humane manner.

Plea in UN General Assembly against state sponsored terrorism

1242. SHRISHRAVANKUMAR PATEL:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he pleaded at the recent 46th Session of the UN General Assembly against the State sponsored terrorism such as abetment to terrorism by Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab; and

(b) if so, the response of the UN General Assembly and major member countries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is growing concern about terrorism in the international community as evidenced in the discussions at the United Nations. The General Assembly has adopted a resolution on 'International terrorism' which, inter-alia, urges all States to prevent the preparation and organisation in their respective territories, of terrorists and subversive acts directed against other States and their citizens.

Cotton Production

1243. SHRISHRAVANKUMAR PATEL:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in cotton production this year;

(b) if so, the number of bales of cotton produced in the country during the current year and the comparative figures for the previous three years;

(c) the reasons for such sharp fall in cotton production; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that cotton and cotton yarn are made available to handloom and powerloom weavers in

adequate quantities and at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). The estimated production of cotton in the country for the previous three years is as follows:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Lakh bales of 170 kgs. each</i>
1988	87.44
1989-90(revised)	114.22
1990-91(final)	97.59

The final estimates of production of cotton for the current year i.e. 1991-92 have not yet become due from the States. However, as per the current assessment, the production of cotton during 1991-92 is expected to be higher than that of the year 1990-91.

(c) The fall in production of cotton during 1990-91, as compared to previous year, was on account of pest (heliethis attack at the flowering stage of the crop in the major growing districts of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.

(d) Cotton is not used directly by Handloom and Powerloom weavers. Government has taken a number of corrective measures including suspending export of cotton yarn and by persuading the spinning mills in the Cooperative, Private and State Sectors to supply Hank yarn to Handloom weavers at pre-budget prices.

[*Translation*]

Treatment of Agriculture at par with Industry

1244. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
DR. VISWANTHAM KANITHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be

pleased to state:

(a) whether an Advisory Committee appointed by the Government to go into the issues relating to treatment of agriculture at par with industry has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

The Committee has made a large number of recommendations on farm price policy, alternative Food Security System, new strategy for greater production, incomes and employment, export of farm products, better use of land and water resources and declaring agriculture as an industry. As regards, treatment of agriculture at par with industry, the Committee has observed that "so long as agriculture is given the same facilities and incentives as industry and similar norms, standards and criteria are applied in the domain like fixation of prices, budgetary allocations, credit, power, transport and export facilities, it is of little consequence whether any formalised status is given to agriculture or not. However, if well-established and pronounced bias against agriculture cannot be corrected by Government policies and programmes, without according it the formal status of industry, the Committee recommends that agriculture be declared as industry."

[English]

Procurement Price for Paddy and Wheat

1245. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the procurement prices fixed for

wheat and paddy;

(b) the reasons for disparity in their procurement prices;

(c) whether the States of Punjab and Haryana have objected to the fixation of low prices for such procurement;

(d) if so, the main grounds of their objection; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The procurement/minimum support prices for the 1991-92 marketing season are Rs. 225 per quintal for wheat and Rs. 230 per quintal for common paddy.

(b) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) recommends minimum support prices for wheat and paddy after considering the economics each crop taking into account relevant factors like cost of production, changes in input prices, input-output price parity, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, inter-crop price parity, effect on industrial cost structure, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living, international market situation and parity between prices paid and prices received by farmers.

(c) to (e). The State Government of Haryana and Punjab recommended higher support prices than those recommended by the CACP on the basis of their own assessment of higher cost of production in the two states. The Government have fixed the support prices after considering the recommendations of the CACP and the views also of State Governments including those of Punjab and Haryana.

[Translation]

Oil Exploration in Central Areas

1246. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the Gas Supply areas are either non-hilly areas in the West or in Tripura and Assam in the East;

(b) the expenditure involved in supply of gas from these areas to areas like Rajasthan etc. in Central India;

(c) whether any scheme has been drawn to supply gas to these areas through gas pipelines; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether keeping in view the excessive expenditure involved, the Government propose to accelerate the process of oil exploration work in central areas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Gas has been located in these areas amongst others such as Western Offshore, etc.

(b) The expenditure involved in supply of gas through pipeline depends of factors such as quantity of gas, the distance to be traversed, pressure at which gas is to be delivered, etc.

(c) Gas is being supplied in this area through HBJ pipeline.

(d) Exploration is an ongoing process, which is carried out on the basis of requirement, priorities and availability of resources.

Land Development Programmes

1247. **SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:** Will the Minister of **AGRICULTURE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to continuous drought in Rajasthan small and marginal farmers are not taking interest in Land Development programmes despite availability of loan and grants; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). The necessary information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the table of the Sabha on its receipt.

Diversion of Funds of Land Development Programmes to Minor Irrigation projects

1248. **SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:** Will the Minister of **WATER RESOURCES** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sought the approval of the Union Government for diverting the amount allocated for land development programmes in the implementation of minor irrigation projects; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of Rajasthan had sought such a permission from the Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) No decision has yet been taken for want of desired information from Government of Rajasthan. If the State Government furnishes the desired information their request can be considered.

Waiting List for LPG connections

1249. **SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:** Will the Minister of **PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons on the waiting list for the LPG connections in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of new connections being issued every year;

SHANKARANAND): (a) A statement is enclosed.

(c) whether the Government propose to dispose of the long waiting list of Jaipur on priority basis; and

(b) New LPG connections are released depending upon product availability.

(d) if so, the time by which the persons on the waiting list in Jaipur are likely to get gas connections?

(c) No, Sir.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B.

(d) Efforts are on to give LPG connections to as many applicants as early as possible.

STATEMENT

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>States</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.20
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.06
3.	Assam	0.91
4.	Bihar	1.57
5.	Goa	0.36
6.	Gujarat	5.40
7.	Harayana	2.67
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.25
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.29
10.	Karnataka	2.62
11.	Kerala	2.23
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3.38
13.	Maharashtra	11.61
14.	Manipur	0.13
15.	Meghalaya	0.10
16.	Mizoram	0.08
17.	Nagaland	0.10

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>States</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	2	3
18.	Orissa	0.45
19.	Punjab	3.71
20.	Rajasthan	3.40
21.	Sikkim	0.02
22.	Tamilnadu	6.14
23.	Tripura	0.17
24.	Uttar Pradesh	9.05
25.	West Bengal	5.13
Total		63.03
UNION TERRITORIES		
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.03
2.	Chandigarh	0.78
3.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.01
4.	Delhi	5.54
5.	Daman	0.03
6.	Lakshadweep	0.00
7.	Pondicherry	0.16
8.	Silvasa	0.00
9.	Diu	0.00
TOTAL		6.55
GR.TOTAL		69.58

[*English*]

**Offer by Foreign Companies for
Petroleum Exploration**

1250. SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will

the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL
GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of the off-shore and
on-shore blocks for which the Government
have invited offers for petroleum exploitation,

(b) the names of the foreign companies which have made offers by the closing date;

(c) the target date for the consideration of the offers and allotment of blocks to the successful bidder;

(d) the time frame for the commencement and completion of exploration; and

(e) whether the terms offered include preferential claim of the country on the oil and gas produced and if so, whether the price applicable will be the then prevailing world price?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) 39 offshore and 33 onshore blocks have been offered.

(b) The last date for receipt of bids is 29.2.1992.

(c) No target has been fixed.

(d) This would be decided at the time of signing of the contracts.

(e) Yes, Sir. The price payable for crude oil is at the prevailing international price. However, the price payable for natural gas would not exceed the price paid to the producer national oil companies (exclusive of cess, taxes and royalty).

[*Translation*]

Chandil Irrigation Project in Bihar

1252. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) since when the work on the Chandil Irrigation Project in Bihar has been going on;

(b) the estimated cost of the project and the cost escalation resulting from the delay in execution thereof; and

(c) the time by which the project is scheduled to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Chandil Dam is a component of the Subernarekha multipurpose project of Bihar which was started in the year 1979-80

(b) the originally sanctioned estimated cost of the project was Rs. 480.90 Crores and the revised estimated cost based on 1990 schedule is Rs. 1428.82 crores. The revision has taken place due to various reasons like cost escalation, increased liabilities on rehabilitation and resettlement and land acquisition and major changes in the design of dam.

(c) The Project is scheduled to spill over beyond VIII plan

Allocation made for Soil Conservation Scheme

1253. SHRI TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the amount allocated for soil conservation schemes to each State during the Seventh Plan and the Eighth Plan so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): The information is given in the statement below:

STATEMENT

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/Union Territories	Allocation made during					
		Seventh Plan			1991-92		
1	2	3	4	5	6	1992-93	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	781.58	253.75	366.00	1401.33		
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	246.92	202.50	6.00	455.42		
3.	Assam	319.45	157.75	66.00	543.20		
4.	Bihar	1679.15	462.40	676.00	2817.50		
5.	Gujarat	517.14	529.82	221.00	1267.96		
6.	Haryana	764.60	244.30	206.00	1214.86		
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1687.13	475.00	686.00	2848.13		
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	145.80	60.60	81.00	287.40		
9.	Karnataka	895.32	238.70	356.00	1490.00		
10.	Kerala	432.88	127.25	166.00	726.10		
11.	Madhya Pradesh	3482.47	597.28	891.00	970.75		
12.	Maharashtra	648.05	107.50	176.00	31.55		

Sl. No.	Name of the State/Union Territories	Allocation made during					
		Seventh Plan			1990-91		
1	2	3	4	5	6	1991-92	1992-93
13.	Manipur	450.84	154.00	6.00	610.84		
14.	Meghalaya	347.81	180.00	6.00	533.81		
15.	Mizoram	688.45	358.00	6.00	1052.45		
16.	Nagaland	688.45	358.00	6.00	1052.45		
17.	Orissa	1568.55	335.00	356.00	2259.55		
18.	Punjab	987.43	225.00	306.00	1498.40		
19.	Rajasthan	3154.66	1386.61	1026.00	5567.27		
20.	Sikkim	257.17	128.60	166.00	551.77		
21.	Tamil nadu	724.37	250.00	356.00	1330.37		
22.	Tripura	436.51	196.75	56.00	689.26		
23.	Uttar Pradesh	4251.60	1172.38	1217.00	6640.98		
24.	West Bengal	891.99	203.00	301.00	1395.99		
25.	Goa	15.53	8.00	10.00	33.55		

Sl. No.	Name of the State/Union Territories	Allocation made during					
		Seventh Plan	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93
1	2	3	4	5	6	6	
26.	A & N Island	24.24	5.00	12.00		41.2	
27.	Chandigarh	0.25	...	...		0.25
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6.00	...	4.00		10.00	
29.	Delhi	21.91	12.00	14.00		47.91	
30.	Daman & Diu	...	...	...		...
31.	Lakshadweep	8.80	3.60	4.00		15.80	
32.	Pondicherry	11.49	4.00	4.00		19.49	
	Total	25960.78	8349.79	7759.00		42069.57	

Loss due to Natural Calamities

1254. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUHARY:
SHRIDATTATRAY BANDARU:
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the value of crops and property damaged due to flood, drought, cyclone, hailstorm and other natural calamities, separately during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Shortfall in production of Central Coalfield Limited

1255. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUHARY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target of production fixed for Central Coalfield Limited during the last three years has been achieved; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Ginger Cultivation

1256. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual production of Ginger during the last three years, State-Wise;

(b) whether Ginger growing farmers are facing problems;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to encourage cultivation of Ginger and to increase its support price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The State-wise estimates of production of ginger available for the last three years (1988-89 to 1990-91) are given in the statement attached.

(b) to (d). In the event of crash in prices, in order to avoid distress sale of ginger, Market Intervention Scheme is implemented on receipt of proposal from the State Governments. NAFED has, however, purchased 470 tonnes of green ginger in Wynad District of Kerala during the current season.

For encouraging the cultivation of ginger the measures undertaken are:-i) Production of foundation seed material of ginger; ii) Scheme for laying demonstration-cum-Seed Multiplication plots of ginger. These are being implemented during 1991-92 with an outlay of Rs. 7.50 lakhs under the Central sector Integrated Programme for Development of Spices.

STATEMENT

Production of ginger during the last three years (1988-89 to 1990-91)

('000 tonnes)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1988-89					1989-90					1990-91				
		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh			14.5					11.0							4.5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh			4.0					4.2							4.2
3.	Bihar			0.8					0.6							0.8
4.	Gujarat			0.3					0.5							0.3
5.	Haryana			0.1					0.1							0.1
6.	Himachal Pradesh			0.5					0.6							0.6
7.	Karnataka			3.1					2.8							2.6
8.	Kerala			45.4					44.9							44.5
9.	Madhya Pradesh			2.8					2.6							2.7
10.	Maharashtra			1.0					0.9							0.9
11.	Manipur			0.7					0.9							1.1

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1988-89			1989-90		1990-91	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12.	Meghalaya			29.0	29.3			29.6
13.	Mizoram			8.4	10.2			10.5
14.	Nagaland			0.9	1.0			1.0
15.	Orissa			12.4	15.6			14.0
16.	Rajasthan			0.1	0.1			0.4
17.	Sikkim			14.0	15.8			16.0
18.	Tamil Nadu			0.6	0.9			0.7
19.	Tripura			1.2	1.3			1.3
20.	Uttar Pradesh			3.6	3.7			3.7
21.	West Bengal			8.7	9.1			9.0
	All India			152.1	156.1			148.5

New Avenues for Oil Production

1257 SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) the progress made by the ONGC to explore new avenues for oil production during the last one year;

(b) the new plans to step up oil production;

(c) the amount being spent on oil import at present and the time by which the country is likely to become self sufficient in this regard;

(d) whether there is also a proposal to explore for oil production at Lakshadweep; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). A number of new projects are being developed which will lead to increased production of oil.

(c) During 1990-91, crude oil and Petroleum products valued at about Rs. 10778 crores were imported. The country is not likely to be self sufficient in the foreseeable future.

(d) and (e). A number of blocks in Lakshadweep area has been offered in the Fourth Round of bidding for exploration

Teaching Allowance to Fishing Technology Staff

1258. SHRI P.M. SYEED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal to sanction teaching allowance to the fishing technology staff like fisherman and boat drivers who are involved in imparting practical training to the young students; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir, No proposal has been received by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]**On-Going Irrigation Projects and Dams in Orissa**

1259 SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the on-going irrigation projects and dams in Orissa;

(b) whether some of those projects are running behind schedule;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor and the cost escalation resulting therefrom; and

(d) the time by which those are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (d). A statement giving details of on going major and medium irrigation projects in Orissa in attached

STATEMENT

Details of Ongoing Major and Medium Irrigation Projects in Orissa

(Rs. Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Plan of start	Approved cost/Original cost.	Latest Estimated Cost (Annual Plan, 1992-93)	Expenditure to the end of March, 1991	Anticipated Expenditure 1991-92.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A. Major Irrigation Sector						
1.	Upper Indravati (A)	AP 78-80	77.66	417.28	134.04	46.00
2.	Upper Kolab (A)	V	24.05	208.81	108.96	22.12
3.	Mahanadi Birupa Barrage (A)	V	42.08	130.50	126.23	1.60
4.	Rengali (A)	IV	233.64	1515.77	158.51	28.50
5.	Subarnarekha (UA)	VI	154.78	1097.00	145.06	57.00
B. Medium						
1.	Dadraghatti (A)	IV	1.37	10.12	8.37	1.50
2.	Baghua Stage-II (A)	V	5.00	28.96	6.96	4.00
3.	Harharjore (A)	V	7.26	51.90	28.62	5.00

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Plan of start	Approved cost/Original cost.	Latest Estimated Cost (Annual Plan, 1992-93)	Expenditure to the end of March, 1991	Anticipated Expenditure 1991-92.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Harbhangi (A)	78-80	9.10	69.12	36.92	10.00
5.	Upper Jonk (A)	78-80	9.10	69.12	36.92	10.00
6.	Badanalla (A)	VI	211.39	59.59	36.22	11.00
7.	Deo (UA)	VII	19.45	52.23	0.42	1.00
8.	baghahatti (UA)	VII	13.71	25.02	1.27	2.25
9.	Sapubadjore (A)	VII	9.62	35.00	0.22	0.50
C.	Central Sector (Major)					
1.	Potteru Project (A)	IV	14.81	83.70	74.61	N.A.

1. Programme for completion of the projects depends upon the size of the project, availability of funds and construction materials, and technical problems encountered during execution. Subject completion in 10-15 years and meidum projects in 5 years.

2. Delay in execution of projects is mainly due to inadequate allocation of funds to the project in addition to the change in the scope during execution, land acquisition problems and non-availability of scarce material like cement, steps and diesel.

3. Eighth Plan proposals have not been finalised.

(A) - Approved;

(UA) - Unapproved

(N.A.) - Not available.

Complaints under Colliery Control Order 1945.

1260 SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by the Controller of Coal under Colliery Control Order, 1945 during the last three years, category-wise; and

(b) the number of employees/officers found guilty in the cases and the nature of punishment awarded to them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) The number of quality complaints received by the Coal Controller, Calcutta under Colliery Control Order, 1945 during the years 1989-90 to 1991-92 (26th November, 91) are given below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Complaints</i>
1989-90	4
1990-91	91
1991-92	110

(b) the office of the Coal Controller only has the jurisdiction to down grade the coal seams against which complaints are received. Accordingly, the number of coal seams down-graded during 1989-90 and 1990-91 were 3 and 27 respectively. the current years complaints are under investigation

[English]

Agricultural University in Garhwal (Uttar Pradesh)

1261 SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an Agricultural University in Garhwal region of Uttar Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STAT^S IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No Sir.

(b) In U.P. there are already 3 State Agricultural Universities. In addition, there is also an Institute of Agricultural Sciences in the Banaras Hindu University and 25 agricultural colleges affiliated to gener['] universities in the state.

Flaring of Gas at Bombay High

1262 SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of gas being flared at Bombay High per year;

(b) the total amount of gas being used at Bombay High at present annually;

(c) whether the Government have approved a World Bank Project to turn the present "Flaring situation" to a "zero flaring situation"?

(d) if so, the details of the project; and

(e) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) 4050 million standard cubic meters, during 1990-91.

(b) 10032 million standard cubic meters, during 1990-91.

(c) to (e). The World Bank have approved a loan of US \$ 450 million for the Gas Flaring Reduction Project, which consists of the NOP and SHG process platforms, the South Bassinto Hazira Trunk Pipeline, the expansion of the Hazira Terminal and the ICP Heera Trunk Pipeline. All these are expected to be implemented by 1994-95.

Shortfall in Production of Oil & Natural Gas

of oil and gas during the last three years; and

1263. SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make up shortfall in the output of the oil and gas?

(a) whether there is shortfall in the production of oil and gas compared to the targets set therefor in the current financial year by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC);

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) (a) and (b). The crude oil production was estimated to be 35.06 million tonnes, including 1 million tonnes of NGL. However, for various reasons, this is not likely to be achieved.

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) The production of oil and gas during last three years has been as under:-

(c) the comparative figures of production

	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91
Crude oil (in MM)	32.06	34.69	33.00
Gas (Prodn)(In MMM3)	13214	16989	17998

(d) A number of projects are being implemented to ament indigenous production of crude oil.

control fire in Jharia Coalfield.

Control of Fire In Jharia Coalfields, Bihar

(b) The team has since come back and have indicated that one or more of the following technologies could be deal with Jharia Coalfield fires:

1264. SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

i) Use of hydro monitors for quenching the fire followed by excavation of heated debris and coal;

(a) whether a team of coal experts visited the United States to finalise technologies of: gred by them to control coal fires in the Jharia Coalfields (Bihar):

ii) Drilling under high temperature conditions;

(b) if so, the details of the technologies and the time by which the coal fire is likely to be controlled; and

iii) Infusion of foams through bore-holes;

(c) the quantity and value of cooking coal destroyed due to fire so far?

iv) Use of expanded cement-slurry mix for sealing of there cracks and stabiising the area.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOURA) (a) Yes, Sir. A team of four mining engineers from the Bharat Cooking Coal Limited and Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited was deputed to visit U.S.A., to examine available technologies to

The applicability of one or more of the above technologies for control of fire in Jharia Coalfield and the time schedule by which the fires can be effectively controlled will have to be worked out through a detailed Action Plan, which will be prepared by the team with the assistance of other experts in

the field.

(c) It is difficult to make precise estimates of loss of coal reserves caused by fires in Jharia Coalfield. However, the coal company has estimated that coal reserves to an extent of about 37 million tonnes valued at Rs. 1110 crores at current prices might have been damaged in these fires.

[*Translation*]

Requirement, Production and Import of petroleum products

1265 SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of petroleum products required to meet the domestic demands;

(b) the extent of demand met out of the domestic production and the names and quantity of the petroleum products being imported for meeting the rest of the domestic demand; and

(c) the extent of foreign exchange likely to be sent on the import of petroleum products during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) As at present approximately 56.8 million tonnes of petroleum products will be made available during 1991-92.

(b) The indigenous production of petroleum products for 1991-92 is estimated to be 49.511 million tonnes from indigenous and imported crude oil. In addition the following petroleum products are proposed to be imported.

(Figs. in TMT)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
SKO	3635
HSD	5089
Others	881
Total	9626

(c) The extent of foreign exchange required will depend on the final volume of imports and the international prices from time to time.

Payment of Royalty on Minerals to States

1266. SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH:
SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of royalty accrued to States from various minerals has been fixed.

(b) whether full payment of royalty has been made to all the States till date;

(c) If not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the States are likely to get their full share of royalty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The rate of royalty on minerals other than Coal, lignite and sand for stowing was last revised by the Central Govt. on 5.5.1987. The rates of royalty on coal have been recently revised by the Ministry of Coal w.e.f. 1.8.91.

(b) and (c). The responsibility for collection of royalty is that of the respective State Governments within whose territory minerals are produced.

(d) Income from royalty accrues wholly to the State Governments and the Central Government has no share in the same. In order to increase the revenues of the State Governments, a revision in the rates of royalty on minerals other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing is under active consideration of the Government.

[English]

Privatisation of Coal Mines

1267. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD
SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to privatise some of coal mines in the country to improve the production during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the losses suffered by the sick coal mines during the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) No, Sir. At present there is no proposal to privatise some of the coal mines in the country in order to improve the production during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Requirement, Production and Import of L.P.G.

1268. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual production of LPG at present;

(b) the reasons for not meeting the LPG demand in full from the LPG production;

(c) whether the Government also import

gas from foreign countries;

(d) if so, the quantity and rate thereof alongwith the countries from where it is being imported;

(e) whether the Government propose to take any concrete steps to restrict its import; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (f) The production of LPG during 1990-91 was about 1244 Thousand MTs. The production is not adequate to meet the full demand and therefore, LPG is also imported. During 1990-91, about 329 TMT LPG valued at about Rs. 160 crores was imported. The imports in the spot market are not always relatable to specific countries. Efforts are being made to increase the indigenous production from existing units and by commissioning of new units.

Review of Production, Import and Prices of LPG

1269. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are reviewing the production, import and prices of LPG;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the decisions taken so far; and

(d) if not, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (b). The production and the import of LPG is regularly reviewed with a view to maximise indigenous production. At present, there is no proposal

to review the price of LPG.

**Visit of Deputy Chairman of the
Parliamentary Committee on External
Affairs of Sweden**

1270 SHRI SHIV SHARAN VARMA:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deputy Chairman of the
parliamentary Committee on External Affairs
of Sweden visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details of the bilateral
issues that figured in his talks with the Indian
leaders and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Bofors issue also figured
in the talks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI
EDUARDO FALEIRO):

(a) Mr. Par Granstedt a member of the
Swedish Parliament visited India from Oct
31 to Nov 2, 1991.

(b) Mr. Granstedt had a meeting with
the Deputy Chairman of the planning
Commission with whom he discussed
economic matters.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

L.P.G. CONNECTIONS

1271. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA
MUNDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM
AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sanction double bottle
connections are sanctioned on priority basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Member of Parliament can
sanction all the LPG connections in one
month at a time?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS (SHRI B.
SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). A second
cylinder is released to LPG consumers in a
planned manner subject to product
availability and backlog in LPG supplies.

(c) As per policy 12 LPG connections
are released every quarter on the
recommendations of a Member of
Parliament.

**Setting up of oil refinery in
Nagaland**

1272. SHRI SOMJIBHAT DAMOR:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose
to set up an oil refinery in Nagaland; and

(b) if no, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM
AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B.
SHANDARANAND): (a) There is no such
proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

**Joint Venture offer for Paradip
Refinery**

1273. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will
the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL
GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether offer has been received by
the Government for the joint venture with
Indian Oil corporation to implement the
proposed Paradip Refinery in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM
AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B.
SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Some

parties have shown interest to participate in a refinery in Orissa.

Agricultural Production in Delhi

1274. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in agricultural production in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the percentage of population in Delhi dependent on agriculture; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the agricultural production in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) About 15 to 20 percent of population in Delhi is directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture.

(d) The steps taken to increase the agriculture production include cultivation of high yielding varieties of various crops, production of short duration crops like vegetables, multiple cropping, transfer of agriculture production technology to farmers and supply of quality inputs including seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc.

Increase in Passport Fee

1275. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the passport fee;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(c) the existing passport fee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reason for increasing the passport fee is the steep escalation in cost of providing passports and the inability of Government to provide better services, through increase in the number of Passport Offices and streamlining/computerisation of passport services due to financial constraints. It is proposed to increase the fee as early as possible.

(c) Fee for issue of a fresh India International Ordinary passport is Rs. 50/-.

Supply of Crude Oil by Kuwait

1276. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kuwait has offered to supply crude oil to India;

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto;

(c) the terms and conditions on which crude oil is likely to be imported; and

(d) the other countries from which crude oil is imported?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(d) Crude oil is being imported under term contracts with National Oil Companies of USSR, Iran, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, UAE and through spot purchases.

Increase in Import of crude oil

1277. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase

imports of crude oil this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the actual quantity of crude oil imported during the last three years and the average prices paid and the names of major countries of origin;

(d) whether the Government have urged upon the bulk consumers and other Government organisations the need for

restraint in consumption of petroleum and related products and tried to create an awareness of conservation; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). At present Government have approved the import of 20.3 MMT crude oil for 1991-92.

(c)	Year	Quantity in million tonnes	Average price Rs./MT
	1988-89	17.815	1606
	1989-90	19.490	2098
	1990-91	20.699	2956

Term purchases of crude oil were from USSR, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Malaysia, UAE, Iraq, Kuwait etc.

(d) and (e). Efforts are being made to create awareness about conservation of petroleum products through publicity campaigns, promotion of fuel efficient devices, energy audits etc.

Import of Steel

1278. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and value of steel

imported in different categories during 1986-87, 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91; and

(b) the quantity of Steel proposed to be imported in major categories, and approximate value in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHANDEV): (a) The Requisite information is given in statement below.

(b) Actual quantity of imports of steel and their value for the period April to September, 1991 is as follows:

Qty
Value
*Import of Steel (April-September, 1991)**

Production Description	Qty.	Value Rs. in crores
I. Ingots & Other primary forms of iron & steel	26.8	20.11
II. Iron & Steel bars, rods, angles, shapes and sections	25.3	49.16
III. Plates & Sheets & Other flat products of iron & steel	463.7	525.92
IV. Rails & Railway track construction materials	69.3	110.93

* Source: DCI&S, Calcutta (Imports through major ports)

STATEMENT

Value : Rs. in crores
Qty. : '000 tonnes

Sl. No	Production Description	1986-87*		1987-88*		1988-89*		1989-90@		1990-91@	
		Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
I.	Ingots & other primary forms of iron & steel	606	193.33	188	89.67	39	27.8	9.5	10.2	27.1	18.07
II.	Iron & steel bars, rods, angles, shapes & sections (including sheet piling)	283	126.25	124	87.74	103	106.8	72.0	112.0	67.5	111.67
III.	Plates, sheets & other flat products of iron & steel	1224	616.17	1156	689.61	1372	1300.1	1255.6	13432.9	1147.9	1205.49
IV.	Rails & Railway track construction materials of iron & steel	33	21.50	220	125.72	174	107.1	132.8	107.40	38.5	64.56
V	Iron & steel wire (excluding wire rods) whether or not coated, but not insulated	35	17.80	6	24.71	5	19.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source:* DGC&S, Calcutta

@ DCI&S, Calcutta (Imports through major ports)

N/A Not Available

Requirement of LPG for cooking purposes

1279. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement of LPG in the domestic sector and for bulk consumers like the Hotel sector, for cooking purposes in different regions;

(b) the production of LPG in quantitative terms on standard cylinders as on September 30, 1991;

(c) the number of units Statewise with capacity of LPG cylinder filling units;

(d) whether there has been shortage of LPG in many areas during the last few months; and

(e) if so, the reasons thereof and steps taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) During 1990-91 the consumption of LPG in various sectors is as under:-

<i>Domestic</i>	<i>Non Domestic</i>	<i>Figs in (000MT) Total</i>
2102.0	315.00	2417.0

(b) The actual bottling done at various LPG bottling plants in the country from April '91 to September '91 was 799.58 lakhs cylinders.

(c) A Statement is given below.

(d) and (e). Generally there is no shortage in supply of LPG refills. Whenever marginal backlogs have developed in the recent past due to any unforeseen circumstances effort are made to bring the market supplies back to normal.

STATEMENT

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Bottling Plant</i>	<i>Capacity (TMTPA) two shift operation</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
1.	Delhi	Tikrikalan	132.00
2.		Shakurbasti	15.00
3.		Shukirbasti	34.00
4.		Piyala	132.00
5.	Haryana	Karnal	44.00
6.		Hissar	10.00
7.		Jind	22.00
8.	Punjab	Jullunder	34.00
9.		Lalru	88.00
10.		Hoshiarpur	5.00

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Bottling Plant</i>	<i>Capacity (TMTPA) two shift operation</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
11.		Ludhiana	3.00
12.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur	64.00
13.		Mathura	88.00
14.		Allahabad	34.00
15.		Haldwani	10.00
16.		Hardwar	10.00
17.		Bareilly	10.00
18.		Lucknow	10.00
19.		Kasna	5.00
20.		Unnao	5.00
21.		Gorakhpur	13.00
22.		Varanasi	44.00
23.	Rajasthan	Swaimadhopur	64.00
24.		Ajmer	10.00
25.		Jaipur	10.00
26.		Jodhpur	18.00
	Sub Total		
27.	J & K	Jammu	20.00
28.		Srinagar	7.00
29.	Himachal Pradesh	Baddi (Paapyano)	10.00
30.	Bihar	Jamshedpur	44.00
31.		Barauni	15.00
32.	Orissa	Balasore	44.00

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Bottling Plant</i>	<i>Capacity (TMTPA) two shift operation</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
33.		Khurda	10.00
34.		Khurda Road	44.00
35.	West Bengal	Kalyani	44.00
36.		Durgapur	44.00
37.		Haldia	20.00
38.		Paharpur	12.00
39.	Assam	Bongaigaon	22.00
40.		Gauwahati	5.00
41.		Oil Duliajan	25.00
42.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	44.00
43.		Bhiton (Jabalpur)	44.00
44.		Manglia (Indore)	34.00
45.		Raipur	44.00
46.	Gujarat	Rajkot	34.00
47.		Hazira	44.00
48.		Surat	12.00
49.		Gandhi Nagar	5.00
50.		Koyali	102.00
51.	Maharashtra	Bombay	156.00
52.		Jalgaon	22.00
53.		Sholapur	22.00
54.		Bombay	65.00
55.		Aurangabad	22.00

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Bottling Plant</i>	<i>Capacity (TMTPA) two shift operation</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
56.		Chandrapur	22.00
57.	Maharashtra	Khapri	34.00
58.		Pune	20.00
59.		Miraj	22.00
60.		Mahul	25.00
61.	Goa	Goa	22.00
	Sub Total		22.00
62.	Karnataka	Bangalore	34.00
63.		Bangalore	34.00
64.		Mysore	22.00
65.		Hubli	22.00
66.	Andhra Pradesh	Cheralapally	78.00
67.		Vijayawada	22.00
68.		Tadepally	12.00
69.		Visakha	44.00
70.		Vijayawada	10.00
71.	Tamilnadu	Coimbatore	34.00
72.		Mangalore	22.00
73.		Tuticorin	10.00
74.		Madras	75.00
75.		Salem	34.00
76.	Kerala	Cochin	25.00
77.		Trivandrum	22.00

Permission and South African Cricket Team

1280. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry was consulted and its approval obtained before permitting the recent visit of the South African Cricket Team to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such permission would be extended to other teams and sporting events in general and also to cultural delegations as well;

(d) the rationale behind this departure from our foreign policy on apartheid;

(e) whether the Government have proposed to lift economic sanctions on trade, commerce and industrial collaboration with South Africa; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of External Affairs was consulted before an invitation was extended to the South African Cricket team to visit India. This Ministry's approval was given in consonance with the decision taken by the Commonwealth Summit in Harare.

(c) In conformity with the decision of the Commonwealth Summit, the Indian Government would also extend permission to other sporting disciplines which have been integrated multi-racially and which have been readmitted to the relevant international governing body. The cultural boycott has also been lifted by the Harare Commonwealth Summit.

(d) There has been no departure from India's traditional policy of whole-hearted support to the Anti-apartheid Movement.

The decision of the Commonwealth Summit to lift people sanctions was supported by the African National Congress and, specifically in a letter addressed to our Prime Minister, by Dr. Nelson Mandela, President of the ANC. Apart from India, the other countries party to the above decision include, among others, Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, Uganda, Kenya and Namibiya.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The Commonwealth Summit in Harare decided that '..... economic sanctions, including trade and investment measures, should be lifted when appropriate transitional mechanisms have been agreed which enable all the parties to participate fully and effectively in negotiations...' India is party to the above decision.

High Resolution Aero-Magnetic Survey in Orissa

1281. SHRIGOPINATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 605 on July 25, 1991 and state:

(a) whether Phase-I of the project on High Resolution Aero-Magnetic Survey in Orissa has since begun; and

(b) if so, the details of the work proposed to be done under the Project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) No, Sir. Acceptance has not yet been received from the Australian side.

(b) Does not arise.

Production of Gold

1282. SHRIGOPINATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate annual production of gold in the country, gold-field/gold-mine

wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to increase gold production;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the target fixed for the production of gold in the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The information on mine-wise annual production of gold during the last 3 years is given in the statement

below.

(b) and (c). Conduct of investigations by Geological Survey of India and other exploration agencies for finding new deposits of minerals including that for gold is a continuous process. Government also propose to increase gold production by under-taking treatment of gold tailings and exploration of shallow deposits within next 2-3 years.

(d) Subject to investment decision based on economic viability, target for gold production during 8th Plan will be fixed after Plan allocations have been finalised.

STATEMENT

Gold produced by various mines during the past 3 years

Name of Company/Mine	Production of Gold In Kgs.			
	1	2	3	4
	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	
I. Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.				
(i) KGF group of mines including heap leaching and old Bisanatham Mine	732.72	589.15	479.60	
(ii) Chigargunta line	79.63	76.94	169.87	
(iii) Yeppamana Mine	130.84	107.26	114.78	
Total : BGML	943.19	773.35	764.25	
II. Hutti Gold Mines Co. Limited				
Hutti Mines, District Raichur (Karnataka)	965.00	875.00	1049.00	
III. Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL)				
(i) Produced as bye-product at Indian Copper Complex, Ghatshila (Bihar)	100.00	101.00	75.00	
(ii) Received from Toll Smelting of reverts and anode slimes from abroad	-	407.00	202.00	
	100.00	508.00	277.00	
Grand Total	2008.19	2156.35	2090.25	

Only BGML and HGML are mining and producing primary gold. Gold is produced as bye-product by HCL.

[*Translation*]**Reduction in quota of Coal to Industries**

1283. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether fifty per cent cut in the quota of Coal of a number of industries including ceramic units from April, 1991 onwards has adversely affected the functioning of such units;

(b) if so, the reasons for such cut in the quota;

(c) whether even this reduced quota has not been supplied to those units;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make available full quota of coal to such units during the remaining part of the current financial year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (e). Due to insufficient supply of coal to consumers in non-core sector, it was decided in July, 1991 that atleast 50% of the linked quantity of coal must be supplied to all non core sector consumers either by rail or road. These instructions were implemented. But for these instructions the level of satisfaction of non-core sectors would have been even lower. The shortfall in supply to these consumers occurred because of high priority movement to core sectors like power, cement and steel etc. However, with improved production of coal in all coal companies leading to better availability, efforts are being made to meet full requirements of all the consumers.

[*English*]**Austerity measures in Coal India Limited**

1284. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the

Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government for taking austerity measures in Coal India Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time bound programme thereof;

(c) whether the Coal India Limited has a number of small aircrafts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred on their repairs and maintenance during the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b). The economy measures suggested by Ministry of Finance have been communicated to Coal India Limited (CIL) for compliance. CIL has planned to improve coal production during 1991-92 from the level of previous year by 13.4 million tonnes, the planned growth being 7%. Improvement in productivity (output per man shift) is planned to increase from the present level of 1.29 tonnes to a level of 1.37 tonnes, the growth being 6%. Reduction in administrative expenses on items other than salaries and wages has been planned to the tune of approximately 10% and the savings are estimated at Rs. 8.3 crores.

(c) CIL has the following aircrafts: & 5-passenger seater aircraft-1

(d) 4 passenger seater aircraft-1 Helicopter (recently purchased)-1

According to the report furnished by Coal India Limited, the expenditure incurred on repair and maintenance of aircrafts for the last three years has been as under:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount (Rs.)</i>
1990-91	12,56,100.95
1989-90	7,00,588.00
1988-89	9,55,258.08

Supply of Coal to brick-kilns of Jammu & Kashmir

1285. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal is being supplied to the brick-kilns of Jammu and Kashmir by the Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL);

(b) if so, the year-wise and brick-kiln wise details thereof during the last three years;

(c) the criteria being followed in this regard;

(d) whether there is any provision in the rules for appointment of an agent by the owner of brick-kiln for the disposal of this work;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the year-wise details of Coal supplied through agent during the last three years; and

(g) the percentage of commission given to agents as per rules?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The information is being obtained and to the extent possible will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Coal is released to the Brick Kilns on the basis of sponsorship/license issued by the Director/Dy. Director, Food and Supplies Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

(d) to (f). Coal Company releases coal directly to the sponsoree as per sponsorship issued by the Government of J & K and not in the name of any agent. However, actual consumers do appoint middlemen/agents as their authorised representatives for handling their despatch. The Coal Company does not have details of how many

sponsorees are lifting their allocation of coal through authorised representatives.

(g) No information is available either with the Government or Coal Company regarding Commissions paid to the agents by their principals.

Tenders for middling coal from Giddi (A) Project of CCL

1286. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether tenders were invited recently for the allocation of middling coal extracted from the Giddi (A) Project of Central Coalfields Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of tenders received; and

(c) the time by which these tenders are likely to be cleared?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b). As reported by CIL, tenders were floated on 10.1.1991 inviting offers for bulk purchase of Middlings/Rejects/Slurry/Dirty Slurry from the Coal washeries of Central Coalfields Ltd., Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., and Western Coalfields Limited. In response to this tender notice, 106 offers were received from 94 tenderers for washery products of Giddi, Kathara, kargall & Nandan Washerries. 46 offers were received for Giddi Washery, and of these 32 offers were found to be valid.

(c) Tenders were opened on 4.3.91 at CIL headquarters, Calcutta and tender recommendations were finalised. Offer letters have been issued to 64 tenderers including 32 for Giddi Middlings, directing them to comply with further requirements of the tender. All those who have complied with the full requirements have been allowed to lift the materials.

Teesta barrage Project

1287. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the

Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the broad features of the Teesta Barrage Project and the benefits likely to be derived therefrom;

(b) the expenditure incurred on the project so far; and

(c) the share of the Union Government therein?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The Teesta Barrage Project (First sub-stage of Stage-I) comprises of three barrages across the Teesta, the Mahananda and the Dauk rivers and Teesta-Mahananda link canal along with Mahananda, Dauk-Nagar, Nagar-Tangon, Teesta-Jaldhaka Main Canals supported by extensive distribution system. It also envisages generation of 67.5 Mega Watt hydro-power from the canal falls on the Mahananda Main Canal. The planned irrigation potential of the project is about 5.27 lakh hectares to benefit the districts of Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, West Dinajpur, Cooch Bihar and Malda.

(b) An expenditure of about Rs. 352 crores have been incurred upto the end of June, 1991 against the late estimated cost of Rs. 695 crores of the project.

(c) There is no share of Union Government in the Project, however, special Central Assistance of Rs. 5 crores during 1983-84 and advance plan assistance of Rs. 15 crores during 1986-87 and Rs. 10 crores during 1987-88 was provided for the project.

Production of Wheat

1288. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of wheat during the last three years in Punjab, year-wise;

(b) whether there is a decline in production; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The estimated production of wheat in the State of Punjab during the last three years is as under:

	(lakh tonnes)
1988-89	115.8
1989-90	116.8
1990-91 (Final)	121.6

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Production of Natural Gas

1289. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a plant to increase the production of natural gas to meet the demands of various States;

(b) if so, the details of the quantity of natural gas produced during the last three years and the quantity of natural gas supplied to various States, State-wise; and

(c) the extent of quantity of natural gas the Government propose to increase for supply to Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The gas produced in the year 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 is 13214, 16989 and 17938 million cubic metres respectively. Statewise use is as follows:-

STATEMENT

(MMSCMD)

Sl. No.	1988-89					89-90					90-91				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Maharashtra		9.17			9.90					10.63				
2.	Gujarat		5.712			6.305					7.819				
3.	Assam		2.48			2.55					2.53				
4.	Tripura		0.07			0.07					1.19				
5.	Andhra Pradesh		0.04			0.07					0.11				
6.	Tamil Nadu		0.01			0.01					0.32				
7.	Madhya Pradesh		1.544			1.566					1.623				
8.	Rajasthan		0.062			1.179					1.145				
9.	Uttar Pradesh		2.816			3.509					4.437				
10.	Delhi		...			0.267					0.495				

(c) The entire gas being produced in Gujarat, along with substantial quantities of offshore gas, have been committed to various consumers in Gujarat. Further allocation would depend on various factor including production and availability of gas.

Conversion of Ligno-Batgeminus Into Gas

1290. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have undertaken any project in Gujarat for the conversion of ligno-buteminus reserves into gas at the depth of more than 800 meters; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b). The Oil and Natural Gas Commission is acting as nodal agency with regard to a pilot R & D project on In-situ Gasification at Mehsana (Gujarat). The R & D work done so far is indicated below:-

1. Preparation of technical study reports;
2. Drilling of two information wells;
3. 3 D Seismic survey of pilot area for preparation of geological model;
4. Laboratory testing of rock and coal samples collected from information wells;
5. Subsidence studies commenced to obtain backward pretest parameters;
6. Identification of major equipment and surface facilities required for the R & D pilot project.

[English]

World Bank Assistance for Sri Ramsagar Project

1291. SHRIDHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance from the World Bank has been received for the implementation of the Sri Ramsagar Project in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Sri Ramsagar Project is a sub-project of the World Bank assisted Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Project-II. Under Andhra Pradesh Irrigation project-II, uptill September 1991, an amount of \$ 27.688 million has been received from the World Bank in the form of reimbursement of expenditure incurred.

Irrigation Projects In Andhra Pradesh Involved in Inter-State Dispute

1292. SHRIDHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh involved in Inter-State water disputes; and

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government to resolve them?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Telugu Ganga Project envisaging conveyance of 15 Thousand Million Cubic feet (TMC) Krishna waters to meet drinking water requirements of madras, city and 29 TMC of Krishna water for irrigation enroute in Andhra Pradesh could not be cleared due to non resolution of issues regarding availability of water between the Krishna Basin States of Andhra Pradesh,

Karnataka and Maharashtra.

(b) A meeting of the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra was convened by the then Minister of Water Resources on 5.4.1991 but the same did not materialise because the Chief Minister of Karnataka informed that they would themselves resolve the issues relating to sharing of Krishna waters. The three Chief Ministers have met twice in 1990 and are scheduled to meet again for consideration of the four tentative alternative proposals that emerged during their second meeting.

[*Translation*]

**Indo-Nepal Talks on Multi-Purpose
Projects**

1293. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH
YADAV:
SHRI HARI KISORE SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the latest round of talks held between the official delegates of Nepal and India regarding multi-purpose projects on Bagmati, Kamla, Kosi and Karnali rivers;

(b) whether a time-bound agreement has been reached on the execution of these projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the expenditure on Kosi project especially on anti-silt erosion work is being incurred by the Government of Bihar whereas it was to be incurred by the Union Government;

(e) if so, whether the Union Government propose to compensate the Government of Bihar in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). Investigations for Bagmati, Kamla and Kosi need to be carried out for preparation of project reports. For Karnali remaining studies are to be completed. However no formal agreement has been reached so far.

(d) to (f). The maintenance of Kosi Project including the anti-erosion works is done by Bihar, the beneficiary State out of their own funds. As it was becoming difficult to meet the expenditure, State Government requested Centre to provide funds. They were advised to submit a scheme in the form of a project proposal. This is awaited.

[*English*]

**Water Resources Projects in West
Bengal**

1294. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Members of Parliament from West Bengal put forward certain suggestions before the Union Government relating to water resources projects in the State;

(b) if so, the broad details of such suggestions;

(c) the details of suggestions proposed to be implemented by the Government; and

(d) the time by which the Government propose to implement them and the steps taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (d). A statement regarding suggestions put forward by some Members of Parliament from West Bengal to Union Government relating to Water Resources Projects is attached.

STATEMENT

In the meeting taken with members of Parliament from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha from West Bengal on 8th August 1991 at New Delhi, the Members had laid emphasis on Teesta Barrage Project to be declared as National Project and fully funded by the Centre in the VIIU Plan for its early completion. The other allied issues as brought forward were approval to Upper Venkateshwar Project, early clearance of Vidyadhar Flood Control Scheme, early clearance of Subarnarekha Project, Kangsabati Modernisation Project, left bank canal of Teesta Barrage through forest area, expeditious completion of on-going projects, dredging of Ganga in its lower reaches, anti-erosion works to be taken up as National Project to be funded by the Centre. A suggestion was made that Centre should send an Expert team for assessment of on-going devastation due to erosion in Sagar and Ghoramare islands of Sunderban area of 24 paraganas (South) and further, this to be taken up as a National project for saving these islands from further erosion. It was also suggested to constitute a National Apex Body on Water management policy for surface and sub-surface utilisation of resources like national Flood Commission.

While Teesta Barrage Project has been recommended to the Planning Commission for consideration as National Project and its funding by the Centre, the concept and criteria for national projects have to be concurred by the Planning Commission. For expeditious completion of the irrigation projects, State Government has also to make sizeable increase in the irrigation sector. The Central Water Commission has taken up special drive to get the observations/clarifications fulfilled through meetings with State officials for completing project appraisal formalities. For obtaining clearance/approval of irrigation projects, the State Government is required to comply with the observations of Central Water Commission, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the concerned Ministries at the Centre.

The Central team visited Ghoramare

islands from 29th to 30th October, 1991, in pursuance of the suggestion made.

Nationalised Banks at Bangalore

1296. SHRI G. MADE GOWDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to issue passport applications through post offices and nationalised banks at Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such facility is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The possibility of sale of passport application forms through Post Offices and Banks is being explored.

Flood Control Projects in Kerala

1297. SHRI T.J. ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details including the estimated cost of the flood control projects in Kerala pending with the Union Government;

(b) the time by which those are likely to be cleared; and

(c) the details of Central assistance provided to Kerala for control of floods in the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) There is no flood control project of Government of Kerala pending techno-economic appraisal with Central Water Commission.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) While no Central assistance was provided for control of floods in Kerala during

the last three years, the Centre has been extending Central Loan Assistance for anti-sea erosion works to State Government from 1972-73. The Central Loan Assistance given during the last three years for anti sea erosion works is as under:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Rs. in crore</i>
1988-89	2.50
1989-90	2.37
1990-91	2.05

Safety Measures for Coal Mining

1298. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme to provide adequate safety in the coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any modern technology is proposed to be adopted to improve safety and environment aspects of coal mining; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said scheme is expected to be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b). The mining operations in coal mines including the safety aspects are regulated by the Mines Act, 1952 and the rules and regulations framed thereunder. There is a regular system of monitoring and reviewing the safety situation, through Pit Safety Committees (including workers' representatives) at unit level, tripartite committees at the Area and Company levels, Safety Board at Coal India and the Standing Committee on Safety in coal mines at Govt. level. Periodical Safety Conference also lay down guidelines for improving safety in mines. Workmen Inspectors are appointed in all mines, who

report to the management and to the Director General of Mines Safety.

(c) and (d). Environment Management Plans now form an integral part of coal projects to ensure adequate environment protection after obtaining expert advice on modern technology. In the matter of safety, the new technology of roof-bolting is being adopted increasingly to prevent accidents through fall of roof-side and fresh survey plans are being got prepared in collaboration with the Survey of India to safeguard against inundation of mines.

Fresh Water Aquaculture

1299. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched fresh water aquaculture scheme in some States as part of anti-poverty drive;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment on the success of that anti-poverty drive; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). Government have launched Fresh Water Aquaculture Scheme for increasing fish production, generating employment and income and diversifying agriculture.

(c) and (d). Under the scheme of Fresh Water Aquaculture, 365 Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) have so far been sanctioned covering potential districts in all the States. The FFDAs have brought about 2.82 lakh hectares ponds and tanks under fish culture and trained about 3.31 lakh fish farmer in improved practices of fish farming. The average productivity of ponds and tanks under FFDA programme has gone up from 50kg/ha./year in 1973-74 to 1005 kg/ha./year in 1990-91.

**Employment to Local People in
Visakhapatnam Steel Plant**

1300. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state the number of local persons employed in the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and their percentage to the total persons employed there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): The required information is not available because statistics based on regional origin of the employees are not maintained.

Supply of Kerosene to Orissa

1301. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the demand and supply position of kerosene in Orissa, district-wise, during the last year and the current year;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the quota of kerosene in Orissa; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). 153466 and 99520 tonnes of kerosene were allocated to Orissa during the last year (Apr '90-Mar '91)

and the current year (Apr '91-Nov '91) respectively.

District-wise allocation is made by the concerned state Governments.

There are no immediate proposals to increase the quotas to the States of UTs.

**Compensation to Families of ONGC
Employees Killed by ULFA Militants**

1302. KUMARI DIPIKA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ONGC employees killed by ULFA militants since September 1, 1991 to date;

(b) the compensation paid or proposed to be paid by the Government to each of the families of the deceased; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to control such anti-social activities of the ULFA militants?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Two officers of ONGC, namely, Sh. B.S. Raju, Assistant Executive Engineer (Production) and Sh. P.P. Srivastava, Superintending Engineer (Drilling) have been killed.

(b) Details of the compensation paid to the next of kin of S/Sh. Raju and Srivastava are given below:-

(In Rupees)

	<i>Workmen's compensation</i>	<i>Addl. Financial benefit</i>	<i>Ex-gratia</i>
Sh. B.S. Raju	85,428	2,00,000	5,00,000
Sh. P.P. Srivastava	59,868	2,00,000	5,00,000

(c) Security measures have been tightened in different parts of the country. Additional companies of para-military forces

and even army have been deployed in aid of civil authorities in certain sensitive areas to tackle the situation. An officer of the rank of

I.G. has been posted as Director (Security) in O.N.G.C. in the North-East region.

Control of Water Hyacinth

1303. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether water hyacinth weed could be effectively controlled by releasing *Neochatina Weevils*;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to popularise this technique to control the water hyacinth which block several irrigation canals?

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

(b) and (c). Central Integrated Pest Management Centres under the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage have demonstrated successful control of water hyacinth by releasing *Neochatin* weevils in the an area of 5286 ha. in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Similar promising results have been achieved by the institutions under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Kerala Agricultural University.

As for irrigation canals, some releases have been made wherever request has been received from the concerned authorities.

World Bank Report on Fisheries

1304. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank Report titled "Fisheries and Aqua culture Research

Capabilities and Needs in Asia," forecasts that there is likely to be a stagnancy in marine catch along the coastline in inshore area;

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

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to tackle this situation

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE: (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). The World Bank Report has not yet come to the notice of the Government. However there has been a steady growth in the production of fish from coastal waters in recent years.

(c) However, Government are taking steps to extend the range of operation of the fishing vessels to off shore waters by motorisation of traditional craft, introduction of off shore peiagic fishing boats, etc.

Request for Participation of Oil India Limited in Gas Cracker Project

1305. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has requested the Union Government to allow Oil India Limited to participate in a Gas cracker Project with a substantial equity holding; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The request is under consideration.

[*Translation*]

Tissue Culture Technique

1306. PROF. UMMAREDDY

VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tissue culture techniques are widely used in the country to boost agricultural production;

(b) if so, the details thereof and achievements made so far;

(c) whether this technique has also been introduced on commercial scale; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) and (b). Sir, Tissue culture techniques are being used only on a limited scale for increasing agricultural production in propagation of elite plant material of crops like ornamental foliage plants, orchids, banana, sugarcane and cardamom. Tissue culture technique is also being used for conservation of germplasm of crops propagated through vegetative means and for generating new genetic variations in crop plants.

(c) Yes.

(d) Tissue culture technique is being used on commercial scale in orchids, foliage plants, small cardamom and banana.

[English]

**Acquisition of Land for
Visakhapatnam Steel Project**

1307. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will

(i) Original petition cases U/S 18(1) of L.A. Act, 1894 etc.	-	157
(ii) Appeals filed by Govt. of Andhra Pradesh against orders of the Lower court and pending in the High Court	-	57
(iii) Appeals pending in Supreme Court	-	34

National Fishing Harbour Authority

1308. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will

the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons displaced as a result of land acquisition for the Visakhapatnam Steel Project;

(b) the criteria adopted in fixing the price of land to the land oustees;

(c) the compensation paid to them;

(d) whether some cases are pending in the court; and

(e) if so, the number thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As a result of land acquisition of Visakhapatnam Steel Project (VSP) 14,688 persons have been displaced.

(b) Compensation for lands acquired for VSP has been paid at the following rates:

(i) Dry land	-	Rs. 17,000 per acre
(ii) Wet land	-	Rs. 20,000 per acre
(iii) Village site	-	Rs. 6/7 per sq. yard
(iv) State land	-	Rs. 1270 per acre

(c) An amount of Rs. 27.75 crores has been paid to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh towards payment of compensation for the lands acquired for VSP.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. The details of cases pending in courts are given below:-

the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set

up a National Fishing Harbour Authority;

[Translation]

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes Sir, as a Central Fishery Harbour Authority.

(b) and (c). Government have commissioned so far four major fishery harbours at Roychowk (West Bengal), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Madras (Tamil Nadu) and Cochin (Kerala). Two more major harbours are under construction. The maintenance and management of these harbours are not satisfactory at present. Government are incurring a lot of expenditure annually for their maintenance. The feasibility of establishing Central Fishery Harbour Authority for development, management and maintenance of major fishery harbours presently under the charge of Major Port Trusts, is therefore being explored.

Taking over of Singareni Collieries by Coal India Limited

1309. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring the Singareni Collieries in Andhra Pradesh under the Coal India Limited; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) There is no such proposal for the present.

(b) Does not arise.

<i>Action</i>	<i>April '90 to March '91</i>	<i>April '91 to August '91</i>
(i) Termination	4	6
(ii) Continued suspension of supplies	99	26
(iii) Temporary suspension	326	97

Adulteration of Petrol at Petrol Pumps

1310. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any agency to check the adulteration of petrol at various petrol pumps in the country;

(b) if so, the number of petrol, diesel pumps checked by the concerned agency and its branches during the last year and the current year; and

(c) the outcome thereof and the action taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Regular/surprise and Joint Inspections are being conducted by the Oil Cos. Powers have also been delegated the Civil Supplies Authorities and other enforcement agencies of State Government to check the adulteration.

(b) Petrol, diesel pumps checked by the Oil Cos. are as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Inspection conducted</i>
April '90 to March '91	61312
April '91 to August '91	28375

Figures w.r.t. inspections conducted by each State/UTs are not available.

(c) Actions taken by the Oil Cost against the persons found guilty are as follows:-

[English]

Production of Gold

1311. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of gold in various gold mines of the country during the last three years; and

(b) the purpose for which the gold was

utilized by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The total production of gold in the various mines of the country during the last three years is given in the Statement below.

(b) Gold produced in the country is sold in the open market, which is mainly used in making ornaments and in other industrial uses like Watch making, Jari making etc.

STATEMENT

Gold produced by various mines during the past 3 years

Name of Company/Mine	Production of Gold in Kgs.			
	1	2	3	4
	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	
I. Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.				
(i) KGF group of mines including heap leaching and old Bisanatham Mine	732.72	589.15	479.60	
(ii) Chigargunta line	79.63	76.94	166.87	
(iii) Yeppamana Mine	130.84	107.26	114.78	
Total : BGML	943.19	773.35	764.25	
II. Hutti Gold Mines Co. Limited				
Hutti Mines, District Raichur (Karnataka)	965.00	875.00	1049.00	
III. Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL)				
(i) Produced as bye-product at Indian Copper Complex, Ghatshila (Bihar)	100.00	101.00	75.00	
(ii) Received from Toll Smelting of reverts and anode slimes from abroad	-	407.00	202.66	
	100.00	508.00	277.00	
Grand Total	2008.19	2156.35	2090.25	

Only BGML and HGML are mining and producing primary gold. Gold is produced as bye-product by HCL.

Release of Kerosene to Karnataka

State; and

1312. SHRI G. MADE GOWDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of kerosene demanded by the Government of Karnataka during January to June, 1991;

(b) the quantity of kerosene actually released by the Union Government to the

(c) the steps taken to meet the demand of kerosene of the State in full?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). The details of allocation and release of kerosene made to Karnataka from January to June, 1991 are as under:

(Figs. in Tonnes)

<i>Month</i>	<i>Allocation</i>	<i>Release</i>
January, 1991	40633	44289
February, 1991	40611	40494
March, 1991	35181	35144
April, 1991	34256	33826
May, 1991	34256	34437
June, 1991	34256	37375

SKO is allocated to States/Union Territories on a historical basis subject to that availability of the product.

Identification of Nationally Important Water Resources Projects

1313. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified projects of national importance in the field of water resources development and management;

(b) if so, the criteria for such identification;

(c) the names of the projects so far identified;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to bear a fixed part of the cost of such projects;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the total estimated Central outlay on such projects during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCE (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The criteria worked out for identifying projects as national projects are:

- (i) International projects with potential of 1 lakh hectares and above;
- (ii) Inter-State projects with potential of 1 lakh hectares and above;
- (iii) Projects having international aspects;

(iv) *Projects having inter-State aspects; and*

(v) *Other projects of national importance.*

(c) *A list is given in statement below.*

(d) and (e). *No, Sir. The Union*

Government propose to provide special Central assistance for the completion of these projects which is not tied to any particular aspect of the Projects.

(f) *The estimated Central outlay of these projects proposed during the Eighth Five Year Plan is Rs. 750 crores.*

STATEMENT

Proposed funding from Central plan for Irrigation projects of National Importance

(Rs. in Crores/lakh hectares)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Country/State involved	Plan in which started	Status of approval	Financial Position											Potential
					Latest cost (1990-91)		Spill over cost	Outlay proposed in VIII Plan		Central States Plan		Total Plan		Ultimate Balance to be achieved		
					cost	(1990-91)		Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11						
A. International Projects																
1.	Western Kosi Canal	India (Bihar)	III		340.60	158.07	50.00	150.00	200.00	2.09	1.45					
		Nepal	III		60.52					0.27						
B. Inter-State Projects:																
1.	Tungabhadra High Level Canal (st. II)	Andhra Pradesh	III		110.70	24.76	10.00	20.00	30.00	0.60	0.44					
2.	Gurgaon Canal	Karnataka AP (66-69)	III		27.58	10.01	5.00	10.00	15.00	0.81	0.13					
		Haryana	III		40.41	19.64	8.00	18.00	26.00	0.81	0.20					
		Rajasthan	III		90.55	15.49	7.00	12.00	19.00	0.28	0.12					
3.	Daneagar	Bihar	V		64.23	8.92										

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Country/State Involved	Plan in which started	Status of approval	Financial Position					Potential	
					Latest cost (1990-91)	Spill over cost	Outlay proposed in VIII Plan			Ultimate Balance to be achieved	
							Central Plan	States Plan	Total Plan		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
		Madhya Pradesh	V		851.26	675.58				2.49	2.49
		Uttar Pradesh	V		298.85	249.93				1.34	1.34
4.	Rajghat	Madhya Pradesh	V		413.30	321.72	98.00	224.00	322.00	1.17	1.17
		Uttar Pradesh	V		209.66	102.49	20.00	82.00	103.00	1.42	1.42
5.	Sardar Sarovar	Gujarat	VI		4655.52	4076.81				17.92	17.92
		Rajasthan	VI	U.A.	84.80	52.37				0.73	0.73
6.	Subarnarekha	Bihar	V	U.A.	1270.00	809.86	100.00	400.00	500.00	2.09	2.00
		Orissa	VI	U.A.	488.88	373.57	50.00	200.00	250.00	1.57	1.57
		West bengal	VII								
7.	SYL Carrier Canal*	Punjab	VI		76.00	48.00				1.30	1.28
		Haryana	V	456.00	121.16					2.75	2.75

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Country/State Involved	Plan in which started	Status of approval	Financial Position						Potential	
					Latest cost (1990-91)	Spill over cost	Outlay proposed in VIII Plan			Ultimate Balance to be achieved		
							Central Plan	States Plan	Total Plan			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
8.	Fulortai (Tipaimukh)	Manipur	...	U.A.	270.41	270.41				1.68	1.68	
		Assam	...	U.A.						8.10	6.60	
C. Projects having International Aspects												
1.	Indira Gandhi Nahar* (Stage II)	Rajasthan	V		1430.00	985.00				8.10	6.60	
2.	Teesta Barrage (Ph. I, St. I)	West bengal	V		640.00	310.72	70.00	150.00	220.00	5.27	5.12	
3.	Bagmati	Bihar	IV		185.70	151.26				1.02	1.02	
4.	Gueti	Tripura	V		31.99	13.55	10.00	15.00	25.00	0.10	0.10	
5.	Khewai	Tripura	VI		40.32	23.68	12.00	20.00	32.00	0.00	0.08	
6.	Manu	Tripura	VI		32.11	20.61	10.00	18.00	28.00	0.08	0.08	

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Country/State Involved	Plan in which started	Status of approval	Financial Position						Potential	
					Latest cost (1990-91)	Spill over cost	Outlay proposed in VIII Plan			Ultimate Balance to be achieved		
							Central Plan	States Plan	Total Plan			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
D. Other Projects of National Importance:												
1.	Upper Krishna	Karnataka	IV		1500.00	914.21	50.00	800.00	850.00	4.25	3.13	
Total					750.00 3770.00 4470.00							

* SYL is funded from Non-Plan allocations.

** IGNP is being funded from Border Area Development Programme.

U.A. - Unapproved

Transfer of LPG Connections

1314. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the practice of presentation of ration card or any other proof for transfer of LPG connection from one place to another in the same city has been abolished long back;

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken against such LPG retailers who are still insisting for such proofs at present; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). Proof of residence is needed to be given.

Evaluation of Operation Flood-III Programme

1315. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister

1. Mr. P. Mc Neili

Team Leader

2. Mr. N. Palmvang

Milk Sector Economist/Market Analyst.

3. Mr. T. Robb

Livestock expert

4. Mr. P. Kristensen

Dairy Technologist

5. Mr. O. Gersten

Financing and Account Specialist

[*Translation*]

Supply of Coal to Himachal Pradesh

1316. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Coal allocated and supplied to Himachal Pradesh during last one and a half years, month-wise; and

(b) the procedure followed for allocation of coal to Himachal Pradesh?

of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether mid-term evaluation of Operation Flood-III has been conducted;

(b) if so, the details thereof and objectives behind this evaluation; and

(c) the composition of the evaluation team?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) A mid-term Evaluation Mission of European Economic Community is currently conducting evaluation of Operation Flood-III.

(b) The aim of the Mid-Term evaluation is to provide the Commission of European Communities with a detailed review to allow an assessment of the implementation of the programme and consideration of the need to improve it.

(c) The composition of the team is as follows:-

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) The quantity of coal supplied to Himachal Pradesh during past 2 years is given below:

(in '000 tonnes)

1989-90	135
1990-91	220.4

(b) The following procedure is followed for allocation of coal:

- (1) Competent authorities in the State Government sponsor coal demand of the consumers.
- (2) On the basis of this sponsorship and an enquiry the industrial consumers are sanctioned linkage clearance by Coal India Ltd. for the size, grade, source, and mode of supply of obtaining coal.
- (3) Railways earmark wagon ceiling limit for movement of coal by rail to each State. The competent sponsoring authorities in the State sponsor the Rail-loading requirements of consumers with the consent of coal companies, within the approved ceiling.
- (4) Road supplies are arranged to the consumers as per regular road linkage, or against rail shortfalls, or for meeting distress requirements.
- (5) Coal supplies are also arranged by road to Brick-Kiln consumers in each State, for which CIL offers monthly quantities for each State, and Coal Companies release coal as per recommendation of the Sponsoring Authority in the State.

Availability of Water in River Narmada

1317. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently conducted a study to determine the quantum of water flowing in the river Narmada; and

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Studies being carried

out by Central Water Commission are not yet complete.

World Bank Assistance for Narmada Sagar Project

1318. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some fresh initiatives have been taken by the Government to obtain financial assistance from the World Bank for the Narmada Sagar Project; and

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. During discussions held recently with the World Bank on possible pipeline of Irrigation Projects for World Bank Assistance, it was indicated that assistance for Narmada Sagar Project could be considered after the outcome of the Independent Review Commissioned by the World Bank, was known. Further the Government of Madhya Pradesh was requested to make available:-

(i) A realistic financial plan;

(ii) An environmental impact assessment study, and;

(iii) A comprehensive plan for rehabilitation and re-settlement of project affected persons.

Petroleum Reserves in Raigarh, Madhya Pradesh

1319. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to find out Petroleum reserves in Raigarh District of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As the surveys were of preliminary nature it is too early to comment on the petroleum prospects of the area.

[*English*]

Difficulties Faced by Traditional Fishermen

1321. SHRI PALAI K.M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conflicts between the traditional fishermen and the trawlers over the area of fishing in Kerala and Tamil Nadu have been resolved;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to restrict the area of fishing for the trawlers in these two States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The conflicts between traditional fishermen and trawlers in Kerala have been resolved. The Government have no reports about conflict between traditional fishermen and trawlers in Tamil Nadu.

(b) to (d). On the basis of the guidelines issued by the Govt. of India, the Kerala Government has issued a notification under the Kerala marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1980 according to which the mechanised boats are authorised to fish only beyond 30m. depth from Paravoor-Poozhikkara to Killangode and beyond 20m. depth from Paravoor Poozhikkara to Manjeswaram. Tamil Nadu Government also has enacted similar legislation demarcating the area extending upto 3 nautical miles from the coast line exclusively for traditional fishermen.

Production of Benzene in Cochin Refinery

1322. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested for increasing the production of Benzene in Cochin Refineries; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Proposal of Cochin Refinery Limited for augmenting the production of benzene is under the consideration of the Government.

LPG Connections in Kerala

1323. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas connections allotted from January 1, 1991 to September 30, 1991 in Kerala;

(b) the number of applications pending for gas connections upto September 30, 1991; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government of expedite the release of gas connections?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) About 28120.

(b) About 121520.

(c) Efforts are on to give LPG connections to as many applicants as early as possible.

Flood Control Projects in Bihar

1324. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER

RESOURCES be pleased to state:

[English]

(a) the details of projects for control of floods in Bihar, especially north Bihar pending with the Union Government;

(b) the progress made thereon so far; and

(c) the time by which those are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Out of 14 flood management schemes costing Rs. 97 crores received for clearance from Bihar, 11 schemes costing Rs. 61 crores pertain to North Bihar.

(b) and (c). Observation of Ganga Flood Control Commission on all schemes, except two received recently (1 of North Bihar) have been sent for compliance to the State government. The time for clearance of these schemes depends mainly on the prompt submission of satisfactory replies to the observations.

[Translation]

Jute Research Centres in Bihar

1325. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open new Jute Research Centres in Bihar;

(b) if so, the number of such Centres proposed to be opened along with their locations; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). A Research Centre under All India Coordinated Research Project on Jute & Allied Fibres is already under operation at Katihar (Bihar).

Natural Gas in Gujarat

1326. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the natural gas reserves have been found in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether there is any proposal to appoint an independent body to explore oil and natural gas in Gujarat;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). So far, geological reserves to the extent of approximately 192 billion cubic meters of gas have been established in the Cambay Basin of Gujarat. At present all exploration in Gujarat is being carried out by the O.N.G.C.

[Translation]

Sale of Double Toned Milk by Mother Dairy

1327. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mother Dairy is still selling double toned milk even when there is for more production of milk these days; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Mother Dairy, Delhi, at present is selling double toned milk and standardised milk.

(b) Although with the onset of flush

season there has been some improvement in milk supply to Mother Dairy by the cooperative Federations, the overall availability of milk fat is not, as yet, adequate for switching over to toned milk.

[English]

Pamba-Achencovil-Vaigai Link Project

1328. SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the feasibility study regarding Pamba-Achencovil-Vaigai Link Project has since been complete;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). The National Water Development Agency has completed pre-feasibility report of Pamba-Achankovil-Vaigai Link Project. The project envisages construction of one dam each on Pamba and achankovil in Kerala. The two dams will be interlinked by a 12 Km. long tunnel. A lift varying from 15 metre to 60 metre is involved for pumping the water from Achankovil to the link canal. Thereafter a 233 Km. long canal for taking 664 million cubic metre of water to Vaippar and Vaigai basins is proposed to be constructed. The pre-feasibility report prepared by the Agency has been sent to the Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu for their comments. The report was also discussed in the 15th meeting of the Technical Advisory committee of the Agency held on 14.6.1991 and the Government of Tamil Nadu was requested to take up the inter-State aspects with the Government of Kerala for arriving at a consensus for implementation of this project.

Utilisation of Waste Gas in Bombay High

1329. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

SHRI SURYA NARAYAIN YADAV:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for utilisation of waste gas which is burning in Bombay High;

(b) Whether any proposal from the Government of Kerala has been received in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). A letter has been received from the Government of Kerala for laying a pipeline from Bombay Offshore to Kerala. The question of setting up a Southern Gas Grid is being examined by an Inter-Ministerial Group.

Rise in Price of Stainless Steel

1330. DR. SHRIMATI K.S. SOUNDARAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of Stainless Steel produced by the Salem Steel Rolling Mill has alarmingly gone up;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the norms adopted for fixing the price;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to reduce the stainless steel price; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c). The price of Stainless Steel produced by Salem Steel Plant was revised upward with effect from 26.7.1991 taking into consideration several

factors like increase in the production cost owing to general escalation, adjustments in the foreign exchange parity rates of Rupee and impact of interest on letter of credit margin money, market prices, etc. The price rise is in the range of Rs. 11,500 per tonne to Rs. 32,200 per tonne depending on the grades of material.

(d) and (e). Stainless Steel items are not subject to any price or distribution control of the Government of India.

Bauxite Deposits In Kerala

1331. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any exploration work for locating Bauxite in Kasargode and Kannoor districts of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the exploration work is likely to be started there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Geological Survey of India (GSI) carried out preliminary investigations including drilling for bauxite in Kasargode and Kannoor districts of Kerala during 1967 to 1974.

(b) Total reserves of 10.661 million tonnes of bauxite with alumine 40 to 59 per cent and silica 1 to 9 per cent were estimated. Deposit wise break-up being 0.44 MT in Anantapur-gudda, 1.83 MT in Kumbia and 0.70 MT in Narayanamangalam taluk of Kasargode district and 0.71 MT in Kanhangad, 6.1 MT in Nileshtar and 1.52 MT in Taliparambe blocks of Kannoor district.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Indira Gandhi Nahar Project

1332. SHRIANANDRATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the Indira Gandhi Nahar Project in Rajasthan;

(b) whether assistance from other Ministries is being sought for the implementation of the Project;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the estimated cost of the project and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon during 1991-92; and

(e) whether the Government propose to make lump sum provision for the project in order to limit the plan expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The Indira Gandhi Nahar Project is being implemented in two stages. Stage I of the project with an irrigation potential of 5.78 lakh hectares has been completed and potential almost fully utilised. The main canal of the Stage II has been completed and work on the distribution system is in hand. Against the design potential of 8.10 lakh hectares, a potential of 1.86 lakh hectares has been created till March, 1991.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The approved cost of the Stage I project is Rs. 931.24 crores covering canal works and unlined water courses. The State Government have not submitted the revised estimate with updated canal costs and area development works including lined water courses. An outlay of Rs. 78.70 crores has been proposed by the State Government for

Stage II Canal works during 1991-92 and Rs. 81.43 crores for the area development works.

(e) The project is being executed under the State Plan for which block loans and

grants are provided by the Central Government. However, liberal Central assistance has been extended from time to time for canal and area development work as below:

	<i>During VII Plan</i>	<i>1990-91</i> <i>(Rs. in Crores)</i>
- For Water Courses under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Command Area Development.	45.60	19.99
- For Canal Works		
(i) Advanced Plan Assistance	45.00	-
(ii) Border Area Development Grant	60.70	28.60
(iii) Drought relief Assistance	20.00	-
Total Canal Works	125.70	28.60

[English]

Talks with Bangladesh on Bilateral Issues

1333. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
SHRI ANNA JOSHI:
SHRI YASHWANTRAOPATIL:
SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of talks held on bilateral issues of repatriation of Chakma refugees, Tin Bigha and sharing of Ganga waters during the recent visit of the Bangladesh Foreign Minister to India; and

(b) the followup action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The outcome of talks held on the bilateral issues

(referred to in the question) during the recent visit of the Bangladesh Foreign Minister to India and the follow-up action thereon are indicated below:

- (i) Regarding the question of Chakma refugees, we hope that following recent discussions the Bangladesh Government will take necessary and effective measures which would give the refugees the confidence to return to their homes in Chakma Hill Tracts voluntarily and at the earliest.
- (ii) On Tin Bigha, steps are being taken to implement the lease as soon as possible.
- (iii) On the sharing of Ganga waters, Secretary level talks were held in New Delhi in October, 1991 and there is likely to be a meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission at the Ministerial level in the near future.

[*Translation*]

LPG Agencies in Chatra, Bihar

1334. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open LPG agencies in the District Headquarter of Chatra in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). There is no proposal at present.

[*English*]

Compensation Claims for Lost Property During Gulf War

1335. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people of Indian origin living in Kuwait and other Gulf countries had submitted their claims for compensation in respect of their lost property during the Gulf war;

(b) if so, the total number of such claims and the amount involved; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Approximately 100,000 claims have been received and the amount involved is being computed.

(c) The Government of India gave appropriate publicity to the mechanism established by the UN Security Council to pay compensation claims and the data on the claims received are under

computerization in order to enable the Government to transmit the information on a consolidated basis to the UN Compensation Fund. Which is to pay compensation. India, as a member, has taken an active part in the deliberations of the Governing Council of the Commission.

Visit by Prime Minister to Various Countries

1336. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign countries visited by the Prime Minister during the period from January 1, to November 10, 1991; and

(b) the purpose of these visits and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) During the period from January 1, to November 10, 1991, the Prime Minister visited Nepal (February 13-15, 1991), Bangladesh (May 12, 1991), Federal Republic of Germany (September 5-7, 1991) and Zimbabwe (October 14-19, 1991).

(b) The purpose of these visits and the outcome thereof is given below:-

NEPAL:- The visit to Nepal was an official visit during which the Prime Minister had detailed, cordial and candid talks with Nepalese leaders and numerous steps for speedy intensifications of mutually beneficial cooperation were agreed upon. These include the establishment of a high-level Task Force to prepare a comprehensive programme of bilateral economic cooperation in sectors such as water resources development, health care, railways, civil aviation, education and social welfare which are of direct benefit to the people of the two countries.

BANGLADESH:- The purpose of the short visit of couple of hours was to express solidarity with the people of Bangladesh on

the tragic loss of life and destruction caused by the cyclone that hit Bangladesh on April 29-30, 1991.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY:-

The visit was essentially a goodwill visit, the main purpose of which was to inaugurate, along with Chancellor Koh, the Festival of India. The visit provided an opportunity for extensive exchanges with German leaders on bilateral and international issues including Indo-German economic and commercial relations. The visit provided a fresh impetus to Indo-German co-operation.

ZIMBABWE:- The visit to Zimbabwe was to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting. The Prime Minister also met a number of Commonwealth leaders, and discussed bilateral and international questions.

Setting up of Aluminium Factory in Chhota Nagpur, Bihar

1337. SHRI KARIYA MUNDA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up an Aluminium plant in Chhota Nagpur, Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Assistance Provided to LTTE by Sri Lankan Government

1338. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the assistance provided by the Government of Sri Lanka to flight the IPKF;

(b) whether the Government had taken up the matter with that country; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government are aware of reports of assistance given by Sri Lanka Government to LTTE against IPKF prior to its de-induction in March 1990.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Sri Lanka Government maintains that its assistance to LTTE was not directed against IPKF but to enable LTTE to confront rival Tamil groups.

Issue of Passports by RPOs

1339. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
SHRI A. CHARLES:
SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications received and disposed of between August 1, 1991 and October 231, 1991 by each Regional Passport Office in the country;

(b) the reasons for delay in disposing of the remaining applications; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to start a Passport Office at Trivandrum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Information is being collected.

(c) It has been decided to upgrade the Passport Liaison Office at Trivandrum to a full-fledged Passport Office. Requirements of staff, accommodation, furniture and equipment for proposed Passport Office Trivandrum are presently being assessed in

consultations with Passport Offices at Cochin, Kozhikode and the Passport Liaison Office at Trivandrum. Redistribution of posts, furniture's and equipment among offices at Cochin, Kozhikode and Trivandrum is being organised.

[*Translation*]

Scholarships to Foreign Studies in India

1340. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign students being nominated and granted scholarships by the Government for undergoing studies in India, country-wise; and

(b) the number of such students from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and other neighbouring countries who have been granted scholarships during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Information is being collected from various Ministries/Departments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

West Asia Peace Conference

1341. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: DR. C. SILVERA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a peace conference on the problems of West Asia was held recently at Madrid; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government towards its outcome?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI

EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has welcomed the Middle East Peace Conference. It has expressed the hope that the process of negotiations initiated by this meeting will culminate in the achievement of a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem and the Palestinian issue and will usher in an era of regional aity, peace and cooperation.

Production of Crude Oil

1342. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been substantial shortfall in the indigenous production of crude;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to increase its production; and

(c) the quantity of crude produced during 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Against a target of 35.9 million tonnes set for 1990-91, 33 million tones of crude oil was produced. The shortfall has been due to leakage from certain subsea pipelines, reservoir considerations (pressure decline, increase in GOR and water cut), Officers's strike, and delays in implementation of certain schemes.

(c) The crude oil production in 1989-90 and 1990-91 has been 34.69 million tonnes and 33.00 million tonnes, respectively. In 1991-92, upto September 1.326 million tonnes of crude oil was produced.

Alleged Attacks on Fiji Shrines

1343. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:

SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHLIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Attacks on Fiji Shrines continue" appearing in the 'Patriot' dated October 17, 1991; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India are concerned about the racial discrimination being practised against the people of Indian origin in Fiji and the violation of Human Rights of citizens of Fiji by that Government. India has been vigorously pursuing the matter of racial discrimination and Human Rights violations in Fiji at concerned UN organisations, Human Rights Bodies,

Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings as well as in bilateral meetings with concerned countries such as Australia, New Zealand, France, UK, USA and Mauritius. India will continue to oppose the re-entry of Fiji into the Common Wealth.

Production of Soyabean

1344. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Soyabean produced in various States, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have any special incentive scheme for Soyabean growers in order to promote Soyabean production; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) the estimated State-wise production of soyaben during 1990-91 was as follows:

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Production</i>
1	2	3
1.	Assam	16
2.	Bihar	10
3.	Gujarat	13
4.	Karnataka	5
5.	Madhya Pradesh	2003
7.	Orissa	189
8.	Rajasthan	160
9.	Uttar Pradesh	32
10.	Others	11
Total		2440

(b) and (c). Yes Sir, Soybean has been included under Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP). Under this programme cultivation of soybean is encouraged by providing assistance for production and distribution of seed, demonstrations, plant protection measures, sprinkler sets, improved implements, rhizium culture distribution of seed, demonstrations, plant protection measures, sprinkler sets, improved implements, rhizobium culture distribution and other items. An amount of Rs. 77.5 crores has been provided under OPP for all the major oilseed crops including soybean. The soybean programme covers thirteen States.

Studies on Impact of Earthquakes

1345. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has taken up earthquake impact studies and post earthquake survey in the earthquake affected region of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government on the study report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Geological Survey of India (GSI) are currently carrying on post earthquake scientific studies in the earthquake affected areas of Uttar Pradesh. These studies cover survey and assessment of damages and the pattern of impact on houses, roads, land, bridges, rivers and engineering structures and assessment of consequent damages and their pattern of impact on settlements and dwellings. The studies seek to delineate and determine epicentral tracts and isoseismal boundaries so that seismic maps can be prepared for further studies.

(c) A preliminary report of the earthquake impact study carried out by GSI teams has been received by the Government.

After receipt of final report and its careful study, follow up action and planning of seismotectonic studies will be done for better understanding of geological processes and possible causes of earthquakes in the region.

Visit of Ethiopian Delegation

1346. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ethiopian delegation recently visited India and invited the Indian public and private entrepreneurs to extend a helping hand in the reconstruction of Ethiopia's infrastructure damaged in the civil war;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposals for setting up of manufacturing or exploration projects in Ethiopia; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) An Ethiopian delegation headed by their Minister for Housing and Construction visited India from 30.10.91 to 2.11.1991. The Ethiopian Minister carried a special message from the new President of Ethiopia for our Prime Minister. He also called on our External Affairs Minister and the Minister of Urban Development. The Ethiopian Minister addressed a press conference on 31.10.91, during which he invited public and private entrepreneurs to extend help in the reconstruction of Ethiopia's devastated economy.

(b) India has been extending assistance to Ethiopia in the sectors of agriculture, water resources management and small scale industries. However, programmes in these sectors had been disrupted on account of the recent civil unrest in that country. These would be resumed as soon as the

situation stabilised.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

12.00 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER

TELEVISIONING OF LOK SABHA
PROCEEDINGS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the question of televising the proceedings of the House was discussed with the Leaders of the Parties and Groups, the Ministers of Parliamentary Affairs and Information and Broadcasting, the concerned officers of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the CPWD and the Lok Sabha Secretariat. The matter was briefly and informally discussed at the meeting of the Leaders of Parties and Groups also. It has been considered by the General Purposes Committee of Lok Sabha. It has also been considered at a joint meeting of the General Purposes Committees of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 26 November, 1991. The consensus arrived in these meetings was as follows:

- (i) that the proceedings in the House may be televised.
- (ii) that, at the initial stage, the Question Hour may be televised.
- (iii) that, at later stages, proceedings relating to legislation and the financial and other important matters may be televised.
- (iv) that the detailed modalities in this regard may be worked out by the agencies concerned and approve by the Presiding Officer.
- (v) that the matters which are held by the Presiding Officer as unparliamentary and not in

keeping with the decorum of the House may not be televised.

(vi) that a trial for televising the proceedings may be held on any day as may be decided by the Speaker.

(vii) that the actual televising of the Question Hour may be started on a day as may be decided by the Presiding Officer.

(viii) that, as and when necessary, the matters pertaining to it may be considered in the Business Advisory Committee.

(ix) that since the time available at the initial stages is limited, the televising has to be done to fit in the available slot.

(x) that the telecasting may be done on an experimental basis.

(xi) that further necessary steps in this regard may be taken on the basis of the experience in this respect.

I hope these arrangements will receive the approval of this House.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.
(Interruption)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE-
(Dum Dum): Sir, I am afraid, more and more utterances will be declared unparliamentary, than otherwise... (Interruption)...

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, the Zero Hour is the most important period, what do you propose to do about that?... (Interruption)...

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera):
Sir, who will be the controlling authority? Will it be the Government or the Legislature?

MR. SPEAKER: It will be the Legislature. televising it.

...(Interruptions)...

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV
(Azamgarh): Sir, who will edit the portion
when you say something is unparliamentary?
(Interruption)

I want to know whether it will be seen
and approved by the Secretariat or by the
officials of Information and Broadcasting
Ministry who are televising.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not worry. It is the
responsibility of the Secretariat.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:
What is secretariat? It is automatic. Whatever
you consider unparliamentary is excluded.
Nobody else is involved in this.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH
MOHAN DEV): sir, I want to know whether
sleeping is parliamentary or unparliamentary
because it does happen. Some Members
may be shown sleeping. That should be
taken as unparliamentary.

MR. SPEAKER: I think my learned
predecessors have decided that sleeping
with snoring is unparliamentary!

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:
Sir, can we be forewarned as to when it is
going to start?

MR. SPEAKER: We will let you know.
We will circulate the note.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:
On that occasion I am sure, Sir, you will
continue with your strict impartiality and give
us chance.

MR. SPEAKER: Tomorrow trial and
then we will see.

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK
(Buldana): Nirmalji, today we are not

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Moreshwar Save.

[Translation]

SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE
(Aurangabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through
this House, I would like to draw the attention
of the Central Government to the severe
drought in the Marathwada region of
Maharashtra. Seven districts of this region,
namely Aurangabad, Beed, Jalana, Latur,
Usmanabad, Nanded and Parbhani did not
have any rains for the last three months. It
has resulted in destruction of both the Rabi
and Kharif crops. The farmers are facing
acute crisis of fodder and water. In this
region, the water table has also gone down
too much and most of the ponds have gone
dry. Consequently, the crisis of drinking
water and fodder for cattle has arisen. Even
the fields are not being irrigated. The
Maharashtra Government states that
according to law, this region cannot be
declared drought-affected up to 20th
December. As it has not been declared
drought affected, relief measures have not
been intiated so far.

Therefore, I demand the Government
to declare this region drought-affected
urgently and the grant-in-aid of Rs. 300
crore should be provided by the Centre to
the State Government. Rural employment
Guarantee Programme should be launched
to provide employment to the rural farmers
and agricultural labourers. Fodder for the
cattle should be arranged. Arrangement for
drinking water through water-tankers should
be made in the villages. Moreover, the
collection of outstanding loans against
farmers should be stopped and other taxes
waived.

[English]

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR
JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): Sir, through

you I would like to draw the attention of the Railway Ministry to the decision of the Government to remove the existing age old metre guage line from maniyachi junction to Madurai Junction, thereby a great injustice is done to the entirely people of southern districts of Tamil Nadu. These people will be deprived of their traveling right straight to the State Capital, Madras, so far enjoyed from the British days.

So, under the pretext of conversion of B.G. line, the existing M.G. line should not be removed the B.G. line, from Karur to Tuticorin, the new project, should be a parallel line to the existing M.G. line thereby giving the facility of the new B.G. project to have a new direct link with northern parts of our country without removing the existing M.G. line direct link to Madras, thereby justice will be done to the people of the southern districts of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI (Amalapuram): Sir, the recent heavy rains and floods in Andhra Pradesh caused heavy damage to standing crops. The estimated loss of crops is about Rs. 200 crores. The Konaseema area, particularly my constituency Amalapuram in East Godavari District, considered to be the Rice Bowl of Andhra Pradesh, faced the brunt of these heavy rains. Thousands of acres of agricultural land were submerged in river and rain waters. Many people who took loans for purchasing fertilisers are facing lot of problems in repaying the loans.

I draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Agriculture to see that the FCI is instructed to purchase the discoloured paddy. Secondly, seeds pesticides and fertilisers may be supplied at subsidised rates to the farmers in the area and proper compensation may be given to the farmers to recover from the loss. The proposed crop insurance should be made available on the basis of survey numbers of their individual land holdings, not taking district as a unit. Then only the crop insurance or loan insurance can be useful to the farmers.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention in brief to the problems of the Adivasis living in various parts of the country. Today, the most distressing situation is that the condition of the Adivasis has become miserable to an extent that they are reported to be dying of starvation at several places.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I visited Kamataka on the 20th. There is as Gopal Gowda Katta colony in Dadadali village in Mysore district where eight Adivasi boys and a woman died of starvation during the period from June 22 to July 22. They were rehabilitated in the colony there from forest. But no road leads to that place. We walked three kilometres to reach there with a journalist. They have not means of livelihood. They work from dawn to dusk in fields as daily wage-earners only for three months. The daily wages of Rs. four to a woman and Rs. five to a man are paid.

I am saying all this for bringing it on record. The Government should investigate whether it is true or not. The name of the woman who died is Kulamma. She was 45. The children who died were in the age group of 2 to 5. Their names are Basava, Ratna, Mahadevi, Rajappa, Chelavi and Mara. These eight children died of starvation. The day we reached there, we found that there was no school what to speak of health. They drink water from a nearby pond. They have no means of their livelihood. I have just cited an example here. Similarly wherever there are tribal areas in any State, their plight is the same even after 45 years of Independence. They are out of the mainstream. This is not merely a state issue. Therefore, I urge the Government of India that it is not a matter of any State but it is a matter of the tribals for whom the Government should chalk out programmes for their employment for the preservation of their culture and for saving them from starvation. All the State Chief Ministers should be invited to discuss the severe problem of Adivasis seriously and announce the amount of compensation to the starvation victims. But programmes should also be chalked out to prevent the further spread of starvation.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): Mr. Speaker, Sir, since 1947 we are taking pride that 1943 famine of Bengal will not take place any more; it was not taking place. If the situation has turned to this position that people are dying because of starvation and that too at that end of the spectrum, then the tribals, woe will befall us. So, the Government of India must do something about it. We cannot just allow these things to happen. It is shocking to hear that even today the people are dying because they cannot have food and because they do not have income. Are we going back to pre-1947 days? The Government must respond to this matter. That is my humble request through you.

MR. SPEAKER: If starvation deaths have taken place whether of Advasis or other persons, it is a grave matter. Let us first of all know what is the fact and if it is a fact, then proper remedial measures should be taken by the State Government as well as the Central Government after ascertaining the reality and the facts.

SHRI BASU DEV ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, in Tripura, a number of people have died of starvation. The State Government has taken no steps to save the lives of tribal people of Tripura.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, if you have understood what I have said, then you would not have raised it again.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speakers, Sir, it should not be confined only to Karnataka. Just as the Tripura incident has been pointed out, there has been a very long, disturbing and harrowing article in *Frontline* about starvation deaths in Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, the Government of India should come to Parliament with a comprehensive scheme.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speakers, Sir, Ram Vilasji has raised this matter and he referred particularly to Karnataka and news has come about

Andhra Pradesh also. We have already referred to the starvation deaths in Tripura in the House. Dr. Ram Chandra Dore had raised it last week. But there has been no action, no response. Therefore, now you have made this observation. I hope, the Government would take it seriously in respect of these starvation deaths all over India. We have also raised it.

These important matter were raised. I find, Shri Arjun Singhji generally responding. This a very serious matter. Probably he was not here. Others were probably dozing. But something should be done. (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not correct. Allow him to speak.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Neither the State Government nor the Central Government has taken any step to save the lives of the people in Tripura.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman-Nicobar Islands): The hon. Member, Shri Nirmal Chatterjee has rightly spoken that after 1943 we had taken a pledge that there would be no starvation deaths. And the Congress Party and the Congress Government, after independence, all these years, have pursued this policy. That is why, Sir, it is absolutely necessary that when some starvation death reports are coming in, the Central Government should enquire whether it is really starvation death or some other diarrhoea death or some other disease-related death. The twenty-point programme and the other programmes which are there are meant for the poor people. By persuasion, through Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, IRDP etc., everywhere the Government has ensured that there is no starvation death.

If there is anything reported so far whether it is in the tribal area or no-tribal area, this should be enquired into by the Government properly and they should report it to Parliament so that once for all, it should be clear that there is no politically motivated kind of insinuation against the Government. (*Interruption*)

SHRIBASUDEB ACHARIA: Starvation death has been reported in Andhra Pradesh, in Karnataka and in Tripura. In spite of that, the Government is silent. (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER: When important issues are raised and if all the members stand up and speak, the importance of the issue is lost.

We do not know what to do in the matter. That is why, when it was pointed out, from the Chair I said, let us find out and let us take the measures. Even after that if you insist and persist in saying things, I do not know what is going to come out of it. And if you want to speak on that, I have no objection, but I am allowing Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Whatever charges have come, let there be an enquiry and let the Government come again and report.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Whatever charges have come, let there be an enquiry and let the Government come again and report.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Who will inquire? (*Interruption*) This was raised in this House during the Budget Session. The Government did not make any enquiry. What enquiry would you make?

SHRI CHITTA BASU (*Barasat*): We are happy to note that you have yourself made certain remarks.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not made any derogatory remarks!

SHRI CHITTA BASU: The pertinent question is, who will hold the enquiry. Does the Government propose to let the enquiry to be gone into by the State Government or any other agency? Therefore, there is grave doubt because the State Government generally do not accept their fault. Therefore, the purpose for which we have made the remark will be defeated.

Therefore, I would request you to kindly

indicate what kind of agency should be there for proper enquiry.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not enquiring into it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Let there be a House Committee which will enquire into.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (*Jagatsinghpur*): Whenever the question of starvation death is raised, either this Government or any other Government have denied it. Therefore, the whole fact of starvation deaths remains under the carpet. This has been the habit in this country for several years. You already commented that it is a grave matter and that it should be enquired into. We want the Government to set up an independent mechanism by which it should ascertain the facts wherever starvation deaths take place.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Arjun Singh is responding on behalf of the Government. Let him respond.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Sir, I am very grateful to you that in consonance with the wishes expresses by the hon. Members, you were kind enough to give a direction and I would assure you that direction will be carried out fully. Now on the basic question of these incidents happening and how to ascertain the facts and then apply the remedies, I must confess my own experience in the matter is that there is lot of difficulty in coming to the truth and I would like to join the House in this effort that in cases of such lamentable lapses where people die of starvation, as is alleged, there must be some machinery in which every one has a stake. It is not a question of my coming to you with a report that I get from any State. I am glad that the hon. Leader of the Opposition has put the entire issue in perspective that this does not relate to a particular State. This is not a political issue. But the fact remains that if an allegation like this is made, one must go to the root of the

[Shri Arjun Singh]

matter and any lapse on account of anybody must be addressed to immediately with whatever consequences may follow and in this respect, I would like to assure through you the House that I will take up this matter with the hon. Home Minister and also with the Prime Minister and, if necessary, I will request them to talk to some of the Senior Members of the House to evolve such machinery so that on such issues there is no controversy in the House and then we can say what has to be done.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I could have spoken about the whole nation but I have cited an example of the place which I visited myself on the 20th and took stock of the situation. It should be inquired into and then I may be informed.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: This is what I have stated.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: It is a fact but you are talking of making a law. The hon. Members have mentioned about such reports according to their information. I have cited an example about one place only. The hon. Member is citing example about Tripura. It should be inquired into the report laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I have not said that information will not be collected on what Shri Paswan has stated. The information would rather be collected first on that.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The Government should make a statement whether it would inform the House in this connection. Through you, we have raised the issue.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You raised the matter. I allowed other Members to speak. I asked the Government to look into it and to take remedial measures. The leader of the house

got up and said that he would certainly do it and he would try to evolve a method which will not leave any doubt in such matters. After that also, if you continue doing that, will it be all right?

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Sir, I want to raise one matter.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): In the case of Orissa, 5000 people died of starvation. Even the Deputy Speaker had to get up in the House and say that the white paper was misnomer. I request through you the Leader of the House to take it up with the Leader of the Opposition and with the Prime Minister, this case of 5,000 tribals dying of starvation in Orissa, Koraput district which was denied and the Deputy Speaker of the Orissa Assembly had to put the record straight.

MR. SPEAKER: I think hunger, life and death should be treated above politics and this matter should be dealt with in that manner only, wherever it takes place, in this State or that State. Shri Advaniji has said the same thing and the hon. Leader has said the same thing. It should be death within that manner and if there is scope for improvement, certainly let us apply our mind and evolve a method to see that such things do not happen.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Sir, the starvation deaths, when they are reported or alleged, may shake our conscience a bit, no doubt. But the point is that there are vast numbers of people in this country who are living in conditions of chronic starvation. Everyday they may not be dying but they are living in conditions of chronic starvation. With a daily wage of Rs. 4/- that the woman was earning, what do you expect her to eat or to give her children to eat? Therefore, a much more basic question is involved.

MR. SPEAKER: That is exactly the problem that we will address to. Certainly we will discuss it when we discuss the economic

situation.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: When are you going to discuss it?

MR. SPEAKER: We are going to fix the time.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: We must give priority to this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: We will fix the time.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Sheohar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of happiness that the Prime Minister of our neighbouring country Nepal Hon'ble Shri Girija Prasad Koirala is likely to visit India on his first foreign tour very shortly. His visit is significant for these two neighbouring countries. In Nepal's democratic history, the contribution of Koirala family has been unique.

Not only Shri Matrika Prasad Koirala or Late Shri Bisheshwar Prasad Koirala, but also their family members have been the source of inspiration for Nepal and for the long democratic struggle of people of Nepal but they also participated actively in India's freedom struggle.

12.27 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED in the Chair]

Late Shri Bisheshwar Prasad Koirala and his elder brother Shri Matrika Babu had been put into Indian jails of the British imperialists during decisive moments of India's freedom struggle. Late Bisheshwar Prasad Koirala was called the Gandhi, the Jawahar and the Jai Prakash by the people there.

Late Shri Bisheshwar Prasad Koirala was closely associated with India's Socialist Movement. He was a prominent office bearer of the Congress Socialist Party in my state

Bihar. Moreover, he was a close associate of Shri Jai Prakash Narayan. Geography, history, turn of events and civilisation bind both these countries together. It would be suicidal if these factors are ignored. Nature, mountains and rivers have built a bridge between the two countries. We may utilize these sources very conveniently for bringing about basic changes in the living standards of the citizens of both the nations. The World Bank has estimated that nearly ten thousand mega watt hydroelectricity can be generated as a boon from the Himalayas in Nepal. Similarly, certain Indian rivers originate from Himalayas ranges in Nepal. These rivers are as good as life line for North Bihar and North-East Uttar Pradesh. These rivers may prove very beneficial with the mutual cooperation of these two friendly countries.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Hari Kishore Singh, it is Zero Hour. you cannot make a speech now. Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my constituency is on the Indo-Nepal border. The river Bagmati whose origin are the golden crests of snow-capped Himalayas. When it enters the plains on its serpentine way touching the holy feet of Lord Pashupatinath and pours down large amounts of water not only in the area in my constituency but in my village Chamanpur also which sometimes proves as a boon and sometimes as bane for the lives of the citizens of the plains of these two nations. Therefore, I would like to urge the Government to discuss decisively all the points relating to the river-group of Bagmati, Adhwara, Kamala Balan and Koshi and Pancheshwar and Karnali projects with the Hon. Prime Minister of the friendly country Nepal during his visit to India so that both the nations may benefit equally in accordance with the SAARC spirit.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, on this occasion, I would like to welcome the new High Commissioner of Nepal. His Excellency Shri

[Shri Hari Kishore Singh]

Chakra Vastoiami and wish that during his tenure the friendship between India and Nepal will be strengthened further.

*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHVAN (Palakkad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I draw the attention of the House to the serious situation arising out of the spread of Cholera in the Palakkad district of Kerala. It has already claimed lives and is spreading to many parts of the district. The industrial belt of Kanjikode, Chittur, Alakkad taluqs are badly affected. The main reason is that there is shortage of drinking water and people drink contaminated water. During Rajiv's period, we were given a technology mission for providing drinking water in Palakkad. But the previous CPM Govt. did not implement and thus, the people did not get the benefit of the mission.

None that this fatal epidemic is spreading immediate steps should be taken to arrest it. The centre must send a study team immediately to Kerala to find out the cause of the recurrence of Cholera, and also suggest measures to wipe out this menace. Also, the technology mission should be further extended and funds should be provided so that the object of this mission could be achieved....(Interruption)....

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Mavattupuzha): The situation in Kerala is such that it will face a great crisis.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If your name is there I will call you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Centre has to take immediate action in this regard because of the scarcity to get wagons for taking rice

from Punjab and Assam to Kerala. The Kerala Government is facing a great crisis to distribute adequate quantities of rice. I request that the Government of India should take immediate action to make available sufficient number of wagons as well as to take all steps in this regard to make available sufficient quantities of rice for distribution in Kerala.

Also the Andhra boiled rice which is preferred in Kerala is to be distributed there. Kerala Government has, in fact, increased the ration and is giving fifty kilograms of rice per head, per month at a stage when the cost has gone up. I would urge upon the Government to give support to the Kerala Government in this regard and to take immediate measures in this regard. (Interruption)

[Translation]

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: I may also move to that side since you are not calling my name. (Interruption)

MR. CHAIRMAN: His name is there in the list. He has given notice.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: You are not giving me an opportunity. (Interruption)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those hon. Members who have given their names to the Speaker and whose names the Speaker has admitted, I am only going through that list. There is no addition from my side.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE (Jhalawar): I want to bring to the notice of the House something which is of great importance and which was reported in the 'Indian Express' three days ago. It conforms

the exchange of hardcore militants for the release of hostages, a particular case which happened in Rajasthan. Recently the Home Minister Shri S.B. Chavan had lambasted the National Front Government when Shri Mufti Mohammed Sayeed's daughter Rubaiya was released in exchange of some terrorists. But he himself has written to the Rajasthan Chief Minister Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat for the release of two hardcore Punjab terrorists. These were supposed to be exchanged in lieu of a relative of Shri Buta Singh, in fact, a nephew of Shri Buta Singh. The two militants whose release the terrorists had demanded are under detention under the TADA Act in Rajasthan. Shri Shekhawat turned down the Union Home Minister's request because our party categorically refuses to succumb to any pressure from militants. However, the hostage Shri Ranjit Singh who is Shri Buta Singh's niece's son was freed last week after the Centre took up the issue with the Punjab administration.

In a letter on 31st August 1991 to Shri Shekhawat the Home Minister wrote:

"It is understood that the kidnapers are demanding release of two terrorists who are under detention of the State Government of Rajasthan for the release of the boy."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be brief.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Yes Sir. But it is very important.

He says: "Kindly instruct the police authorities for expediting the release of the boy from the captivity of the terrorists of Punjab."

On 29th August, Shri Buta Singh had written to the Home Minister saying that:

"I talked to Shri Shekhar, DG, Rajasthan Police, who informed me that these two terrorists were detained under TADA for their alleged involvement in arms smuggling. The kidnapers have threatened to kill the boy unless these two terrorists are

released."

These are quotes from the letter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yesterday Shri Buta Singh was not allowed to refer to this controversial matter. Kindly keep it in mind.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: I have taken the permission from the Speaker. I should be allowed to finish it because it is very very important.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know that; but you should not bring in the controversial aspect of it.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: I have done it with the permission of the Speaker.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't think the Speaker has given you permission to bring in some controversial matter. Please avoid such matters. Yesterday he had objected to this matter.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Shri Rajendra Shekhar was asked to enquire into the matter by Shri Shekhawat and the names of the two terrorists Gurnal Singh alias Ajeet and Dharampal Singh alias Dharma came up. Shri Shekhar told us that the two detainees had been involved in a daring gun-running operation. The duo were part of a gang of 11 who hid arms secured from Pakistan in salt bags, which they then carried in trucks from Jaisalmer in Rajasthan into Punjab. The report stated that it has come out of interrogation that the two terrorists were active in suing the international border at Jaisalmer to smuggle arms and ammunition, and that a section of the local population were providing support to them. Because of this Shri Shekhawat turned down the Union Home Minister's request.

We would like to remind the House that at the time when the Janta Government was under pressure to release Mufti Mohammed Sayeed's daughter, there was a huge hue and cry by the Congress Party about a particular policy laid down. The Congress

[Shrimati Vasundhara Raje]

argued then that the ruling National Front was putting pressure and was putting personal interest above the national interest. I wonder about this kind of dual policy. Because this is a very very serious matter concerning Rajasthan where two very major terrorists are involved, I would like to know whether, with this kind of duality of policy, Whether they will be able to carry out what they profess. So, I would like your direction on this, Sir.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have also given a notice. What I want to say is that it has appeared in the Indian Express and it is a very serious matter. I support whatever has been said now.

[*English*]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pall): Ask the Home Minister to make a statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot go on like this.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are not allowed to speak like this. Kindly take your seats. Even in Zero Hour there is a procedure to be followed. Please resume your seats.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't interrupt.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot talk like that. Kindly be seated when I am on my legs. There is a procedure to be followed even during Zero Hour. The Speaker has already laid down some policy and you have to adopt it. Please be seated. You are not allowed to do like that.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Khurana, you must know that when I am on my legs, you cannot do that. If you do not consider the ruling given by the Chair, how can I do it? I have called the former Speaker to speak and you cannot disturb him like this. now, Shri Rabi Ray.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise an issue which is not only of national but of international importance. House has already expressed its unanimous opinion on the issue but it is a matter of deep concern that Aung San Suu who is recipient of Nobel Peace Prize and a citizen of our neighbouring Country Burma and who is likely to become Prime Minister or Head of State after elections, is still languishing in jail. Through you, I would like to submit that Government had remained silent about her release till she was awarded Nobel Prize but it is a matter of happiness that now the Prime Minister has issued a statement pleading for her release.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House as well as of the whole country to the fact that her husband Shri Michael Aris, a visiting Professor in Harvard University has issued a statement to the effect that he had not received any correspondence from his wife Shrimati Aung San Suu for the last sixteen months. I would like to know from the Government whether Prime Minister considers it enough to issue a statement in favour of her release? Countrymen have so far no knowledge about her release. Sir, you must be knowing that as to how the Army Junta Government has violated all human-rights in Burma and though Aung San Suu's party won the majority in the elections but she was not allowed to come in power. We all know as also the whole world that U.S. Government is supporting her. Even though Aung San Suu is being backed by U.S. Government even then military junta Government has not yet released her.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we all know that China is supporting Military Junta. Therefore,

through you, I would like to appeal to the Central Government to wake up from its deep slumber and keeping in view the cordial relations that both countries had been having for centuries, the Government, the people and the parliament of this country should take initiative in its own interest in seeking the release of Aung San Suu so that democracy is once again restored there. Therefore, I would like to submit to the Prime Minister that he should not remain content just with issuing a statement seeking her release but should use diplomatic pressures so that she may become Head of the State. It is a matter of concern that a Nobel Prize recipient is not being released. Our Government should take positive steps to secure her release particularly at a time when the Prime Minister of China is to pay a visit to this country in near future and China is supporting the Military junta there. At this juncture Prime Minister can take up this issue with the Chinese Prime Minister so that both can demand her release. This is a question of international importance and the whole House is demanding her release.

[English]

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Dharmapuri): Honourable Chairman, Sir, this is a very serious matter affecting three poor people of Tamil Nadu. Majority of people in Tamil Nadu get their rice through public distribution system.

The Central Government has now communicated to the Tamil Nadu Government its decision to cut down the Central rice quota from December, 1991 from the present level of 81,000 tonnes to 65,000 tonnes. At a time when more than 3 lakh hectares of standing paddy crops have been washed away by the recent floods, this cut in rice quota would seriously affect the poor and common man.

The harvest festival Pongal is to be celebrated in Tamil Nadu in January and with no harvest due to the floods and with this cut in rice quota, there would be no

festivity in Tamil Nadu.

It is high time the Government of India think in terms of increasing the rice quota to tide over the food problem in the State caused by the floods. At least the Government of India should maintain the present level of allocation of 81,000 tonnes. It is a must if not at least increasing it. Through you, I would urge upon the Government to give an assurance to the people of Tamil Nadu that rice quota will not be diminished and it should be increased.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shree Signal.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Kindly look to this side. (Interruptions) Kindly allow me some time. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are going to reduce the time.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Sir, it is a very important matter. We are saying that we have not raised this matter properly to create international opinion to secure the release of the Burmese leader who is in jail. Now it is really painful to see that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will get the time.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: No, no. (Interruptions) What is that? We have a duty. We have a moral responsibility. We are a democracy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Who denies that, Mr. Saifuddin Choudhury?

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: That is what you are going to do.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are calling in an orderly manner.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: You are taking other matters also. (Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: No.
(*Interruptions*)

Let it continue. What it is coming out of that?
(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Saifuddin Choudhury, this is Zero Hour. It has also been regulated here. You know it.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: You are a wise man. You know that matter is important.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not know whether I am wise or not.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You see, this is arranged in an orderly manner. I am going accordingly.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): There are some issues on which all sides wish to respond. This is one of the issues, Sir. We want to support that. It should be made known to the Government and to the people. (*Interruptions*) This is a common issue. That is what I am saying.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chatterjee, in the morning, you might have met the Hon'ble Speaker. Zero Hour is also accordingly regulated. He has given most of the names. What I am calling here is according to his judgment. I am not calling on my own. I am only calling according to the order given.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Even in the past, it had happened that even names were not there. But on an important issue, other Members are allowed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is true.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you mean to say that those matters which are now detailed here are less important?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: May I point out to you, Sir, that you are not bound by any list when you are on the Chair? You can apply your discretion. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You are the speaker now. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I think, Sir, this does merit your kind attention though it is not on the schedule. A matter has been raised by the former Speaker, Shri Rabi Ray. It is an important matter on which the whole House feels agitated. (*Interruptions*) Therefore, Mr. Somnath Chatterjee or Mr. Saifuddin Choudhury or I would like to associate myself with the views expressed by Shri Rabi Ray because a military junta has been there in spite of the fact that the people have elected some representative. And they are in detention. If the whole House associates, then that would also have effect. So, we would like to know the Government's stand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Advani, what I suggested was this. Since I called another hon. member, let him finish. I did not say that I will not give any chance. To that extent my friend Mr. Saifuddin Choudhury could not have patience and that is the whole trouble. Now, when I have called him, let him finish. I am also like you, a Member here for long. I know the mood of the House. Accordingly, we will go ahead.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL (Belgaum): Sir, it is learnt that the trade unionists will be going on strike tomorrow because of the mis-conceived idea about the public sector and its policy. Despite the clarification given by responsible persons of the Government of India, it may not create any impact on the

strike of the trade unions called on all-India basis. This strike is estimated to cause a loss of Rs. 300 crores. This loss is too heavy for the country to afford at this juncture. I request the hon. Speaker to appeal, on behalf of the House, to the trade unionists to call off the strike immediately and come to the negotiation table to talk with the Government to save the heavy loss. *(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI (Kodarma): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the international Trade Fair, which is organized every year in Pragati Maidan, has its own importance. People from all parts of the country as also from the world visit the Fair. In Himachal Pradesh Pavillon apple juice, the date of use of which had expired was sold as a result of which people contracted various diseases and had to be hospitalised. A complaint to this effect was lodged in the nearest police-station but it was disclaimed by the police authorities that they had any information in this regard whereas a copy of the complaint was available with the complainant. This is very bad on the part of the Home Ministry. West Bengal has enacted a legislation to the effect that if some food articles are found to be contaminated the person responsible shall be liable to life-imprisonment. Similar law should be enacted here so as to safeguard the life and property of the people. Otherwise, it will give a bad impression about the country to the foreigners who will get a negative picture of this country. Our Government is maintaining silence towards such an incident involving International Trade Fair. I would like to draw the attention of the whole country to such incidents. Government should take stringent actions against the police officers responsible for showing laxity in this case and also ensure that the name of International Trade Fair is not spoiled.

KUMARI UMA BHARTI (Khajuraho): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a survey was conducted for laying Lalitpur-Singrauli railway line during the regime of Janta Party in 1979-80. Then

the matter remained shelved for ten long years. It was again considered in 1989-90. I raised this issue again and again. The then Railway Minister assured me that the survey was being conducted and they were thinking on positive lines. This railway line is proposed to be laid down from Lalitpur to Singrauli in Sidhi district. I have held talks with the concerned officials. Many assurances have been given both verbally and in writing but no survey has yet been started.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, since both these districts fall under my constituency, therefore, on behalf of the people of my constituency, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to this problem. Here I would like to emphasize that former Railway Minister had given me assurances to the effect that the survey would be conducted and Government was thinking on positive lines about the project. Therefore, through you I would like to inform the Government that we would do our best to get budgetary allocations this year for Lalitpur-Singrauli line even if we have to resort to agitation for this purpose. We will get this line at any cost. We would adopt do or die attitude. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VARMA (Shajapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, if a debate starts on this topic other matters will remain undiscussed. Would we get any chance to speak?

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a debate. You please be seated. I have assured you that you would get an opportunity.

[*English*]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: I think you for giving me time and including me, other Members also will be interested in associating themselves with this very serious matter that has been raised by hon. Shri Rabi Ray. Burma is a country in our neighbourhood and as a democratic country, we are concerned that the elected representatives there, are given their due power. The Military Junta usurped power and the people's leader is in jail, suffering a

[Shri Saifuddin Choudhury]

lot. How can we help the people of Burma? It is not a question of interfering in the affairs of another country. It has got a universal aspect. As a democratic country, we cannot remain silent when democracy is being butchered in another country. We can play a role in terms of creating an international opinion. We can also make the international community more active in really ensuring that the Military Junta is defeated and the people are given back their power. In this Sir, as a leading country of democracy, India has a big role to play. Though a statement has come from our Prime Minister, I think we should really make our opinion felt in a more vigorous way in the international community and in other for a and ensure the people of Burma get a democratic governance to decide their destiny.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): It is natural that the House is expressing its concern. Our Government's policy has also been very well known that we are in favour of a democratically elected House and we desire that the people's representatives should be allowed to function freely. I will suggest one thing. Let the hon. Speaker call a meeting of the leaders of all political parties and let our House really express its unanimous opinion on this. Since the elected House is not being allowed to function in Burma, it will be good if an appeal from this House goes there and it will certainly have a greater weightage. This is my suggestion and if the Government has no objection, this can be the unanimous opinion of this House. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I think the last year's Report of the External Affairs Ministry of our Government has mentioned only the developments in Burma. It is not the question of interference in the internal affairs of any foreign country. As we do not want that there should be any interference from any sources into our internal affairs, naturally we also do not want to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. But Sir, the events in Burma are not merely a question

of internal affairs. If you allow me to say so, it relates to the flagrant violation of human rights and human rights have no frontiers of their own. It relates to the blatant negation of the people's mandate and it relates to the denial of the basic principle of parliamentary democracy.

13.00 hrs.

Therefore, Sir, it is not the question of ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are not discussing the whole issue. The hon. Member has suggested something and you can make some points only because other Members also want to speak on this.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: This Parliament certainly wants to uphold the human rights, the fundamental principles of parliamentary democracy and the principles of peoples' mandate. Therefore, Sir, it is an appropriate case that this Parliament expresses its opinion and demands the release of Suukyi and restoration of democracy in Burma by allowing the elected representatives to resume the Parliament.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to associate myself and my party with the sentiments expressed by the former Speaker in this House. Prime Minister has also expressed his views in this regard. We are of the view that if we convey our feelings by passing a resolution in this House it would not be considered interference in this internal affairs of any country. The Government has been elected there. Therefore, it is a question of Democracy and Human rights and the House is unanimous on these points. I would like to submit that it would be a good indication, if we pass a resolution in this House.

[*English*]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Sir, I would like to associate my party, the Communist Party of India, with the sentiments

expressed by my friend Shri Rabi Ray. Mrs. Augnsaon Suukyi's father was along with me in 1940 at Ramgarh because before 1937 we were under the same rule. So, we have got that heritage also. Lokanaya Tilak wrote Gita Rahasya in Mandelay jail and Bahadur Shah Zaffar was in prisoned there. We have got all these relations with them. In addition, democracy or the murder of it has its chain reaction. We have always preferred democratic rule. So, wherever there is an assault on the democracy—whether we gain or lose we must stand for it. You must, as the presiding officer of the House today, take the unanimous opinion of the House and this should be made known to the countries of the world. We want her release and restoration of the democratic rule in Burma.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Sir, I fully endorse and associate myself with the hon. former Speaker of this House. He has raised a very important issue. Sir, India has always expressed its solidarity for the democratic people of the world, wherever it may be and more so for the people of Burma.

Sir, I come from a place which is very near to Burma. I would like to inform the House that in recent days when many incidents had taken place where the people of Burma were repressed by the Burmese military, Junta, I know how the Government of India expressed its sympathies for these people.

Sir, that is why I would like to request that in these conditions, the Government and particularly the hon. Speaker should formulate a Resolution and the entire House can unanimously adopt it. It should go to all over the world that the Indian people have expressed their solidarity for the people of Burma for the restoration of democracy in that country.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT (Rajapur): I fully agree with the hon. Members that the situation in Burma is of a very serious concern. I also agree that this House and the people of India should express solidarity

with the people of Burma as far as the situation in that country is concerned. But we must proceed with the caution because we have a long border with Burma. We have insurgency for so many years in the States bordering Burma.

But as far as they are concerned, we must see that whatever action we take we should not participate action which will damage the national interest. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Are you asking for a specific action?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Not action.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Diplomatic action.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: As far as the House and the people are concerned, we agree that we must express our solidarity. But we should not take any action which would precipitate and affect our national interest.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to react to this.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we definitely join in the sentiments expressed by the whole House unanimously on the question that a country which was really a part of us before independence, with whom we have all fought, many of our senior freedom fighters came from that country and to see that the elected representatives are really not allowed to do their duty in a democratic form is rather unfortunate. But how exactly the Resolution should be drafted in a unanimous form and whether it should come from the Chair or whether it should come from the Government which is something which we should discuss, if

[ShriRangarajan Kumaramangalam]

possible, in the Speakers' Chamber and we can definitely move a Resolution. I am sure the Leaders will agree.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think we will leave at that. In the Speaker's Chamber, the Leaders of all the Parties will assemble and then draft a Resolution and the House can adopt it unanimously.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: My notice was for a different question. *(Interruptions)* I have given a notice for a different question. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: (Shajapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a matter of urgent public importance. The printing of notes in Bank Note Press, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh has been suspended frequently. During the last month of September printing work remained suspended for twenty nine days as the employees went on strike. This press prints the notes of higher denomination of Rs. 50/- Rs. 100/- and Rs. 500/-. In both the shifts about 2500 employees are working.

At present printing of notes has suffered set back due to the strike restored to by the supervisors w.e.f. 10.11.91. Only 15 lakh notes are being printed daily instead of sixty lakh notes. At represent sale and purchase of Soyabean and cotton is in full swing in Malwa region and as a result of shortage of big notes, bank-officials and traders are facing great difficulties.

I would like to know from Government the reason for not accepting the demands of the employees? Why are they forced to resort to strike again and again? Madhya Pradesh High Court has ordered that overtime allowance be paid at double rates under section 51 of Factories Act and

Supreme Court has also rejected the appeal of the management against it. Even then management is not following the orders of the Supreme Court.

I would like to urge the Government to give up its rigid attitude and accept the demands of the employees in Public interest so that the printing of notes may start again. I would like the Government to take action against the management for violating the orders of the High Court and the Supreme Court and the demands of the employees should be accepted immediately with a view to end the strike.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): An hon. member from the Ruling Party has made certain observations regarding the strike which is going to take place tomorrow, industrial strike. And it has been commented that it is not in the national interest. I want to make the position very clear.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You want to say that it is the national interest.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is in the national interest because the policy against which this industrial strike has been called and is going to be held is against the interest of this country. There is a total sell out; there is a total surrender of the economic independence of the country to the multinationals and the IMF. *(Interruptions)*

Unemployment is increasing; inflation is rising in this country. Factories have been closed down. Sickness is increasing in industries. So far as prices are concerned, they are soaring. Nothing has taken place except this country's dignity has been mortgaged to the foreign countries and the IMF.

I would appeal through you to the Government that they should see reason and change and withdraw this dangerous, anti people, anti-national policy so that the

strike can be averted and the people of this country can at least have a little stake in the country's future and the progress. What is happening today? (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken more than one minute.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The working class and the common people of this country are under a serious challenge and threat and they will fight and fight till the end until they are victorious. (*Interruption*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will not allow you to convert this issue into a debate. Will you kindly be seated?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: The working-class does not want this strike. It is a political strike; it is motivated by political parties; it is to malign the Government. The working-class is not against this Industrial policy; they do not want to go on strike; it is the political parties which want it; it is their manoeuvring; they want to take a political leverage out of it. (*Interruptions*) The Eastern Europe have seen how the entire economic system has been broken down because of the so-called progressive policies? (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This matter is also not going to be debated. Now the hon. Minister wants to react to it.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is Zero Hour. At One O' clock, we ought to have adjourned the House for lunch, but we are continuing for another matter which was brought before the House by the former Speaker. Therefore, every section of the House expressed its opinion. We have taken a decision also. Let us not convert this issue to be a matter to be discussed by every section of the House.

Now, the Minister is on his legs. Let us hear him whatever he wants to say.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Chairman, I am sure, tomorrow, they would have again another replay. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We must give effect to the voice of the people outside; we must express their views in this House. You are a minority Government; don't forget that. You do not represent majority of people in this House. (*Interruption*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): You ask them what they have done in Bengal. They have finished everything. Now they want to finish the whole country. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: The prices have gone up by 20 per cent. (*Interruptions*) This is what is happening in India. You will agree that it is an insult to our country and it is against that insult that we are going on strike on the 29th.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you kindly listen?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am a little surprised that those who talk of democratic norms do not believe in allowing free right of expression. I find that I have just now been strangled by loud voices of senior members on the other side. This is a very serious matter, the matter which has been raised by Shri Somnath Chatterjee. I think it is necessary to draw the attention of the House through you that when we came to Government the economic situation of the country was dire. We had a situation where the balance of payments position was critical.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): That is because of the wrong policies pursued for the last ten years.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: I do not want to blame anyone at this moment, who was at fault and who is not at fault, statistics and history will speak of it. But as at the moment, we have made it extremely clear, the Prime Minister has, and so has every other Minister concerned, that there is no attempt either to de-nationalise the public sector or to privatise it. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please let him say whatever he wants to say.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Today there is a report on ITDC.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly co-operate with the Chair.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Would you listen? Please do not go by newspaper reports. Unfortunately there has been a very conscious political attempt to mislead. I am not saying who is misleading. Definitely, there is a political plot to mislead but I am at this moment not trying to trade charges.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No running commentary, please.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: All I am saying is, that it is in the interest of the public sector, it is in the interest of industry, in the interest of working classes that you do not encourage or support the proposed strike tomorrow, because the strike tomorrow will only strengthen the hands of those who are campaigning consciously against the working classes and against the public sector. If you want to and if you are interested in ensuring efficiency, all that we are saying is that unviable units must be made viable. We are not saying that they should be closed down. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Motion for Election to Committee.

(Interruptions)

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

13.19 hrs.

Joint Committee on Offices of Profit

[English]

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA (Karnal): I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (3) of Rule 254 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from among themselves, to serve as a member of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri C.K. Kuppuswamy resigned from the Committee."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (3) of Rule 254 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from among themselves, to serve as a member of Joint Committee on Offices of Profit for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri C.K. Kuppuswamy resigned from the Committee."

The motion was adopted.

13.20 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Eight Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND
COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN
KUMARAMANGALAM): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the
Eighth Report of the Business Advisory
Committee presented to the House on
the 27th November, 1991."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the
Eighth Report of the Business Advisory
Committee presented to the House on
the 27th November, 1991."

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North): Mr.
Chairman, Sir I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your point of
order?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, this item is not in
the Revised List of Business.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is an additional
item. This has been permitted by the Speaker.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE
(Dum Dum): Sir, it has not been mentioned
in the Revised List of Business. Suddenly, it
cropped up. It is happening almost everyday.
This cannot be put today. This is a routine
matter and it ought to have been mentioned
in the List of Business.. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, we have to give
notice for that... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:

If it is not mentioned in the Revised List of
Business, it should come tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It was allowed by the
Speaker. You will not be losing your right.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RANGARAJAN
KUMARAMANGALAM: Firstly, I would like
to clarify that the Business Advisory
Committee Motion moved either by me or by
one of the other members of the Business
Advisory Committee is normally put in the
List of Business by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.
It is a fact that it is not put in the Revised List
of Business. I did also notice it originally. But
the Speaker did agree that this is an oversight
and then permitted it. However, since the
Members feel that they would like to have
prior notice, it may be put again tomorrow.
There is no problem in that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is all right.

Now the House stands adjourned to
meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.23 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch
till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the
Clock*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch
at thirty-five minutes past Fourteen of the
Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the
Chair*]

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House
will now take up Matters under Rule 377.

14.35 1/2 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (I) **Need to provide a double track on Bangalore Tumkur Railway line**

[*English*]

SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA: Sir, Bangalore-Tumkur Railway line is one of the most important lines in Karnataka State. Holy Shrine 'Siddaganga' Mutt is in Tumkur. HMT Factory and many other industries are situated there. Tumkur is also an important centre of Education and culture. There are many educational institutions including an engineering college and three B.Ed. Colleges. Many Government employees as well as businessmen who live in Tumkur depend upon this railway route.

More than ten pairs of Express and Passenger Trains are running daily on this Bangalore-Tumkur Single line and doubling of this vital line is pending for the last several years. In fact, train journey between Bangalore and Tumkur is inconvenient due to heavy rush in compartments and frequent crossing of trains. The railway department is not able to introduce any new train on this line either from Bangalore to Mangalore or from Bangalore to Dharwar.

The length of this line between Bangalore and Tumkur is only 34 kms and the total expenditure does not exceed 30 crores of rupees.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take up this work during the current financial year and to complete it at the earliest.

- (II) **Need to set up a full fledged T. V. Centre at Sambalpur and low power Transmitters at Deogarh and Pallahara in Orissa**

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Sir, it is a matter of regret that in

spite of the assurance of the concerned authority, the Doordarshan facilities withdrawn from Sambalpur have not yet been restored. In addition to restoring these facilities, immediate steps should be taken to establish a full fledged TV Centre at Sambalpur including studio facility and low power transmitters be set up one at Deogarh and another at Pallahara without delay.

[*Translation*]

- (III) **Need to set up sugar units at Nawabganj and Meeranaj, Bareilly Uttar Pradesh.**

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bareilly is a leading sugarcane producing area. The demand to issue letters of Intent for setting up of sugar-mills in Nawabganj is long standing one I have written letters to many Ministers of Central Government in this regard. At present the sugar-mills are only consuming twenty percent of the total sugarcane yield of Bareilly district. Since sugar-cane is the chief crop of Bareilly so the farmers of Bareilly suffer financial loss. Approvals have already been accorded for setting up sugar-mills in private sector and Uttar Pradesh Government has sent their recommendations to the Central Government in this regard.

Keeping in view the needs of the farmers of the region I would like to urge the hon. Industry Minister to accord priority to issuing do letters of intent for setting up on sugar mills there.

- (IV) **Need to feed STD Code No. 062731 in the computer to provide proper STD facility between Delhi and Jhanjharpur in Madhubani district, Bihar**

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with the installation of Telephone

Exchange in the Jhanjharpur sub-division of Madhubani district of Bihar since May 1991, S.T.D. facilities have become available in Jhanjharpur. But this facility is available only one way. The S.T.D. Code Number for Jhanjharpur is 062731 from Delhi and other places. This number has not yet been fed in the computer. As a result, S.T.D. contact on telephones to Jhanjharpur is missing causing great inconvenience to the representatives of the people, officials and general public.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to feed immediately S.T.D. Code No. 062731 in the Computer to provide proper S.T.D. facility between Delhi and other places to Jhanjharpur keeping in view the public interest.

(v) Need for early solution to Jharkhand problem

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL (Godda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in 1988, a 22 member committee under the convenorship of Shri B.S. Tall had been constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs to look into the matters leading to the agitation for the Jharkhand state. That committee visited Bihar, Bengal, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh and submitted its report on 18 May, 1990 to the Ministry of Home Affairs. But the problem is still unresolved. Now the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha has declared its intention to launch a fresh agitation.

So, I would like to request the Government to invite the agitationists for a dialogue in order to solve this problem.

(vi) Need to extend local trains run by the Western Railway in Bombay upto Dahanu Road in Maharashtra

[English]

SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE (Aurangabad): Sir, thousands of people travel daily from Boiser, Palghar, Vangaon, Safala, Vaitana, Kelwa Road and Dahanu Road to Bombay for work and daily chores.

The local trains of Bombay, run by the Western Railway, presently run up to only Virar. As such, the people living beyond Virar and up to Dahanu Road have to suffer a lot. Large number of workers who cannot afford to leave in the metropolitan city of Bombay are living in these areas and their only mode of transport is the rail. However, in the absence of local trains, they have to spend three to four hours daily commuting to their place of work and back. Sometimes they are stuck up for even more time. Therefore, there is urgent need for the extension of local trains run by the Western Railway in Bombay up to Dahanu Road for mitigating the sufferings of the common man.

(vii) Need to recognise Malabar Rebellion of 1921 as Freedom Struggle and to provide freedom fighters pension to those who participated in that movement

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): There were several struggles for freedom from British colonial regime and the West coast Malabar Rebellion of 1921 is one such struggle for the Independence of the nation and was an integral part of Khilafath Movement led by Mahatma Gandhi and All Brothers. This agrarian revolt was led by freedom fighter Shri All Musalliar, a disciple of Mahatma Gandhi. All Musalliar was sentenced to death by the British regime for having revolted against colonial power. But Government of India has not recognised Malabar Rebellion of 1921 as struggle for independence. Nationalist leaders like late K.P. Kesave Menon, K. Madhava Menon (former Madras Minister), Mohammed Abdul Rahman, Brehmadatha Namboodiripad and living freedom fighter, octogenarian moiden Moulabi (former M.P.) -all advocated and appealed to Government of India in this respect. Though assurance was given by former Prime Minister, late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, it has not been recognised so far. I, therefore, request the Government and the hon. Home Minister to recognise Malabar Rebellion of 1921 as Freedom Struggle and provide pension to those freedom fighters who languished in prison for years for participating in the Malabar Rebellion.

(viii) Need to take steps for overall development of Orissa State

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Orissa is an under-developed State, naturally endowed with abundant mineral, forest, water and human wealth and resources. Successive five-year developmental plans and financial assistance including central devolution of funds, based on the recommendations of Gadgil formula, modified Gadgil formula and Consensus formula of 1990 have failed to arrest and reduce the gap of regional disparity and imbalance.

Keeping in view the percentage and number of poor and weaker sections of society, scheduled castes and tribes, small and marginal farmers unemployed labour force, unemployed educated youth amongst the population of Orissa, the Government of India and the Planning Commission must find ways and means and take effective steps to undertake massive investments not only in the Eighth Plan which is under formulation, but also take special steps in setting up the second Steel Plant, mineral-based industrial undertakings with employment generating capacity; expand and set up ancillarisation of existing plants and industrial undertaking ago-based and food-processing plants, medium and minor irrigation projects, thermal power plants at coal pit-heads in order to arrest and remove the paradox of poverty amongst plenty.

(ix) Need to review the decision of allowing Private sector in Defence production[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise an issue of urgent public importance under the Rule 377. Kanpur is an important industrial city of the country, where several Defence Production Factories providing employment to thousands of people, both local and others from the different parts of the country, are located and producing defence material. The

Government's decision to entrust the Private sector with the supply of defence articles has put a serious question mark not only before the future of the workers of the defence factories at Kanpur but also of other such factories in the country. This decision has caused a threat to the security of the country. This decision has adversely affected the employees of those factories. They are not getting promotions. Due to non-recruitment in these factories, there is further increase in unemployment. The intrusion of the private sectors in the sensitive area like defence is a very serious threat to the security of the country. Due to this decision, it is not possible to maintain the quality, reliability and secrecy and the result of this will be very dangerous for the country.

Hence, it is my request to the Government to cancel its decision immediately so that the interests of the employees of these factories may be protected and no one may take any liberty with the security of the country for his personal benefit.

14.49 hrs.

WATER (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF POLLUTION CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL -CONTD.[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We shall now take up Item No. 4. Now the hon. Minister will reply to the debate on the motion for consideration of the Bill moved by him on 20th November, 1991.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has been heartening to see the unprecedented and wide interest that this Bill has generated. Hon. Members from across the House have spoken enthusiastically and at length. I am happy to add that practically all sections of the House have expressed basic agreement with the objectives of this Bill.

Sir, the hon. Members have made some perspective observations on the Bill and have given very valuable suggestions to tackle the problem of pollution. Certain specific cases of pollution have also been referred to. I assure the hon. Members, especially my friend, Me. Charles, who made a point yesterday about Travancore Titanium, and just today in the papers have seen the extent to which pollution is being caused by this unit. I shall certainly be looking into this matter and taking very stern measures.

Sir, after the conclusion of the discussion on this Bill, I feel more confident with the kind of support which I have got. At times I have felt rather alone in some of the measures which I have already taken because there has been resistance, there has been lack of understanding in many quarters. But after the conclusion of this debate I have seen the tremendous insight which all Members cutting across all party lines have expressed, I feel certainly more confident and I am sure that all the suggestions they have given will be very useful and will be very valuable inputs in the formulation of the policy for the future.

Sir, I would like to specifically and emphatically state that the commitment of the Government to abatement of pollution for preventing further deterioration of the environment, conserving what we have and improving upon it. A view has been expressed by the hon. Members that the working of the Ministry of Environment and Forests is against the spirit of liberalisation announced in the Industrial policy Statement. I would like to be very clear on this, Sir, and I would like to remind the hon. Members that the policy Statement clearly states that while industrialisation will be fully encouraged, this will not be in disregard of environmental considerations. No effort will be spared to protect the ecologically fragile and environmentally sensitive areas of the country from unplanned industrialisation and polluting enterprises. On the other hand, I would like to caution the hon. Members against the perceived conflict between development and environment. I don't say

there is a conflict. In fact, in my view we cannot have one without the other. There can be no real development without ecological conservation and neither can you have ecological conservation without sustainable development. There have been attempts to show that there is a conflict between ecological preservation and development, and I think this attitude will do great harm to society. It shall be my effort to blunt the edge of the perceived conflict between environment and development. We, in my Ministry, are not anti-development, we are pro-development, but pro the right kind of development. It is not the Ministry of Forests and Environment alone which is the custodian of the environment. We are all holding and conserving the environment for future generations. Parliament is the trustee; I have only been charged with the responsibility of implementing the will of Parliament as expressed in its legislation.

The problem of pollution no doubt is a complex one involving many interconnected matters. I beg the indulgence of the House, to elaborate on this, when so much time has been taken, so much interest has been shown, I will dwell at some length on this. There is an increasing trend today in environmental pollution, whether it is on air, water or soil. Water is polluted by two kinds of wastes, traditional organic waste and waste generated by industrial processes. While it is estimated that three fourth, by volume, of the waste water generated is from Municipal sources, industrial waste though small in volume contributes over one half of the total pollutant load, and the major portion of this is coming from large and medium industries. For class-I cities of the country less than five per cent of the total waste generated is collected and less than one fourth of this is treated, that is barely one per cent.

Intensive agriculture based on chemical agents for fertilisers and crop protection pesticides have also become a major cause of water contamination and pollution by ammonia, nitrates etc. Ambient air quality trends in the major cities indicate that levels

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of suspended particulate matter are higher than the prescribed standards or limits, especially in summer months. Levels of nitrogen dioxide are increasing in urban centres with growing vehicular emissions. It is just not a question of having any standard or enforcement of standard. There is the question of technology. When we talk of vehicular pollution, we need unleaded petrol, we need higher technology engines. We have vehicles today on the road which are 10 or 15 years old. So, this has an economic ingredient in it. My Ministry has set standards, some of which have to be complied with by 31st of March, 1992. They are another step in dealing with vehicular pollution which in Delhi alone accounts for almost 60 per cent of the total pollution in the air in Delhi. By some estimates, Delhi is the fourth most polluted city in the world.

Environmental problems today are becoming larger and bigger in scale. The chemical industry generates an increasing quantity of substances every year adversely affecting essential aspects of the composition of the atmosphere, soil and water. In the industrially high density areas, in addition to the effects on local health and impact on nature, we are confronted with damage to the social and economic functions of the environment. With restrictions on releases to air and waste water, hazardous chemical wastes are getting diverted to land for their disposal. Earlier concerns with pollution that was visible and degradable are giving way to new types of pollution with very small quantities of synthetic chemicals that are not visible and are injurious to health and damage the environment because of widespread use, persistence and its toxicity. Reducing the hazards from toxic chemicals is now a primary public concern.

Human activities are also influencing the composition of the atmosphere. Despite uncertainties and insufficient knowledge, political and scientific decisions concerning environmental change will increasingly be necessary. The state of the environment

despite all efforts, continues to deteriorate. The growth in scientific and technical knowledge has made it possible to use an ever-increasing quantum of natural resources. Previously what was not usable in our natural resources has become possible to be used with the developments in technology. The depletion of forests has been accompanied by an increasing amount of pollution affecting atmosphere, soil and water. Some of the damage, we must understand and understand very emphatically, is irreversible.

15.00 hrs.

When top soil is eroded, one inch of top soil takes hundreds of years to come back. When we talk of dam, we have to talk of the catchment area and treatment plan. There is a logic, there is a rationale in it. There is a question of the life of the dam; there is a question of preserving the top soil; there is the question of preventing further erosion.

In seeking higher quality of life and obtaining benefit of economic growth, we need to focus on building clean technologies into our production pattern—clean technology and waste control. Pollutants are nothing but waste. Pollution control wholes changing the waste from one form into another residue which has to be disposed. Thus pollution control is nothing but waste management. The best form of waste management is to have waste control. So, our efforts will be on waste control technologies. Our efforts will be on the abatement of pollution complementing the Government's forest policy. The Government seeks to ensure that its policies in every sector are based on a set of principles that harmonise economic growth and environmental imperatives.

Having tried to encapsulate the environmental hazards which our country is facing, I wish to emphasise that it is just not enough for the Government to notify laws and expect them to be complied with. A positive attitude on the part of everyone is essential for the prevention of pollution and

wide consultation held with those who implement the legislation. A comprehensive approach needs to be taken to integrate environmental and economic aspects in development and development planning. Stress is to be laid on preventive aspects, abatement of pollution and promoting all technological inputs to reduce industrial pollutants. The objective must accordingly be to integrate environmental consideration into decision-making at all levels.

To achieve this, steps will be taken to prevent pollution at source. It is to encourage, develop and apply the best available technical solutions. In short, the polluter pays for the pollution and control it. It is also to focus protection of heavily polluted areas and river stretches and to involve the public in decision-making.

Many specific examples have been given to me. Some of them, we are already aware of. An example has been given to me of the Thane area. There are areas like Chamber in Bombay. It is like a gas chamber and its pollution levels are some of the highest in the world, in respect of total contamination and pollution. We are focusing on heavily polluted areas. I am fully aware that we have to start somewhere and to be specific, and tackle the worst affected areas first. As I said, certain specific areas have been earmarked and identified by my Ministry which we are calling heavily polluted areas. Special action plans are being implemented for controlling pollution there. For those areas, monitoring is being done regularly to ensure that industrial units comply with the effluent and emission standards within a time-frame and also that the total ambient pollution load in the area is within norms. This has been taken up. For example, in areas in Orissa, Talcher, Brajrajnagar, Berhampur and the pollution discharged into the Mahanadi and Brahmani rivers, we are taking up.

We have identified 17 heavily polluting sectors and these include chemical and leather industries, about which mention was also made by some Members. These

industries have been given direction to comply and meet the prescribed standards. We shall give them notice and stringent action will be taken if they do not comply with these measures by 31st December, 1991.

One of the problems which has been persistently and consistently coming up is the problem of fly ash from thermal units. Fly ash is none of those pollutants that tampers with not only the air, but also with soil and water. Reference was made by many of the Members that some areas have become black. Farmers have been agriculturally hit. A large number of fruit trees have stopped bearing fruit. The issue of fly ash disposal is under very active consideration in my Ministry. Fly-ash utilisation in our country is of a very small order. Only 1/20 of fly ash is what we utilise as compared to other countries, we will be insisting not only on greater usage of fly-ash but on recycling fly-ash in the future and this applies not only to the new thermal units but also to the older thermal units which have faced these problems. We shall be using the environmental laws very stringently to face the problem.

The Ganga Action Plan was mentioned by many Members.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Who will bear the expenses of those plants? I am interested in Kolaghat, Pan is being destroyed altogether in Kolaghat.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: It is very true. Today there are technologies to use fly-ash. Fly-ash can be used for bricks. They have a very good pay back period. Fly-ash can be used in road-building. Usage of fly-ash as part of the project itself should be done. And once this is done, there will not be any real cause for problem. The problem will arise in old thermal stations which do not have the requisite area. While according sanction to any new thermal station, one of the top priorities which we are looking at is the question of fly-ash. We are trying to encourage the fly-ash industry. Even the

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Finance Minister has given some economic incentives to fly-ash units.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: It should be implemented quickly in Kolaghat.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: O.K. The Ganga Action Plan was started in February, 1985. This problem of pollution of rivers was perceived and felt very strongly by our late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and it was under his Chairmanship that the Central Ganga Authority was set up. The object of the Ganga Action Plan is to intercept and divert the wastage flowing into the river with a view to improve the water quality and convert it into a resource for sciculture irrigation and methane gas production for energy generation. It is also aimed at ensuring the biotic diversity of the river to augment its production particularly, the fish resources.

Under the Ganga Action Plan, Phase I, 25 major towns were taken up for pollution abatement works. These towns were selected on the basis of population. The prioritisation of Phase II of the Ganga Action Plan will be done on scientific criteria depending upon pollution loads and requirements of designated best-use quality of river water.

I certainly have with me notes of what the Members' suggestions are with regard to what they have stated on where the Ganga Action Plan should be extended to and, more than anything, I am very acutely aware that this needs to be done and we would extend the same strategy which we have in Phase I to other rivers and water bodies in our River Action Plan as distinct from the Gange Action Plan and I assure the Members that Government will give highest consideration to their suggestions.

In Phase I, there are very detailed figures. There is improvement in the water quality and in the water standards where this Plan went into operation. I have the figures. If any Member wants, I will give him. But I will

not go into the details now.

Sir, one of the very important issues raised here was that of noise pollution. I entirely agree with the Members that this is perhaps one area of pollution which is most suffered and least perceived. Noise can irritate, annoy, interrupt sleep, increase stress, disrupt concentration and even damage one's health. It affects all of us in one way or the other. While most people accept that this is a very grave problem, noise is one of the biggest polluters, it is very difficult to mitigate this pollution. We have notified standards and guidelines have been framed by us. I have personally written to the Chief Ministers to enforce the provisions particularly in the vicinity of hospitals, schools and residential areas. I am aware that loudspeakers blare out all night with no concern for the average public. Government is prepared to consider even more stringent measures. I shall be looking at even more stringent measures of noise pollution because I think we have to have consideration for other members in the neighborhood as members of society.

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK(Buldana): In fact will this law be applicable to Parliament also?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: It is for the Parliament to decide.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): This law should also be applicable during the time of elections too. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE (Jhalawar): A pertinent point was raised about noise pollution. But you just mentioned that you will be discussing this with the State Chief Ministers. What about Delhi itself? Place like Ashram Chowk, Ring Road and various other places also are prone to this. I think in this House itself it was mentioned at one time. The hon. Minister Shri Jagdish Tytler said that he was making great efforts to see that traffic would be diverted in such a way that this noise pollution would be dropped. He also said certain safeguards

would be used. I would like to know if you would be able to get this thing going and going soon because the level of pollution - noise and otherwise has grown beyond belief in Delhi itself.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Undoubtedly, it has grown very much in Delhi itself. As I said earlier, I had written to all Chief Ministers including the Lt. Governor of Delhi. There are certain really noisy areas in Delhi. One of the areas was mentioned by the hon. Member. Noise pollution has grown very acutely in these places. As I said, I am willing to make it even more stringent. Further, noise pollution is covered under the Environment Protection Act. There are certain inherent like marriages and religious functions where loudspeakers are put on. We have to have a norm for that. Before we set up such norms, I will have wider consultation with all people. But with regard to specific points of Delhi, I shall take them up with the Lt. Governor again to see that something is done there. My initial thrust was in abating the noise pollution near hospitals, outside the Institute of Medical Sciences etc. You find loud and heavy trucks moving outside the colleges, outside major residential areas where no noise should be there. I am taking up this matter with the people concerned. This issue shall be given priority.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: There is another thing. I would like to mention about vehicular pollution. Vehicles emitting fumes are increasing more and more. Currently, this problem has grown in Delhi itself beyond imagination. So, something has to be done about vehicular traffic exhaust from the trucks and buses.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I think that the hon. Member is not aware that I mentioned that this is a severe problem. Delhi is the fourth most polluted with and certain standards have been set, which have to come into force. Probably, she did not hear earlier.

Several Members have raised the issue

of Central and State Pollution Control Boards. Suggestions have been made and rightly so - that eminent scientists be nominated to these Boards. I wish to inform the Members that already we have several scientists and technocrats on these boards, but I shall bear the suggestions of the Members in mind, and if necessary, we shall reconstitute the Central Pollution Control Board to make it more effective in the changed context today in meeting the challenges of the new policies and implementing the strategy which I have outlined. Similarly, advice will be given State Pollution Control Boards. Just yesterday, we have concluded a national-level consultation of State Environment Secretaries and Chairman of the State Pollution Control Boards and we have discussed many of these issues. I did inform them of the views of my colleagues on the floor of the House. We are aware that there is greater need of strengthening the implementation machinery at the field level, and in certain areas, it needs reorganisation, in certain areas it needs strengthening and we are working in that direction.

Coming to the Bill, the main import of this Amendment Bill is to ensure that industry does not consume a scarce resource like water. We must understand that water is not an unlimited resource. Water is a scarce resource. Water is a community resource and thus there is no waste in this. It is not merely a question of raising the cess or raising the tax. The question is that the industry must be contained in this. The rates which I propose to increase are being increased after 12 years of the Act being in force. An important feature of this Amendment is a two-tier cess structure which is being created for the first time - a lower tariff for industries which conform to optimum water standards, optimum water consumption and a higher tariff for those industries which continue to use water in excess of these optimum standards. We have to make a distinction and that is why, I have created a two-tier

[Shri Karul Nath]

cess structure.

Furthermore, the brunt of increase is being made to fall on industries that generate pollutants that are toxic and non-biodegradable. As may be seen from the cess structure which I am proposing the brunt of it is falling on industries which generate pollutants that are non-biodegradable and are toxic. This is the charge on community that industry to operate, must compensate community and society. That is the concept.

This Bill just does not seek to augment resources. That is one of the objects. The thrust is in a different direction. It does seek in one of its measures to augment the resources of the state Pollution Control Boards which have to be strengthened and which do need the funds. The expected rise in this cases collection will not merely be there because of the increase in rates, but because there shall be better identification of polluting industries and the built-in disincentive for industries using wasteful technology. I have tried to create a disincentive for those industries using wasteful technology. I have definitely considered the suggestions made by Members about the domestic rates. I would like to point out to hon. Members that the increase in rates for domestic consumption shall be very negligible. It is estimated that for a household the increase will be 12 paise per month per family. We have calculated it. I share with you the basis of our calculation. For a family which consumes 200 liters of water per day in one month the impact on that family will be 12 paise for the entire family for the entire month. *(Interruptions)* Let me complete. I am open to suggestions. But let me complete what my objective is. On the other hand, when we look at the other side of it, there is urgent need for municipal bodies to streamline their water distribution system. That is very important. The increase in cess would be an incentive for municipalities to cut down on waste and ensure supply of water to households, if they

are to make good the extra cost of the cess. There is lot of water which is wasted by municipalities. All of us are seeing water going waste. Now they will conserve that water to get extra revenue arising out of the sale of water.

[SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA *in the chair*]

When water is so scarce a commodity, I feel it is criminal on the part of the municipal bodies to be negligent in supply and distribution.

I would also like to point out another aspect with regard to domestic consumption. This will not be a burden on rural population. This shall not be a burden on rural population. This shall not be a burden on the on the urban poor because they get their water from hand-pumps, from public standposts. This will apply to those who draw metered water supply. The poor do not get metered water supply. They don't have water meters in their houses. It shall not be affecting the rural poor, it shall not be affecting the rural people at all and it shall not be affecting the the urban poor because they are not getting the metered water supply.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North): Even the urban poor get metered water supply.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I am talking about those who do not have metered supply. Not many of the urban poor have water meters in their houses. I am talking about them.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur): But how will you regulate them?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: This applies to local bodies. It applies to the poor also who have metered supply. But the impact is 12 paise per month and this impact also is just not a revenue resource, this impact streamlines many other things, provides incentives through many other things, this impact also is a motivation to the municipal bodies. When I hold these aspects together, I thought 12 paise per month was not a major impact for the urban people who are drawing

metered water supply. Those who are not drawing are taking from the public standposts. In rural areas, in the villages they are not getting metered water supply. So it will not be affecting the rural people in the villages; it shall not be affecting the urban poor who are not drawing metered water supply. A total exemption for the domestic sector would I think send a wrong message. We want people to realise this. As I said, the intent of the Bill is that the people must realise water is a scarce resource; it is a community resource; it is not an unlimited resource and it should be treated as such.

My Ministry would very like to play a role - promotional, catalytic and an awareness raising role - in a spirit of humility. We are conscious of the special situation of developing countries like ours with the rapidly increasing population and equally increasing legitimate aspirations of the people. All my Ministry endeavours to do is to point to the sustainable path which does not take water or natural resources including fauna and flora as free gifts to be drawn upon at will regardless of the diminution in quantity and quality. The user should keep in mind and also look to the requirement of generations to come. Hence the thrust we have had is on clean air and water and in cleaning up pollution sources as much as our resources, technology will allow us. It is in this process that my Ministry and the organs of the State Government try their best to use a carrot and stick policy. It is my endeavor to make our the carrot tastier rather than the stick harder. But I would like to hasten to reassure the hon. Members that no consideration other than sustainable development, sustainable utilisation of our resources, as scientifically assessed will govern our actions. If, in the process, we are seen at times as being negative in outlook, I would submit that this Ministry must be seen in the wider context of the fact requirements of our environment. The stress is on the that the responsibility for the protection of environment is not of a Ministry here a State Government there; but of all of us and I would plead, Madam, for greater understanding of the balancing role required in the process of development and

environment.

With these words, I seek the support of all the hon. Members in the House for the amendment Bill which I have moved. Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill

Clause 5

SHRI E. AHAMED: I beg to move:

page 2,-
omit lines 35 and 36 (1)

page 2, line 39,-
for "a" substitute "any" (2)

Madam Chairman, I want to speak on my amendments. In Clause 5, there is an amendment to Section 7 of the Principal Act. I move my amendment to delete this. The reason for the amendment is this. The hon. Minister has just said that he has the policy of 'carrot and stick'. But, he is only using the stick without giving carrot, for the persons who will be doing something good for the purpose of pollution control. May I read Section 7 of the Principal Act?

"Where any person or local authority,

[Shri E. Ahamed]

liable to pay the cess under this Act, installs any plant for the treatment of sewage or trade effluent, such person or local authority shall, from such person or local authority shall, from such date as may be prescribed, be entitled to a rebate of seventy per cent of the cess payable by such person or as the case may be, local authority".

The hon. Minister has brought an amendment reducing that 70 per cent to 25 per cent. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what is the reason to reduce this rebate of 75 per cent for doing something good for the purpose of the pollution control? We have to penalise those who are violating the statutory provisions of the Pollution Act and other rules. But, as a matter of fact, the Principal Act has given some concession - a rebate - of 75 per cent for the installation of treatment plant. This is being reduced to 25 per cent for no reason whatsoever, for no fault of theirs. There is also no such provision to the effect that if there is any violation, it will be reduced. Even the policy that the Minister has enunciated here in the House is that those who are following the rules will be given concession and encouragement. So, those who are installing the treatment plant should be allowed to continue the same rebate of 75 per cent. That is why, I have given my Amendment No. 1.

Amendment No.2 is a very small amendment. I hope that the Minister will find no difficulty to accept it. I do not think that it is a grammatical mistake. In the amending Bill which the hon. Minister moved here, in Clause 5, sub-clause(b), there is a new proviso. May I just quote it here?

"Provided that a person or local authority shall not be entitled to a rebate, if he or it...."

I move that in the proviso, "a" should be substituted by the word "any". 'a' has been used in the principal Act which is for a positive action by the person. I must just quote here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I request you to be brief, Mr. Ahamed: SHRI E. AHAMED 'be entitled to a rebate' is correct. But in the proviso, it is stated that:

"..local authority shall not be entitled to a rebate."

If I may say, it should be:
"...shall not be entitled to any rebate"

and not 'a'. I would request the Minister to accept both the amendments.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Madam, with regard to the 70 per cent rebate, I would like to inform the House and the Hon'ble Member that it is not merely a question of installing the pollution control equipment. What we have found from experience is that this should be graded down. It is not just a measure of reducing the rebate. It has been brought to my notice by some of the Members also in the Consultative Committee meetings and it has come to our notice otherwise that much of the pollution equipment, which is being installed, is not up to the mark. Secondly, when it is there, it is not being used. It is not being run. So, I do not want to get into the aspect of mere installation of it. It should be run. It should produce the desired results. Now with this two-tier system, if it is working, in any case, they get a great advantage, there is an incentive. The effect of that is being met in the graded structure of the cess. Whenever there is a load-shedding, the first thing which is done is they shut off the equipment. Although, when an inspection, is held, they show that it is there. That is not enough. I am going into the effect of that equipment. If that equipment is there and it is working, they have an advantage. That is why, I have brought it down to 25 per cent. I shall request the hon'ble Member to withdraw this and to look at it from this point of view.

With regard to his second amendment, which he has moved, which is from 'a' to 'any', it does not make any substantial change. I am inclined to accept his second amendment from 'a' to 'any'.

SHRI E. AHAMED: I seek leave of the

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House to withdraw my amendment No. 1.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has hon. Member leave of the House withdraw the amendment.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Yes.

Amendment No.1 was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put Amendment No.2 moved by Shri E. Ahamed to the vote of the House.

The question is:

Page 2, line 39,-
for "a" substitute "any" (2)

The motion was adopted

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clauses 6 and 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clauses 6 and 7 were added to the Bill

Clause 8

SHRI E. AHMAD: Madam, in the light of the Minister's reply, I would not like to move my amendment.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I beg to move:

Page 3, line 31, in column(3) under the heading "Maximum rate under sub-section (2A) of section 3",—

for "Seven and a half paise" substitute—
"Nine and a half paise" (4)

Madam, I would like to explain why this came up at the last stage. This Bill was introduced in the last session of Parliament. There were some suggestions after introduction. One of the suggestions which I thought was very valid was that there should be a distinction between easily biodegradable and non-biodegradable and toxic. It is because of these suggestions which I got, I decide to make this distinction. Some Members also gave me suggestions that there is a difference between the industries whose pollutants are easily biodegradable and those who are not easily biodegradable but also toxic. So, I moved this amendment. There is a lot of sense and wisdom in it. And since I have brought in the concept of economic incentive and disincentive, I thought that I should at this point make a distinction between categories 3 and 4, specially in the case of those industries which are not following the prescribed standards. I have not done so in those industries who are following the prescribed standards as will be seen. I have done it only in the case of non-biodegradable and toxic ones and those who are not following the prescribed standards. So, to create a distinction, I have moved an amendment to raise it from seven and a half paise to none and a half paise.

The hon. Member raised a point that it was so casually drafted and not thought of earlier. It was thought of before. This Bill had very wide consultations before I had introduced it in the last session of Parliament and I am happy that there was a time gap between introduction and consideration. There were some suggestions also. This was one of the very valid suggestions which I had received. There was a two months gap since the last session ended. I am sure that if the Bill had come up for consideration in that session itself, I would have definitely done it immediately. So, this is the object and reason for my moving this amendment.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Though I am not

[Shri Ram Naik]

Yes Madam. I beg to move:

moving my amendment No.5 to Clause 8, I would like to speak on this. The only relevant point is this. Why I have objected the Minister's amendment is that it should have come on the first day of the discussion. Then I would have appreciated the arguments advanced by the Minister.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I would like to clarify this point with your permission. I had intended to move it on the very first day. But there was certain procedure I had to go through. The paper work had started on it, much before. There was certain procedure with regard to the approvals, with regard to the President's assent and so on. This was in motion and that was why I could not do it on the first day.

MR. CHAIRMAN: First let us take up other amendments of this Clause. Mr. Bhargava, are you moving your amendments?

SHRI GIRIDHARI LAL BHARGAVA(Jaipur): Yes Madam. I bet to move:

Page 3, line 25, in column (3) under the heading

"Maximum rate under sub-section (2A) of Section 3".-

for "Three paise" substitute-

"Two and one fourth paise" (6)

Page 3, line 31, in column (3) under the heading "Maximum rate under sub-section(2A) of section 3",-

for "Seven and a half paise" substitute "Seven paise"(7)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Rawat, are you moving your amendments 8, 9 and 10 to Clause 8?

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT(Ajmer):

Page 3, line 23 and 24, in column (3) under the heading "Maximum rate under sub-section(2A) of section 3".-

for "Two and one-fourth paise" substitute "Two paise" (8)

Page 3, lines 25 in column (3) under the heading "Maximum rate under sub-section(2A) of Section 3",-

for "Three paise" substitute "Two and a half paise"(9)

Page 3, lines 27 in column (3) under the heading "Maximum rate under sub-section (2A) of section 3",-

for "Seven and half paise" substitute "Seven paise" (10)

SHRI RAM NAIK: Madam, allow me to conclude. The Minister has rightly explained why there has been a delay in coming to the House. I wanted to point out exactly the same aspect. As the Minister has explained, I take his explanation in proper spirit and hence I do not wish to move my amendment No. 5 to Clause 8. But hereafter the Government should be more careful.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhargava, You wanted to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Madam Chairman, I am very happy that the hon. Minister accepted one of my suggestions regarding air-pollution. I would like to request him further to control the noise pollution often caused during the zero hour in the House....(Interruptions)

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: It is caused by you people only...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: We will not have any hesitation if the Environment Protection Act comes into force after the consent and

any hesitation if the Environment Protection Act comes into force after the consent and permission of this House..(Interruptions)

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: But It will entirely be your liability...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: you move a motion, I will admit immediately.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker may admit it, you cannot.

SHRI GIRIDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: I would like to say that in the foreign countries blowing of horn is an offense but in India the same is a fun. On the back of vehicles we often see such inscription "Horn please". Would you like to think over this also? the people in India do not hesitate to blow horn even in night whole in fever countries, it is an offense to play it even in the day. Would you do something regarding the noise pollution also as you have accepted my suggestion about the air-pollution?

I have made a request to reduce the rate of cess on water for the domestic use as well as for the use of factories just because the existing law is not sufficient.

Yesterday also I had said that the jurisdiction of the Pollution Board is confined not to water only but it is extended to water, air and sound also, First of all, it should be strengthened because the employees working in the water works are posted to the Water Pollution Board as a punishment; there too he hardly works. Fresh appointment should be made in the Board. You must follow there pattern of punishment as is being followed in the Police Department. When some policeman is found guilty the Police Inspector sends him to the Police Line. It is, therefore, essential to appoint fresh Officials in the Board or make some provision for the proper punishment to the guilty and negligent Officials. Besides, there must be a provision that the factory which does not follow the instructions for installing the required pollution control plant, should

be liable to pay the compensation against the damage caused by it. Then only they will abide by the rule and install the required plant in their respective factories.

I think it would be injustice to the people of India if cess-rate is increased without making the pollution Board efficient. First of all it must be strengthened and a will power should be developed to do some positive thing in this regard. After that if you raise the cess it may be termed as proper step. I once again submit that the sound pollution may also be controlled as I have said rearily also.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Madam, in connection with the amendments moved by me on this Bill, I would like to state that all types of pollution whether it be air, water and sound pollution, must be controlled, and we are all unanimous in this regard. Besides this, there is a need to make the Pollution Control Board more efficient but I would like to say one thing more that any sort of arbitrariness should not be allowed. Simultaneously, the development work should not be suffered in the name of pollution control. Much attention is required on this particular issue. Some special care must be taken in this regard, so that the officials of the Pollution Control Board may not begin to interfere in every work on the same line as the Food Inspector or Sale tax inspector or income tax inspector does. Besides, I would like to make one more request through you that cess on water for domestic use should not be raised. And with your permission, I withdraw the rest of Amendments moved by me.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I quite agree with the hon. Minister that to play horn has become a fun now-a-days. It is correct that on the back side of trucks it is usually written "Horn Please". I too had mentioned it earlier in my reply. In this regard I have written letters to all the Chief Ministers also and I am thinking to make it more strict. In view of the feelings expressed in the house, I assure the hon. Members that I will take some more strict steps in this regard.

Amendments Nos 6 to 10 were put
and negatived

SHRI BHUWAN CHARDRA
KHANDURI (Garhwal): Would you like to
ban the production of musical hors?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I will look into this
matter. I cannot answer it right now. But
certainly it is something which is worth
considering.

[Translation]

The hon. Members' submissions will
certainly be considered and more strict action
will be taken. As far as raising the cess on
domestic water is concerned, I have said it
earlier, perhaps the hon. Member was not
present hereat that time, that it will not affect
the rural people. It will not affect even the
urban pors who take water from water-
posts. It will affect only those who are getting
water through metred-supply system. They
too will be least affected from it as there is
only difference of 12 paise per month in each
family. I do not think it will cause much
inconvenience. Our main purpose and
sentiment behind this is:

[English]

We want to treat water as a scarce resource.
We want to treat water as community
property.

[Translation]

It is not going to affect the rural people
and the urban poor who take water from the
stand post. It will affect only those who get
water through metred supply system and
there will be difference of only 12 paise per
month per family. So I would like to submit
that the hon. Members should not press for
this small cess which is confined only to a
particular group and to pass this Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put
Amendments number 6 to 10 moved by Shri
Girdharilal Bhargava and Prof. Rasa Singh
Rawat to the vote of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put
amendment number 4 moved by Shri Kamal
Nath to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"Page 3, lines 31 in column (3) under
the heading "Maximum rate under sub-
section (2A) of section 3".-

for "Seven and half paise"
substitute "Nine and half paise" (4)

The motion was adopted

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:
"That Clause 8, as amended, stand part
of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

*Clause 8, as amended, was added to
the Bill*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:
"That Clause 1, Enacting Formula and
the Long Title stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted"

*Clause 1, Enacting Formula and the
Long Title were added to the Bill."*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended by passed."

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Madam
chairperson, I have heard both the hon.
Minister's reply and all the amendments
made in this regard. The hon. Minister has

left two points in his speech, It has been said that there is much pollution on the sea-beach of the culture According to my knowledge the five star and three star hotels are being frequently constructed on the sea-beach between Puri and Konark due to some vested interest. That is an important beach of the country, which is valuable from the tourist's point of view also. Once the former Prime Minister, Smt. Indra Gandhi took a decision that no big hotels could be established along the sea-beach upto the range of 500 meters. A difference had erupted also between a Cabinet Minister and Minister of state on this issue. But now as I have come to know that the permission is being granted to contract a hotel even within the range of 100 meters from the sea-beach.

Madam, as has been mentioned earlier that due to pollution, fishes and other aquatic creature are now available at a far distance of 14-15 kilometers. Is the Government considering to remove sea-pollution and not to permit hotel-construction along the sea-beach? My second point relates to the sound pollution. I have already referred to this point in my speech. the engine not of a motor-car...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Madam, I would like to say a few words regarding the sound pollution also. I had mentioned it in my speech also. A vehicle bearing not a motor engine but a pumping set engine carry the people. That engine creates more noise than the horn. Is the Government considering to control this sort of things also which create sound - pollution? It is a very common is thing in the country.

So, I would like to know the hon. Minister's reply over these two points. I have already supported this Bill.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Madam, I want to raise a point of order. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): It is just a third reading. The hon. Members who are here want to make some clarifications and the Minister must respond to these clarifications.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: I want to respond here. I am on a point of order. Even at the third reading stage, if you want to have a clarification, you should have given a notice in advance. You cannot jump like this and ask anything from the Minister. You do not know the rules. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: The Members have a right to seek clarifications. The hon. Minister should clarify the points raised by the hon. Member. He has not replied to them. There is a precedent and we will raise points. If you want to avoid answering the points raised by the hon. Member, that is a different matter. The hon. Minister is avoiding it.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): You cannot raise new points; you can raise to points arising out of the Minister's reply.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Two points have been made. One point is with regard to some hotel in the beach in the Konarakpuri area. There is a Notification to that effect laying down what the considerations are, what are the rules and regulations in this regard.

The State Government of Orissa have made certain representations regarding this. This has not yet been considered ; no view has been taken. I do not know of any case of any specific hotel; it is not to my knowledge. But the State Government has mooted this concept and they have said that this 500-metre clause is not in order; it should be relaxed. We have asked them for some more information. This will be examined scientifically; and this shall be examined in all details; it shall not apply only to one area but shall be a policy issue.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Just like Goa.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: It is a question of policy; it is not a question of one area.

SHRI RAM NAIK: I had raised one policy matter issue which was not replied. It pertains to the introduction of the new cess or new taxes from the new accounting year or the new financial year. I have suggested that whatever new tax or new cess is levied, they should start from the First of April. So, this Act or this Bill which has a clause saying that "the Bill will come into force by Notification", I would suggest that this Bill, after it is passed, after it is assented by the President, should come into force from the First of April, which is a new financial year so that everybody will be prepared for proper adjustment of the accounts; and that is easy from the administrative point of view also. On this point, the Minister has not clarified.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: This really has no linkage with the Budget; this is not a budgetary proposal. I think the hon. Member is suggesting that just like other things start from the financial year, from the First of April like the Budget, this should also start from the First of April. I don't think we should link this up with the Budget at all. This will come into force from the date of the Notification; and we will consider when this should be notified in consultation with the States' Pollution Control Boards, because we are also in a hurry to strengthen them. There is a certain amount of revenue which is going to come up out of this. We have to drive the message home about the whole object of the Bill, as I said, it to drive the message home to industry about the concept of the water, from that point of view, there is a little bit of hurry. But I shall consider the views of the hon. Members and will take a decision on this. I cannot take a view right now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is: "That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up the next item.

16.00 hrs.

TEA COMPANIES (ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF SICK TEA UNITS) AMENDMENT BILL

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): On behalf of Shri P. Chidambaram, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Tea Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Sick Tea Units) Act, 1985, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved,

"That the Bill to amend the Tea Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Sick Tea Units) Act, 1985, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion there on by 24th February, 1992." (1)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by 26th February, 1992." (3)

[English]

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA (Sichar): Madam Chairperson, I rise to speak on the Tea Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Sick Tea Units) Amendment Bill, moved by the Commerce Minister for consideration and passing by Parliament which is essentially required. The Minister, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill mentioned that under the Act of 1985

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at four sick units were nationalised and there was scope to fulfil the claims of the employees and ex-employees of those sick tea units, which were taken over by the Government. Those four sick units were, Pashok, Looksan, Vah-Tukvar and Potong.

At that time it was also accepted by the Government that when those tea units were taken over by the Government, prolonged disturbances were there in the area and normal working was disrupted. Normal working in the tea gardens was totally stopped and because of the disturbances the employees of the tea units had to go away to other places and take shelter and as a result they could not submit their claims before the date that was given by the Government for submission of the claims. Out of them 3,285 employees and ex-employees could not submit their claims duly and as a result their claims could not be settled, and hence from the side of the Government, it was considered that those who could not submit their claims duly because of the disturbances and other difficulties should also be given an opportunity to file their claims. That is why it was considered that the Amendment should be brought for fulfilling their claims.

Madam Chairperson, I dully support this Bill and this has to be done in the interests of the employees and ex-employees of these four sick units.

In this connection I like to just mention some other things. Wherefrom does the question of sick units come? This is the question that has to be considered by the House and also by the Government. Why do the tea gardens become sick?

This has become a problem throughout the country and particularly in Assam, where tea industry is the only industry, which earns foreign exchange. And because of tea industry, lakhs and lakhs of workers are getting employment and they are earning their livelihood. It is noticed that the production in the tea gardens is growing but the tea gardens have become sick. It is very

unfortunate.

In Assam, there are 750 tea gardens in total at present and plantation done in Assam Tea gardens cover 2,20,000 hectares. The total production, at present, is 790 lakhs Kgs. of tea.

When 5,10,000 workers were working in the tea gardens the total production were 1,61,000 hectares. But, at present the number of workers has come down to 4,10,000 and the plantation area has grown from 1,61,000 hectares to 2,20,000 hectares in 1980. It is very unfortunate that the production of the plantation area has been increased but the number of workers has been reduced. Now, the managements do not absorb more regular workers but they absorb only casual workers. If they employ casual workers. then they need not give other facilities to them. As a result, the management gains but the labourers suffer.

These labourers who are working as casual labourers work occasionally and periodically and they are not getting other benefits as is being given to the regular workers. As a result, the casual labourers, who are employed for regular work, do not show interest in their work. And such is the case with the other workers also. As a result, the working condition in the tea gardens has weakened.

There is discrimination also. In Assam there are two valleys-Brahmaputra valley and Barak valley. In Brahmaputra valley, every tea garden labourer gets Rs. 2.16 more than what the labourer gets in Barak valley. This is going on for the last many years. And for this, many movements were taken place and many discussions took place. But nothing has been done in this regard. This discrimination is still going on and there is no satisfaction among the labourers. If the managements expect the labourers to work satisfactorily, then they must give all amenities to them.

In 70 percent of the tea gardens, there is no doctor in the hospitals. In 90 percent of

[Shri Kabindra Purkayastha]

the tea gardens, there is no specified quarter for the workers. In the year 1972, the Central Government gave loans to then the tea garden managements for construction of the quarters.

All this money was diverted to other side and the quarters for the labourers were not constructed. As a result, the growth in tea industry is being hampered and a sense of dis-satisfaction or resentment is there in the tea industry.

Not only this. There are 8 Boards which are there for the betterment of the industry as well as the labour like Minimum Wages Advisory Board, Standing Labour Committee for other Plantation Workers, Medical Advisory Board for Plantation Workers, Implementation Committee, Housing Board, etc. It is unfortunate that all these Boards have not yet been constituted. They are there on the paper only. So the rules and regulations or plans and programmes are not being implemented. With the result, proper working is hampered. And definitely there is every likelihood of some sort of unrest in the tea gardens. This is what is happening in the tea gardens of Assam.

It is unfortunate that tea gardens are becoming sick. Previously tea gardens were known as tea estates. Those have now been named as tea and industry. So the management do not invest the profit that they get from the tea industry for the development of tea gardens, but it is diverted to other industries which are not even connected with the tea industry. So developmental scheme in tea gardens are not implemented properly. Perhaps, there is some hide and seek policy for which this tea industry in Assam is gradually decaying.

There are several tea gardens which were taken over by the Government owned Assam Tea Corporation. The fate of these tea gardens is far from satisfactory. There is a tea garden in my area which was taken over by the Government of Assam. At

present, this tea garden is on the verge of closure especially when the management is in the hands of the Government. I am sorry to say that the management of other tea gardens takes the pleas that when the tea gardens taken over by the Government gradually close down or are on the verge of closing down, they are helpless in reviving their own tea gardens.

Then, what will be the position of the tea industry. This will be the fate of the tea gardens or tea industry throughout the country not to talk of Assam or the North East. This is one of the most important industry in the country, particularly in the North East.

So, in this connection, I must say that I am supporting this Amendment Bill in the consideration of the fate of the employees and ex-employees of the four sick tea gardens which were taken over by the Government. At the same time, I want to remind the Government that the fate of the tea gardens should be made brighter and for that the difficulties which are being faced by the tea gardens or tea industry, those are to be looked into and proper measure should be adopted for better fate of the tea industry. This is my submission.

SHRI BJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE
(Jorhat): Madam Chairman, I rise to support the Tea Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Sick Tea Units) Amendment Bill, 1991.

The objectives of the Bill is very limited and there is not much room for discussion since only four gardens are involved and that too for specific reasons. The Government have rightly handled the problems of the employees of the tea gardens on compensation grounds since the climate of working was disturbed and disrupted due to prolonged turmoil in the areas. Yet, there are certain basic issues involved in the take over in general and while we are discussing the subject, I think, the House should refer to those problems too.

It is, however, interesting to note that in the present case, even though the gardens

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were taken over in 1985, the issue of privatisation is so much in air today that it should though retrospectively, gives some relief and a reminder to those who are obsessed with the night mare of privatisation, So, then, the Government sometimes do public-sectorise private sector too.

Our experience of having taken over sick gardens and gardens remaining long in the sale list of big companies over the decades is not a happy one. The tea gardens remain sick, are still sick even after taking over. For only sickness is blended so well into the total bleakness of the overall financial position that it does not come to view on the surface. Sickness would not go unless the factors causing the sickness are tackled and are removed. The common causes of this sickness are poor finance, inadequate inputs, lack of additional land for extended plantation and managerial deficiency. A Government Corporation or a Board is no magic touch. Unless these factors are tackled properly for finding a way out whether they are in public or private sector, things would not improve.

In Assam in 1974, quite flourishing and prosperous tea gardens, of course, with staggering overheads on expenditure list were bought by a Government organisation called Assam Tea Corporation.

To them were added a number of sick gardens which were taken over not from commercial point of view but from the point of view of social security to the workers and the employees. A few tea gardens which had defaulted in provident fund obligations enlarged the size of acquisitions as if the more the merrier. But with what result? Within a span of five years, it is not just the individual gardens but the whole Corporation was afflicted with sickness and the workers and employees had to go on strike as the corporation was hard set to pay the wages and provide other statutory amenities. There was even a time when even the Tea Corporation had no money to buy tea chests and allowed the made tea to deteriorate on the floor and ultimately had to be sold at a throw away price to salvage whatever was left and mainly to pay wages to the tea

garden workers.

Things, however, looked up in 1984-85 when some concrete measures were taken, but slumped back to the mess again with the change of Government in 1986. It is heartening to note that for the last two years, things have started improving after a good chunk of investment and right managerial drive. Even then the Tea Trading Corporation of India which has taken over these four tea gardens named in the Bill, have no record worth the name to boast of.

I am afraid, for doctoring, Government acquisition is ineffective. Economic viability is the only criterion. Here it is not the commercial aspect alone but the social security of the workers and employees are at stake. Public or private, there will be industrial unrest if wages and other amenities were not fully assured. The case of these four gardens is, however, different as there are compelling circumstances. We, however, must not forget that tea is the major foreign exchange earner for the country and any measure that adversely affects the production is detrimental to the national interests, for, production is the first casualty of mismanagement.

So, acquisition as a doctoring venture without the necessary gears, does not cure the sickness and rather runs the risk of eating up all the resources which, if not adequately pumped in, goes waste.

We should bear in mind that we are still far behind the targeted figure of production of 875 million kgs. of tea by 2000 A.D. That is the target we have set. On the other hand, with rapid industrialisation in the country which raises the rate of domestic consumption of tea, a situation may arise when the total crop may eventually be consumed within the country and there may not be any surplus left for export. Unless production is increased. The targeted production figure of 875 million kgs. of tea, according to an estimate, would meet the internal demand without jeopardising the export obligations. So, our primary concern is to increase the production, and sickness

[Shri Bijoy Krishna Handique]

is one of the chronic constraints in achieving this objective. If the Government is not in a position to improve things in ailing tea gardens by taking them over, then they have to provide adequate facilities to those ailing gardens so that they become viable units and the cause of production and that of economic security of the workers are both served well. Strict monitoring and vigilance and pressure by Government on the owners of such ailing companies will achieve the desired result. Since this is the cause of security for so many people, the private sector garden cannot escape the social responsibility and cannot be allowed to ignore its social objective and social commitment. It is the political will on the part of the Government which will determine the course of things.

Since the question of privatisation is mooted, I submit that this is highly essential. I believe that the hon. Minister will look into this problem and see that the level of production is increased, whether in public sector or in private sector. At the same time social and economic security for the workers and employees must be assured. No private sector garden can escape the responsibility saying that they have nothing to do with the Government. Government can pressurise them. Government can see that the level of production is maintained. Whatever inputs and facilities that are required, will have to be provided by the Government. But at the same time it is more important that the security of the workers and employees must be protected.

With these words, I support the Bill.

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri): Thank you Madam for giving the opportunity. I support the Tea Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Sick Tea Units) Amendment Bill brought by the hon. Minister. There is nothing to oppose in the Bill. But while extending my support, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to certain important point. The idea of the

Government is very good and there is no doubt in it. But the Government often fails to implement their ideas in practice. I submit that the tea industry is a very important industry of our country. We can earn a lot of foreign currency by exporting tea.

I had earlier an opportunity to talk to the Minister in charge of this issue and invited him to visit the Liksan Tea garden. He agreed to visit the same on his visit to Assam but he failed to keep his promise and could not visit the factory. However, I am again inviting him to visit the gardens just to see with his own eyes the deplorable condition of the gardens and pathetic condition of the workers.

16.28 hrs

[RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

In the year 1976 the Central Government, under some unwarranted circumstances, took over the charge of the four sick tea gardens, namely Luksan, Pashok, Potang and Vah-Tukvar gardens in West Bengal. They were earlier managed and organised by some private concern. Soon after the taking over, the Government handed over these gardens to the Tea Trading Corporation of India to look after and maintain them. But the T.T.C.I. failed completely to maintain the gardens as they have no capacity to make any expenditure for the purpose of development of the garden. They met only the recurring expenditure, necessary to maintain the production of the garden. They paid no attention to the development of these gardens.

Considering the deplorable condition and deteriorating situation of these tea gardens, the Government enacted the Tea Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Sick Tea Units) Act, 1985.

Just after the law was enacted, they nationalised all these gardens and handed them over to the TTCI again for the development and management. That is to pour old wine in the new bottles—the TTCI

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is again asked to develop and manage all those gardens. At that time a Commissioner was appointed by the Government to make the payment due to the employees of these sick gardens. Here, a Tughlaki decision had been taken at that time that after 27th June 1989 no claim would be entertained from the side of the employees of these gardens. As a result, huge claims amounting to more than Rs. one crore were remaining unaccepted in the light of this decision. On the other hand, the aggregate loss in the gardens begins to increase day by day. Now it is 1991. All these sick gardens have become more sick. They are at the point of closure. I am sorry to say that whereas all the neighbouring tea gardens are blooming with prosperity, there the TTCI managed gardens are incurring heavy losses day by day. I think this is due to the indifferent and callous attitude of the TTCI. The TTCI is mainly a trading organisation. They have got no knowledge about the management of these tea gardens and they have no infrastructure. So, to improve these gardens, the TTCI will have to change their outlook and attitude.

I had an opportunity to point out some difficulties faced by the workers of these gardens in the Zero Hour of the Parliament Session held on 4.9.91. In these gardens there is want of gunny bags, paucity of water including drinking water, want of tractors, irregular payment to workers, irregular deposition of P.F. money and non-payment of PF and gratuity money to the retired employees, low rates of bonus to the employees in comparison with that in other neighbouring gardens. For the proper management and to make these gardens viable, huge capital expenditure, capital investment is needed. All these are leading the workers of these gardens in a dangerous position.

Again, 60 percent of the trees are above 50 years of age. Therefore, increasing yield and quality tea are not possible from these sick gardens. I want to explain again that here the new plantation and the extension programme are to be undertaken immediately in all these gardens.

The TTCI will have to change their attitude, as I have mentioned before. I think the problem to improve these sick gardens will not be solved only by considering the Category-1 claims of these employees, but also the difficulties faced by the workers of these gardens are to be solved immediately. While considering all this, I urge upon the Government to look into the matter and to go deep into the matter. The Government and the TTCI should come together to save all these gardens which are on the verge of closure.

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI (Kodarma) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is nothing in this Bill just to oppose or to support to a greater extent. But sickness in industrial units or tea gardens, whatever it may be, it has become a continuous process. So, this is not only a question of taking over or transfer of tea units, but rather it is very much important and a pertinent question to go into the details and the reasons responsible for such sickness in tea units. So, that is why I have gone into the details of the sickness and I find that there are certain factors which are responsible for such sickness which are partly man made and partly artificial and they may be factual also to some extent.

The first factor responsible for the sickness among the tea units or tea gardens is that they are not being looked after with much care and caution and that is why such problems are cropping up. The second most important factor which is responsible for the sickness of the units is that the whole management has become inefficient, unmanageable or unwieldy. That is why it is better to point out the inefficiency or deficiency on the part of the management rather than to only acquire and just transfer the assets and liabilities of such sick units. The third factor which is responsible for the sickness of the tea units is that the welfare measures and the social security measures are also not being implemented fully and to a satisfactory extent for the amelioration and betterment of the labourers who are working in the tea gardens. So, this is also partly responsible for the sickness in tea

[Sh. Mumtaz Ansari]

employment also.

units or tea gardens and the next factor which is responsible primarily for the sickness of such units is that generally funds are also diverted from such type of tea gardens or plantations to other sources of earning income. This is very much alarming and this should also be stopped with all efforts.

Similarly, there is some sort of social and political unrest in certain parts of the country, especially speaking, in Assam, there is political instability and there is political and social unrest. This is also causing a lot of troubles to the entrepreneurs or to those persons who are engaged in tea producing units. So, these are the causes or factors which are responsible for sickness in tea units.

Now, I would like to suggest that before going into the liquidation of such sick units, it is better to ponder over the factors which are responsible for sickness of such tea units, because these tea units are not only domestic industries, but rather these are industries of tremendous importance and are earning a lot of foreign exchange from foreign countries. Once this process of sickness of such tea units is allowed to continue, this will tell upon the foreign exchange earning also.

This will also persuade other units to fall to this trap. So, before going to the liquidation of such sick units, I would like to suggest that once the assets and liabilities of such sick units are being acquired or transferred or taken over by the Government, the Government must pay attention to the fact that those thousands of employees who will be thrown out of employment must be absorbed adequately, appropriately at various levels. This is also the question of employment. All the time we are crying at the top of voice in the House for giving employment to a large number of unemployed persons in the country. But when such sick units, on the just pretext of sickness; are closed down, those units will throw a large number of people out of

My suggestion is, once such units are taken over by the Government or are liquidated or are amalgamated, the fate of the employees must not hang in balance. Those employees who are likely to be thrown out of employment must be absorbed somewhere or some alternative arrangement must be made.

Similarly, if there is any chance or possibility, such type of sick units must be revived at the earliest or all efforts in hand must be made in order to revive such units and to expand such industries so that those units may provide greater and greater employment to a large number of people.

Similarly, such acquisition or transfer may not give any inspiration or temptation to other tea units which are tempt to be sick on one pretext or the other.

Last but not the least, the profit and loss account or the balance sheet of such units should not be the only consideration while transferring assets and liabilities of such units. Rather the social aspects or the social responsibilities or social object of such units must also be taken into consideration while making acquisition and transfer of such sick units.

These are my humble suggestions to the Minister concerned.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT(Rajapur):
Mr.Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the amending Bill to the Tea Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Sick Tea Units) Act, 1985. Though the amendment is quite limited in its content, it is related to a wider issue. This Tea Companies Act, 1985 was enacted to nationalise four tea companies. Before this, in 1976, the management of tea units was taken over by the Government. At that time, the pre-take over liability of this concern was Rs. 1.65 and had a total negative net worth of rupees one crores. The management of these four companies was totally inadequate and it was mismanaged

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and these companies were run down by the management. Hence the Government had to intervene as the future of 3,000 employees was at stake at that time. However, at that time when the tea companies were nationalised, the Government had intended to do massive investment to bring these companies back to life. But what the position is as on today is not known. The infrastructure of these tea companies has further deteriorated. The problem of 3,000 workers has not been resolved in spite of having nationalised these companies in 1985 and six years having passed.

Basically, the workers of these tea companies are from backward communities and from tribals and their condition is extremely bad. The workers of the tea companies have traditionally been exploited over the ages and, that is why, having nationalised the companies, they have not been able to do justice to these workers who have been employed. One fundamental reason is that these tea companies were given to the TTCI which is a trading concern and not a management concern. Basically they had no experience of managing tea companies and that is why, the tea companies were totally mismanaged. Now after 1985 till 1991, six years have passed and the situation has completely changed and when we view the situation in the context of the policy of liberalisation which is adopted by the Government and from the point of view of the subsequent policy of "Export or perish", if you take this into account, what is the future of this Act? That is the question. Are we going to continue with the nationalisation or whether the Government is formulating some other schemes so that the sick tea companies can be revised and justice is done to the workers who are employed in these tea companies.

SHRISRIKANTAJENA (Cuttack): Again privatise. Again back to the same old thing.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: I have not suggested privatisation as yet. But the very fact is this policy is related to the governmental policy of bringing the economy

back to light. We must remember that tea as a commodity is one of the top foreign exchange earners and hence tea is not merely the issue of North or South where it is grown but this is a national issue affecting the economy of the country. That is why, we should be very serious about it.

There is a major shortfall in production of tea. In 1990, 716 million KG of tea was produced in this country against a target of 670 million KG.

The export has stagnated at the level of 200 million KG for the last five years where the target today is 285 million KG.

In fact, there has been a demand from the industry to import tea so that we can export.

The question is of domestic consumption which is around 600 million tea cups a day. The domestic consumption is rising at the rate of 4.8% per year where as the rate of growth of production of tea is contained around 3.8%. Hence the question will come tomorrow whether we can export tea at all. Having identified it as one of the top ten foreign exchange earners, tomorrow we can come to a situation where we cannot export tea at all because of the domestic consumption and therefore, something has to be done drastically and some drastic action has to be taken immediately.

Another factor is the export of tea. This has been declining over a period of time. Mind you, India was one of the major tea producing and tea exporting countries. But this position is no more in existence now.

In the international tea trade in 1980, our percentage of export is 26%.

In 1985, it came down to 22%.

In 1990, it has come down further to 18% whereas if you take China, it produces 80% of tea of what we produce but it has exported 209 million KG of tea in 1990 i.e., 9 million KG more than India.

[Shri Sudhir Sawant]

We have lost our position to Africa. The African tea is now being exported to the U.K. and accepted in U.K. We should not be satisfied that Sri Lanka has also gone down in this trade. Something has to be done about this thing also. That is why there is no time to lose. Something has to be done to bridge the gap between the rise in domestic consumption and the rate of growth of production. What has been done?

Sir, in this connection I would like to say that two years ago, the Tea Board has come out with a status paper which suggested the causes of the present situation which we are facing. The causes that were given by the Tea Board were many. One was about the management deficiencies, which is a fact. Most of the tea companies which are sick today are due to management deficiencies or aggressive trade unionism. So, we have to do something to rectify the situation.

The next cause is the financial stringency because tea requires heavy investment and this investment has not been forthcoming so far. The third reason was lack of technical know-how. Now, the per hectare production of tea in this country is around 16.50 kgs may be 17 kgs, I may be wrong. But with the improved technology we can certainly improve and increase the tea production to around 3000 kgs. This is one factor which we have to keep in mind. What are they doing about this fact?

The next cause is that of flood and soil erosion. Steps have to be taken to improve this condition. Further, there are ownership disputes and litigations in the Courts which have to be resolved. Moreover, there is lack of developmental action. These are some of the reasons given by the Tea Board for the continued sickness of the Tea Industry and the shortfall in production. Against this, when the Congress Government has come to power, the Government has initiated some steps. One of the steps was that the Centre has asked the Tea Board to persuade the owners of the sick tea units to give them to

the tea estates or companies which are well managed. This is one good suggestion. But the Main problem has not been touched at all. The main problem is the rate of taxation. With the rise in domestic consumption, tea has become a necessity of life in India. The consumer has to pay heavy price and the tea industries are also sick because of the taxation. There has to be tax reform so that the tea production is increased and the domestic consumer may also get it at a price; which he can afford. Will this be made as part of the Public Distribution System? That has also got to be examined as on date.

The second aspect is that we have to bring more land under the bush. There is no choice to that. For that, we will have to deploy funds. We will have to deploy investment plus technology plus expertise so that more land is brought under the bush. Soil conservation measures to control floods must be under taken. These are some important steps that we will have to undertake.

Apart from this, there is delay in deployment of development funds into the tea industry. The tea companies are repairing large profits and these profits are not ploughed back towards development of the tea estates and this is one of the reasons for the sickness of the tea industry and the tea estates.

Now, I am coming to the fag end of my speech. But what is to be seen is that whatever profits accrue from the tea business for the tea estates, they have to be ploughed back. For that, you have to again do some tax reforms so that these funds are deployed in a proper manner.

Sir, the hon. Minister Shri Salman Khursheed has extended support to all these issues when he has spoken just a little while before. I am sure that the Government is seized of this problem and will take firm action to retrieve the situation. There are some measures which we have to think of and implement the policy in this regard. One is more land is to be brought under tea cultivation.

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Then we have to explore areas which are not traditional like Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and some other portions in the country where tea can be grown. This has to be promoted. The Agriculture Ministry has to now think of promoting this in areas where tea has never been thought of being cultivated. But the conditions should be suitable.

The second factor is the increasing per hectare yield of tea. The third is the tax reforms which we have to undertake so that we can promote this industry. And then we require massive investment.

There are many sick tea companies. What are we going to do about that? That is another question which we have to address whether we are satisfied with nationalising these four tea companies or whether we are going to privatise it. This is the question today and the Government will, I am sure, come with the answer.

We must see one thing that the welfare of the labour force employed in the tea gardens has to be ensured and at no stage should we contemplate closure of a tea estate or tea gardens. We must rejuvenate them, bring them to life so that production of tea is increased. We can have some amount of tea for domestic consumption as well as for maximum export.

With this, I would also request that the quantity of tea in the Parliament should also improve. I would urge upon the Government to take stock of the entire situation and take firm action so that the tea industry is brought back to life, it vibrates and we earn maximum foreign exchange possible.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Chairman, Sir, This Tea Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Sick Tea Units) Amendment Bill has been necessitated because the time for payment of dues to the workers had to be extended. This is a simple Bill. But still we can discuss the number of aspects of this Tea Trading Corporation of India (TTCI). It is a public sector company

and it was mainly set up for export of tea. This company incurred huge losses in joint venture and at that time the Chairman of the company entered into a contract with the foreign tea companies of Libia, Iran and so on. And when the then Chairman left the company, the company incurred huge losses amounting to more than Rs. 9 crores only because of entering into foreign contract.

These four sick garden companies were taken over and handed over to this company. But at that time, this company had no expertise to manage tea gardens. And subsequently, in the year 1985, this Act was enacted and these gardens were nationalised and all these tea companies were handed over to TTCI.

17.00 hrs

The company is incurring losses for a number of years. It is not because of the mismanagement of the gardens; but it is a glaring example as to how a public sector company has been deliberately made sick. The sick gardens were handed over to TTCI; but what was to be done to make these gardens viable and the steps which had to be taken to revive these gardens were not taken at that time. Even investment was not made.

I visited one of the gardens, TESO. The quality of tea of that garden is very good. We also purchased Maya and Animal Bar tea from TTCI. It is a very good quality of tea. But if you visit the garden, you will find the difference between the garden of the TTCI and the garden of Birlas. These two gardens are side by side. How Birlas invest and how their tea plants are maintained is seen to be believed. But in TTCI garden, even the worn-out machinery is there and this is not replaced.

In the beginning of this year one action plan was submitted to this Ministry by the TTCI for revamping of those gardens. Some suggestions were made to bring new areas under tea plantation and to replace those machineries. I have seen those old

[Shri Basudev Acharia]

machineries and how the processing is done in TESO tea garden. Outmoded method is still there in those gardens. So suggestions were made to replace those machineries. One suggestion was made from the Ministry also. As funds will not be available, they thought where from the funds will come. So the Ministry asked the management to sell out one of the gardens to find resources for the revamping, for the replacement of the machinery.

The case is with the Supreme Court because the erstwhile owner went to the Calcutta High Court. In all cases, the Calcutta High Court give judgement in favour of the private owners. In that case also the Calcutta High Court gave judgement to restore the garden to the erstwhile owner and the company went to the Supreme Court. I have with me one letter to show as to how a member of the Council of Ministers can write to another member of the Council of Ministers recommending for selling out or handing over of the gardens to the erstwhile owner.

Shri Kalp Nath Rai, Minister of Power and Non-Conventional Energy has written to the Minister of Commerce, Shri P. Chidambaram to consider that proposal. I have got the letter and I can even authenticate it.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (Mavattupuzha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order. If it is an allegation which the Member is going to make and if it is against a Minister who is a Member of this House, it should be under the rules.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is not an allegation; I am just citing an example, citing a case to show as to how a Minister is writing to another Minister recommending that the garden be handed over to the erstwhile owner.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS: If it is not an allegation, we can consider it as his own views.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: My Lunch is that the Government is not taking steps to revive this company, not giving any money for revamping the garden. Although it is a fact that it had no infrastructure at the time when the Management of the garden was handed over to the TTCI, even at that time, if the steps had been taken and if take suggestions in the action plan which was submitted by the Management had been accepted, these gardens could have been made viable now. The tea gardens in West Bengal, in my district Purulia and in Keonghar, Orissa also are producing the best covered under under tea plantation. why this company should incur loss is my main point. For a number of years, there was no Chairman, no Managing Director. There was only a part time Managing Director. The Vice Chairman of Tea Board was there to look after TTCI. The Vice Chairman of Tea Board was entrusted with the work of the TTCI, a part time job. There was no full time Managing Director, full time Chairman of the company. How can it function unless the management is strengthened? Now you are blaming the public sector company that it is incurring losses and the garden should be handed over to the erstwhile owner. And now, one Minister is writing to another Minister that he should consider the proposal to hand over the garden to the erstwhile owner, since the TTCI cannot manage.

There are other nationalised garden. So, why should all those gardens not be brought under one umbrella? All those nationalised gardens should be brought under the umbrella, under one organisation. In West Bengal, the sick tea gardens, abandoned by the erstwhile owners, were taken over by the State Government-Tea development Corporation. Then, Tea Development Corporation was formed. If Tea Development Corporation of West Bengal can earn profit, why cannot the TTCI? I urge upon the Minister to think over it and enlighten us about the proposals that the Government would take to revive those gardens. Is the Government thinking on those lines or to sell out one of the gardens?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Acharia, Kindly

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wind up.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Birlas and Tatas are after these gardens because tea business is now a very profitable business. All are coming to the tea business. So, I urge upon the Minister to ponder over this. I hope he will reply to our points and also enlighten this House about the steps the Government is going to take to revive, revamp and to make the TCCI a viable company. With these words I conclude and I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU RAMASWAMY (periyakulam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion on Tea Companies Bill.

The Bill seeks to extend the period by which claimants for compensation can file their claims pursuant to takeover of four sick tea units. This is essential in the interest of natural justice. I support the measure on behalf of AIADMK.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a few more words about the tea plantation labour in the country. I had seen with my eyes the plight of tea plantation labour especially in Meghamalai in my Periyakulam constituency in Uttampalayam taluk. I was told that the conditions were those in Assam and other areas.

They are not being paid their statutory *minimum* wages. Their wages should be increased and they should be relieved from the clutches of *the kedars*. These *the kedars* exploit the poor tea leave pickers. All kinds of contract labour systems should be abolished and Labour Commissioners must inspect the plantations on weekly basis to see that there are no contract labourers. Offenders must be severely punished. All employees on casual terms in tea plantations and tea companies for the past three years must be regularised.

Presently, the tea companies pay divided

only to their employees. The labourers in the tea plantations are forgotten. They are the basic workers in tea production. Therefore, all tea companies must be made to earmark a portion of their profits for ex gratia payment to plantation labourers.

Mostly women are employed in tea plantations. During pregnancy and during lactation time, they should be given four months' leave with wages. Owners of plantations should be compelled to set up creches for taking care of the children till they grow.

I had seen that the children of the plantation labour are the most neglected. There are no schools near by the plantations thus obstructing the spread of education. Steps should be taken mandatorily to set up a school nearby every tea plantation.

Tea dust causes respiratory diseases. Special care hospitals must be set up in every plantation so that tea plantation labourers are constantly under medical attention.

Sir, the wages paid to the labourers are very poor. Tea export is earning a lot of foreign exchange. The Government should create a fund for formulating and implementing a special scheme of cheap housing for the tea plantation labourers.

As the labourer in tea plantations are prone to specific disorder, the Centre should provide an insurance scheme to all the plantation labourers so that a bit of financial advantage flow to their families.

I hope hon. Minister would consider the above suggestions and reply to them.

With these words, I support this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ramaswamy has given very good suggestions and I am sure that the Minister will take note of them. Shri Amar Roy Pradhan.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch

[Shri Amar Roy Pradhan]

Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very simple Bill. I lend my best support to the Bill. As regards the working class dues, about one crore and twenty six lakhs are due. Naturally, it cannot be paid just now. If you attend to this, I lend my support.

Mr. Chairman Sir, through you, I would like to know the position of other tea gardens from the hon. Minister. An alarming situation is there in tea gardens. If administration goes on in this way in the tea gardens, then, I think, in the near future so many tea gardens will be sick. Firstly, the Government does not take care of these tea gardens. We export tea and we are earning about 1000 crores of rupees of foreign exchange every year. Even then, it is with the Commerce Department alone. It is an agro industry. Though it is an agro industry, it is neither with agriculture nor with industry. It is with the Commerce Department because it is very much interested in trade alone. This trade department do not know the difference between the leaves of various kinds of tea and the difference between two leaves and a bud. Darjeeling tea is so famous. We are exporting so much of tea to foreign countries like Russia, London and some other countries and even then, there is a strong lobby inside this country and we are very much in the hope of importing tea either from Kenya or Sri Lanka. Why is it so? It is because the Commerce Department do not care for the tea bushes. They only like to have more leaves and more weight in terms of kilograms. They import tea from Kenya and Sri Lanka and they are exporting Darjeeling tea to foreign countries so that they can earn money.

But if you leave the tea bushes in such a manner, ultimately, you will not be able to earn any foreign money. Have you gone through the records and found out as to how much tea is being sold in the name of Darjeeling tea and how much tea is actually being produced in the Darjeeling tea plantations? And who are the people that are selling the tea in the name of Darjeeling

tea? There is a lot of good will in the name of Darjeeling tea. But if it is misused, that good will would be destroyed and the entire export business will be at a great loss.

Sir, we have got enough scope to improve our production. We can do a lot of improve our position in the world market. We are producing 6.85 lakh metric tonnes and our production per hectare is 1712 on an average. On the other hand in China the production is 5.92 lakh metric tonnes but their yield per hectare is only 428. But they are taking a lot of trouble to produce more. On an average, India is producing 28 to 29 per cent and China is producing 23 per cent. Next to China, Sri Lanka produces 8.36 per cent, Kenya 7.31 per cent and the Soviet Union 5.78 per cent. In any way, we do have a lot of scope to produce more if only we take some special care. I say this because in China the per hectare production is only 428. But even they are producing more. But in India, it is the other way. Even though we have the scope, we are not producing much.

if you go through the reports, you will find the truth. As pointed out by Shri Basu Deb Achari there are some vested interests who are trying to scuttle the non conventional methods of tea production. There is a lot of scope in Orissa, Meghalaya and in the Ayodhya Hills of West Bengal to produce tea through these non conventional methods. But the Tea Board is not helping in any way. Your machinery works only through this Tea Board and the TCCI which in my opinion are white elephants. If you are really interested in increasing the tea production in the country, you must come forward with some concrete measures instead of the proposals that you have put forth through the TCCI.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please come near to the mike. The Members are not able to hear properly.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: I wonder why my voice has become so weak. Though I am growing old, I am young and energetic at heart!

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is the result of

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Darjeeling tea, I think!

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: I was pointing out what Shri Basu Deb Acharia has said with regard to certain lobby which is working against the interests of the non conventional tea producing areas. These non conventional methods have already been started in Orissa and Meghalaya. It has also been started in the far west of West Bengal, in the Ayodhya Hills in Purnia District, just adjacent to the State of Bihar. So, what I am saying is that there is ample scope for the non conventional methods of producing tea. In all these areas, we have got a good prospect of producing better tea.

We are earning a lot of foreign exchange from it. We can have gold from this foreign exchange. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister, the Prime Minister, please do not depend only on the Tea Board and the TTCI instead you chalk out some programme and implement it. My request is that you should not only take the conventional areas but non conventional areas also because if you have more areas under production you can have more product. In this way there is a greater scope for export and thus to earn more foreign exchange.

With these words I support this Bill.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have the pleasure to support this Bill. As stated earlier by the speakers from both the sides of the House, there is absolutely no controversy over this Bill. As you know, Sir, this Bill bears ample evidence, ample testimony to the pro-labour attitude of this Government. This Bill itself is a fitting reply to the Opposition who were only yesterday accusing the Government of adopting a very callous and indifferent attitude towards the dismissed employees. They were making the allegation that the Government is anti-labour. But I emphatically say that this Bill itself is a befitting reply. The last day for finalisation of the claims of the employees of the Tea Estates which were nationalised long back in 1985 was up to the 28th day of April...

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: You did not give any publicity. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: There are some reasons like dismanagement, large scale absenteeism and so on. And, if Amar basu says so then I would say that to some extent it is responsibility of the peoples' representatives to educate them to file papers in time.

Anyway, there are still about 3285 cases pending.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Sir, I do not know what is the responsibility of the peoples' representatives in this regard.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Our responsibility lies in every area. Some times we find the cases pending even after a decade. As I can say with regard to the Chowkidar abolition in Orissa.

So, I was saying that about 3200 cases are still pending involving a sum of Rs. 12833622. So, I congratulate the Government that although late, they have realised this and come out with this piece of legislation.

Of Course, there is a lot of talk about privatisation. But this is a Bill which relates to the nationalisation of sick units. There is nothing much in this Bill and it enjoys support from all sides. We are all interested to help the employees and at same time, tea production needs greater attention of the Government. It is causing anxiety. I was rather disturbed to learn that once upon a time we were the top tea producing country of the world. It is one of our top ten foreign exchange earning items. In terms of quantity, quality and export, we were first in the world. But we do not enjoy that position today. Now, Sri Lanka occupies the first position. Now, again, our neighbouring country, that is China has dislodged us from the second position and pushed us to the third position by exceeding our export target. We are now exporting 200 million Kgs. of tea. China has surpassed us and they are exporting 205

million Kgs. of tea. This is causing anxiety.

17.32 hrs.

RE NATION WIDE BANDH ON 29TH
NOVEMBER, 1991

[English]

SHRI A . CHARLES (Trivandrum): I would like to draw the attention of the Leader of the House about a very serious matter. The Leader of the House is here.

Just now I have contacted some newspapers about the Bandh tomorrow. Tomorrow, the Offices will be closed. There will be a nation wide Bandh. The people have already left their offices. We are concerned about the whole situation. I would like to know from the Leader of the House, whether the government has received any notice regarding this and if so, what is the reaction of the Government? Tomorrow, we are having the sitting. We are not sure how we are going to come here. What about our security? What is going to happen to this country? What about our transport?

The time has now come when the Government should react. What about the Officers and staff who are working all over the country?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you concerned about the security?

SHRI A. CHARLES: I am not only concerned with the security but also other things. They have informed that the nation wide bandh would paralyse the life in the country. This is very important matter.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: It will be a peaceful Bandh. There will be a peaceful strike throughout India.

SHRI A. CHARLES: Have you received any notice that the whole nation will be observing Bandh tomorrow? There will be a strike all over the country. we are concerned about the whole situation. Have you received

any notice and if so what action has been taken by the Government?

Whether there are any negotiations going on with the trade unions; and whether the trade unions are responding in a responsive manner. The Leader of the House is here. With Your permission, I would like to seek clarification from him on these points.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to know whether it has come to the notice of the Government or not whether there would be a strike tomorrow?

SHRI A. CHARLES: If it has come to the notice of the Government, whether in the evening are they issuing any orders in this respect? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C.CHACKO: Without any justification, the strike is going to take place.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: It is a politically motivated strike.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: It will be a peaceful strike throughout India tomorrow. There is no question of security.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has it come to the notice of the House whether there would be a strike tomorrow? If the Leader of the House thinks it fit, he may kindly give a reply.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Respected Sir, it is in the notice of the Government that some trade unions want to go on a strike tomorrow. I do not dispute the right of any trade union to go on a strike; they are entitled to do so. What I would like to state very categorically is that the new Industrial Policy that was introduced, discussed in this House approved in this House, of course, with some dissenting voices, during the discussion, the Prime Minister very categorically stated in the last session of Parliament that the Government will fully protect the interest of the labour class, because this Government can never be oblivious to the basic interest of the

working people in this country.

Secondly, the fact that certain steps have been suggested should be seen in their correct perspective. A Tripartite Committee has been set up specifically for this purpose so that any misapprehension or apprehension on this account should be discussed across the table and solution found. My esteemed colleague, Mr. P.A. Sangma is chairing that Committee. A meeting was held on the 17th of this month. The next meeting is scheduled for 20th December. So far as the issues are concerned, I do not want to go into them just now because the fact is that this House and the Rajya Sabha are scheduled to discuss the entire gamut of this issue next week in the House. In these circumstances, all I would like to say, I would like to appeal to every one who is contemplating to go on a strike, the issues they want to highlight which they seem to underline are already the issues on which the Prime Minister has come out categorically with an assurance in favour of the working class. Still, if there is something which needs to be discussed, forums are there which can be discussed. This House is going to discuss that. It would not be in the fitness of things to go on a strike at this juncture. I would like to make an appeal to all those trade unions who have decided their right to decide I do not question but I have to have the right to make an appeal to them that perhaps this strike would not serve any purpose, the purpose which they want to serve can be served in another way for which this Government's doors are always open.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Who are the parties in the Tripartite Committee?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: All these trade unions the Government, the trade unions and the industry.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): A decision was taken long back, two months ago, in a convention where all national trade unions including INTUC were present in that

convention where a decision was taken to go on a token strike on the 29th November, 1991.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please come to the point. The Leader of the House categorically stated that he does not deny the right of the trade unions to go on a strike. But he has also got a right to make an appeal to the trade unions which he has done.

[Translation]

What is your point?

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: On the one hand, the Government is making appeals and on the other hand they are taking steps to close down the units. Already a number of units have been closed down in West Bengal. Haldia Fertilizers has been closed down. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. As the leader of the House has pointed out, the Prime Minister has already agreed to have a discussion where the whole gamut of the New Industrial Policy will be discussed and some of the question of closing down of units, I am sure, will form part of that discussion. This was the only point I raised by Shri Charles and the Leader of the House has answered it very adequately.

I would now like Shri Panigrahi to continue his speech.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Leader of the House must say whether the Government will withdraw its policy or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the place for the Leader to make a commitment. Now this matter is closed and nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, this is not

the time to get an assurance from the Leader of the House on that issue. Let us proceed according to rules. How do you expect him at this time to give an assurance that the policy will not be implemented? I am sorry.

Shri Charles, Please sit down.

Shri Panigrahi, will you please continue your speech? You better wind up now.

17.42 hrs.

TEA COMPANIES (ACQUISITION AND
TRANSFER OF SICK TEA UNITS)
AMENDMENT BILL (Contd.)

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I will only take two minutes more. I was stating that in India, which is the number one country in respect of tea production how has the sort of situation been created.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already dealt with it adequately.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Our domestic production is growing steadily, at the rate of more than 4.8 per cent per year, rate of Growth of production is as low as 3.1 per cent. About 600 million cups of tea are being consumed in India daily whereas the position in China is different.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Has the Prime Minister come back, Sir? Somebody is sitting in the seat of the Prime Minister. I was just thinking whether the Prime Minister has come back.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava, I am told that nobody is allowed to sit in the Prime Minister's seat. In fact, I am not keen on this rule but I am told that nobody is allowed to sit there.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: It is the convention of the House that nobody else

should sit in the Prime Minister's seat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sure that when you are in a position to occupy that seat, you can sit there.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: In China where the production of tea is about 80 per cent compared to our production figure it is improving steadily its share of global tea exports.

It has increased from 12.5 per cent in 1980 to 14.27 per cent in 1985 and further to 16.77 per cent in 1990. India's export position has dropped from 26 per cent in 1980 to 22 percent in 1985 and further to 18 percent in 1990. And as I understand, it is now as low as 14 percent.

It is therefore required to raise both our production and productivity. How can we do that? We have to increase the area of the plantation and at the same time we have to go in for more advanced technology and management methods.

Out of the total number of 13,570 tea estates in our country, there are about 145 weak and sick units and only about four or very little number we have taken over.

In this connection I would like to mention that West Bengal is a prominent tea growing State. When the hon. Members from West Bengal took part in the discussion, one thing struck my mind as to why they do not take it up with their State Government so that they can also develop some tea estate themselves. What is the harm? (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): West Bengal has Tea Development Corporation.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I have said about plantation itself, ten estate itself.. (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You hand over these gardens to the West Bengal Tea

429 Tea Companies (Acquisition) AGRAHAYANA 7, 1913 (SAKA) and Transfer of Sick Tea Units) Amendment Bill

Development Corporation.

SHRISRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I would say that it is a good suggestion. If there are interested to take charge of the sick units, then there should be negotiation..(Interruptions) You take over them and reactivate them. What is the harm?(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: There are sick gardens under Tea Development Corporation of the Government of West Bengal. There is a proposed to have these gardens also. If the Central Government hand over these gardens to the Tea Development Corporation, the West Bengal Government can manage them...(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I do not know what authority he has got on behalf of the State Government to give this suggestion here. Of course, their Chief Minister is moving around. He is going abroad to invite private entrepreneurs to invest money also. Any way, I would say that if the concerned State Governments are willing to take over the sick units tea estates, then, I think, it should be encouraged.

That is my suggestion.

This year we had the target of the tea production at about 735 million Kg. But in real terms, I am given to understand that it will be 726 million kg. The only answer, as I said, is to raise both our production and productivity. It means that new areas are to be added and the areas are available. Also the activities of the TTCI and others need close monitoring.

The Government should chalk out a very reasonable and a very sensible policy, which among other things, should restore India's image as the top tea producing and exporting country in the world.

With these words, I support this Bill. This Bill has very limited purpose. Of course, when there is a Bill, apart from its purpose

, it provides an opportunity for a general discussion. I request the hon. Minister to take advantage of the suggestions that are given to promote tea industry further in the country.

SHRI DWARKA NATH DAS (Karim Ganj): I shall confine my speech to the Tea Companies Amendment Bill 1991. Of course, in principle I lend support to this Bill. But the scope and the purview of this Bill is so narrow that it cannot touch even the fringe of the problem what to speak of the problem itself.

It is a matter of serious concern that tea gardens of Assam gradually become less productive than before. It is due to mismanagement on the one hand and lack of supervision from the side of the Government on the other. It is seen that during the last three decades tea gardens are growing substantially in Sri Lanka and even in Africa. And I fear that during the coming decades tea production in the said countries may surpass the production of India. Tea is our largest foreign exchange earner but in the near future, we cannot retain this position. We notice slackness in administration everywhere. And tea industry is not an exception.

There are hundreds of literature on tea industry but in actually nothing substantial is done to improve the working of the tea estates. Shifting of responsibility on the part of the Centre amounts to disservice to this industry. And in course of time, this indifference will prove havoc.

There are several unions to safeguard the interest of the tea labourers, but they are play things in the hands of the owners; otherwise, the tea estates of Assam would not have come to this present awful condition. In most of the gardens in Barak Valley I find that there are no adequate schooling facilities for the children, no hospital, electrification, water supply, approach roads, etc. The labourers are compelled to live below the subsistence level. In this connection, I would like to tell a sad story. In my constituency,

[Shri Dwarkanath Das]

Karim Ganj, I visited two tea gardens—Singhiacherra Tea Estate and Maguracherra Tea Estate. When I visited, I saw these two gardens under injunction because of ownership dispute. But, I am least concerned with the ownership dispute what is surprising is that the plucking was stopped for months together and I felt, You will also agree with me, that this is sheer wastage and a national loss. At the same time, these labourers are not getting wages and as a result they have to starve. These sort of things are going on unabated.

The acreage of plantation is no doubt growing in some cases but engagement of labourers is dwindling i.e. less input, more output at the cost of labourers. And as a result there is lay off creating the problem of huge ex-tea garden labourers. They are unfortunate in every sense as because they are not tillers of land nor labourers of gardens. In my budget speech, I have mentioned that there should be all inclusive welfare scheme to save these persons from starvation and to draw out them from sub human condition.

As regards, sick tea gardens, condition of Border District of Karim Ganj is the worst. The gardens there are the safe hide-out of the infiltrators along with their encroachment notoriety and unlawful habitation. This unlawful habitation is being continued because of narrow political motivation and in near future it would not be surprising that some prosperous tea estates will lose their existence and turn into unwanted human habitation.

The State Government of Assam is not at all in a position to save such sick gardens because of trouble some condition prevailing there or look after the well being of the labourers. I am of the opinion that to revitalise these sick gardens of Assam particularly of Karim Ganj District, there should be one comprehensive scheme and to undertake a through survey of the whole of the estates so that this top-most national industry could regain its prosperity.

18.00 hrs.

In this regard, only the Centre could come forward to its rescue.

Monopoly of Assam tea in the world market has gone down in recent years because of indifference on the part of the Centre and incapability on the part of the State, I mean the State of Assam. A realistic approach to solve this gigantic problem is expected soon from the Government of India.

With this, I conclude my speech with the hope that the Centre will make all out efforts to revitalise the sick tea gardens of Assam. Thank You, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Piyus Tiraky.

An hon. Member: It is six o'clock, Sir. How can he speak unless the time of the House is extended?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him start so that he can continue tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY (Alipurduars): Mr. Chairman, Sir, though I support the Bill, yet I would say that it is a very unfortunate step. Some mention has been made about the welfare of the workers and the Government is thinking to make payment to the workers.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11 o'clock. Shri Tiraky is on his feet and will continue tomorrow when the House takes up this item.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 29th November, 1991/Agrahayana 8, 1913 (Saka).