

LOKSABHA DEBATES
TENTH SERIES (VOL. XLIII No.2)

AUGUST, 1, 1995

FOURTEENTH SESSION



TENTH LOK SABHA

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday , August 1, 1995/ Sravana 10, 1917 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at two minutes past
Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

+ **Shortage of Wagons**

*21. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Coal India Limited (CIL) is unable to meet its coal movement target due to the shortage of wagons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate wagons to Coal India Limited for the coal movements?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) No, Sir. During April to June '95, Railways lifted 42.86 million tonnes of revenue earning coal which is 0.70 million tonnes more than the target. In respect to Coal India Limited, against a loading target of 17247 wagons per day, 16688 wagons were loaded, thus achieving a satisfaction of 96.7 per cent

(c) Railways have taken measures to optimise loading potential through augmentation of wagon fleet and intensive monitoring of movement of loaded and empty rakes in the coal circuits as at the terminal ends.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, the growth of the economy depends on the transportation of raw material from points of raw material to the finished goods manufacturing units. There have been large scale complaints from coal industry as well as other industries in regard to non-availability of wagons. Recently, the President of Fertilizer Industries Association, Shri Prakash Narain has threatened that all the fertilizer units would be closed down because of non-availability of wagons. This is also true in regard to the coal industry.

Is it a fact that in the month of March, the initial backlog in placement of wagons at collieries was 6696? I am talking about the backlog.

In BCCL, it was 9021; in CCL, it was 16,281. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether this backlog has been cleared after March 1995?

SHRI C.K.JAFFER SHARIEF : Sir, according to the figure that I have, the offer was for 20,149 wagons in February, 20,073 in March, 19,652 in April and 18,362 in May. The wagons supply was 19,906 in March, 19,611 in April and 18,362 in May. These are the figures about the wagon supply. The figure of loading was 17,541 in February, 17,302 in March, 17,190 in April and 16,546 in May. In February, 1,940 wagons left empty, that is without loading, 2,604 wagons left without loading in March, 2,421 wagons without loading in April and 2,444 wagons left without loading in May.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Then there was no backlog in March 1995.

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF : Now there is no backlog of March.

• SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The Ministry of Railways have decided to scale down the wagon procurement. When the Eighth Five Year Plan was finalised, it was decided to acquire 1,50,000 of four wheeler units during the Eighth Five Year Plan. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether there is shortage of wagon fleet in the Railways? This is part (a) of the question.

Part (b) of the question is this, Previously, that is prior to 1993-94, there was a system of placing orders with the Wagon India and the Wagon India used to distribute it to the public sector and the private sector. Suddenly now, the Ministry of Railways have changed this policy which was approved by the Cabinet in the year 1973 - it was a good policy - and they have decided to have open tender system. May I know from the Hon. Minister as to the number of wagons the Ministry of Railways have placed with the Wagon India, the percentage of the order and the number of wagons earmarked for open tender?

Part (c) of the question is this. Will the Hon. Minister inform this House?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, time is running out. Please put the question.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: When this policy was changed and when the order was placed with the Hindustan Development Corporation by open tender, whether this Organisation has failed to supply the required number of wagons for which the order was placed by the Ministry of RAILWAYS at a reduced rate?

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Sir, the Supplementary Questions are totally not connected with the main question.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Part "c" of my supplementary is very important which is pertaining to the main question.

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Sir, the main question is with regard to offering of wagons to Coal India Limited.

However, Sir, this issue has been raised repeatedly in this House and also in the other House.

The House is well aware that the Railway Budget is a need-based Budget. When the budgetary support comes down, naturally the Government will have to manage within the resources that are available and that is why, the Railway Budget became a need-based Budget. Wagons have never been in shortage. The question was of intensive utilisation of our asset which we have done and I have not found any sort of complaint that there is shortage of wagons (Interruptions) Now, we have been seeing that there is lot of demand from every State which wants to augment their power sector. There is going to be more acquisition of wagons. Even without anybody asking - even the wagon industry did not ask us - in this year's Budget, we have provided for 12,000 wagons to be acquired by the Railways and another 12,000 wagons under the BOLT'S scheme. In addition to these, we have taken a conscious decision very recently to acquire another 7000 from the wagon industry.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will they be distributed through Wagon India or through open tender?

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Again, as regards the question of open tender, when the money becomes short, we have to find out whether we are paying through our nose or whether there could be a competitive rate or whether there is anything else. When we tested the market with the competitive rate with an open tender, the prices came down. That shows that even Wagon India, which is a representative body of not only the public sector but also the private sector, was functioning in a different manner, as a cartel. So, that also has to discipline itself which goes to the advantage of the exchequer. That is how it is done.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Was there a decision of the Cabinet in 1973 to distribute wagons through Wagon India and has it been changed?

MR. SPEAKER: You need not reply to this question.

[Translation]

***SHRI HARADHAN ROY:** The reply of the Hon. Minister is misleading. The demand of the Coal India per day was 17,870 wagons from April to June, 1995 whereas the supply was 16,580. The shortfall was about 1300. So, I would like to know from the Minister subsidiary wise demand and supply figures of wagons of Coal India for the last three years.

The second part of my question is that the annual supply of coal can be assessed by ton km. I want the figures of ton km. coal supply for the last three years and the freight earnings also.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

The third part of Supplementary is since the daily demand of CIL is 18,260 wagons this year, whether the Minister is aware of this figure or not? If so, how the Ministry is going to meet the demand?

Many factories have been closed in several areas due to non-availability of coal. So I would like to know the number of condemned wagons and their replacement for the last three years. The figures will indicate whether there is shortage or excess of wagons. This is my question.

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Sir, I have already given the figures with regard to the demand and supply position. With regard to the condemnation of the wagons etc., that is an annual feature of our renewal and replacement as the aged ones will get condemned and we place order for the new ones to replace them.

Sir, about the other details which he has asked, I have already given the figures in my first answer.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY: What about ton kms. for the last three years? Whether they have increased or decreased?

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: May I remind the Hon'ble Minister. Perhaps, he does not have full information to this effect. I want to ask about my area. No wagon has reached Hindustan Zinc Limited during the last three months. This has been causing a loss of Rs. 2 crores per month to Hindustan Zinc. Whether the Hon'ble Minister would take stock of the situation and clear the backlog?

[English]

MR. C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Sir, the question is related to the coal India. I need a separate notice for that.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Shri Lokanathji.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: No, they are not getting the wagons . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is regarding the Coal India and this does not arise out of the question.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: It is a part of the question. The Coal India is not getting the wagons . . . (Interruptions) . . . They are not getting the wagons.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Sir, due to non-supply of coal, the thermal power stations of Tamil Nadu are being closed and the ships that are expected to carry coal from Paradeep to Tamil Nadu are waiting in the sea. Their number is 11. So, as a result there is a deadlock. The shortage of wagon is mainly responsible for this deadlock.

Sir, I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether with our production going up in different sectors, the Railways

are in such a position that the shortage of wagons could be made up. What was the assessment of the Planning Commission to increase the number of wagons and how much have they really increased? It is being said that they have invested all the money in gauge conversion and that is why the whole industry in the country is going to face acute shortage by October. The Minister should tell us what is his requirement.

MR. SPEAKER : In fact, he has replied to your question in the first part itself. Now, you can repeat it if you like.

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF : Sir, I would like to categorically assure the House that there is no question of diversion of money or making the availability of wagons suffer because of gauge conversion or anything. These are two separate requirements. I categorically assure to the trade and industry through the House that there will not be any shortage of wagons. We have already taken measures. Whatever traffic anybody wants to offer, we are in a position to carry.

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 22 - Shri Shiv Sharan Verma - Absent

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, let these two question nos. 23 & 39 be clubbed together.

MR. SPEAKER : . . . QUESTION NO. 23 - Shri Surya Narayan Yadav - Absent

Shri Mohan Rawale.

[Translation]

Pulses

*23. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV :

+

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

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

(a) the extent of rise in the prices of Pulses during recent months as compared to previous three years, year-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to control the prices;

(c) whether the Union Government has asked the STC and NAFED to import Pulses to meet the demand;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the extent to which the import of Pulses will meet the shortage; and

(f) whether the Government have suggested reduction in the present import duty?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Percentage variation in wholesale price Indices of Pulses for the month ending June, 95 and the corresponding period for previous 3 years is given at Annexure.

(b) Apart from taking certain long-term measures to increase the production of pulses in the country like bringing pulses under the purview of Technology Mission, the other steps taken by the Government to contain the rise in the prices of pulses include placing pulses under OGL for import, reduction of customs duty on import of pulses from 10% to 5% etc. Recently, the Pulses, Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oils (Storage Control) Order, 1977 has been amended to exclude imported pulses from the purview of storage limits prescribed under the said Order.

This is expected to ensure increased availability of imported pulses in the indigenous market. Pulses are also supplied through retail cooperative outlets like Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar and State Civil Supplies Corporations.

(c) and (d) As the import of pulses is already under OGL, agencies like STC and NAFED are also free to import pulses to meet the demand.

(e) The present estimated gap between the demand and supply of pulses is in the range of 4 to 5 million tonnes. It is not possible to estimate precisely the quantity of pulses that will be actually imported during the year 1995-96. The total quantity of pulses imported by all agencies during 1994-95 was 5.55 lakh tonnes as against 6.28 lakh tonnes during 1993-94.

(f) The customs duty on import of pulses has already been reduced from 10% to 5% very recently.

ANNEXURE

*Percentage Variation in the Wholesale Price Index
Numbers of Pulses During The Month Ending June, 1995
and During The Corresponding Period in the Previous 3
Years*

Commodity	Percentage Variation (Ending June)			
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Pulses	+5.4	+4.6	+25.6	+17.1
(Sub-group)				
Gram	-4.7	+33.8	+31.0	-23.1

Commodity	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Arhar	+0 7	-1 6	+13 2	+53 4
Moong	+37 2	-10 4	+20 6	+10 6
Masur	-0 9	+0 8	+23 5	+20 8
Urad	+2 6	-13 2	+43 2	+61 1

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE Mr Speaker, Sir, the Congress had promised during the election in 1991 that it would reduce inflation in hundred days. The Prices of the Pulses which were sold at Rs 10 per kg in 1991, have now gone sky rocketted. Today, Arhar is being sold at Rs 30 per kg, Urad at Rs 40 per kg, moong at Rs 25 per kg and Gram at Rs 20 per kg.

The Minister has said -

[English]

"The total quantity of pulses imported by all agencies during 1994-95 was 5 55 lakh tonnes."

[Translation]

I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to why the prices of pulses are not going down despite these measures? Why is it that despite the sufficient capacity for the production of pulses and availability of agricultural land, the production of pulses is not increasing in the country? Why the Green Revolution has failed in this regard? Whether the Government proposes to make a buffer stock of pulses like that of wheat and rice and what are the factors behind the incessant rise in the prices of pulses?

SHRI BUTA SINGH Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, as per the information available with me, the prices of pulses quoted by the hon'ble Member are not correct.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE You go to the Market
(Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH According to my information the price of Gram is Rs 14 per kg and that of Arhar, Rs 20 per kg. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAJINA MISHRA This is the wrong information being given

[English]

MR SPEAKER If you do not want to hear the reply, I can ask the Minister to take his seat

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER Please do understand that one of the Members has asked a question and he expects to hear a reply. At the same time you are not allowing him to hear the reply by raising your voices.

[Translation]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA Where it could be available at the price of Rs 14?

SHRI BUTA SINGH There is no doubt that the prices of pulses has been increasing from the last three years. The main reason is that the production of pulses has dwindled. This phenomenon is prevalent not only in India but all over the world. The situation in India is comparatively better. There was a gap of 4 to 5 million tonnes per year and this gap was really a big gap. (Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA Whether you export them?

SHRI BUTA SINGH No export has been made

[English]

MR SPEAKER You can ask the same question as supplementary. This is not correct. This is going on much beyond a certain limit. You can ask only the relevant question

[Translation]

SHRI BUTA SINGH Such units have got permission to export which export pulses after processing them but normally nobody has got permission to export pulses. The Government has imported pulses under OGL in order to make up the gap of 4 to 5 million tonnes and import duty has also been reduced to 10 to 5 percent. Everyone has been given permission to import. We are trying to increase the production of pulses. For this, one Technology Mission has been set up and farmers are given facilities for this, so that they could increase the production of pulses and various other efforts are being made in this regard. The Storage Act has been amended. Co-operative stores, the Government stores or private stores import pulses. A provision has been made for storing more pulses by them. Many steps are being taken. I admit that the prices of pulses have increased considerably but the main reason therefore is that the production of pulses in our country falls short of our demand. Long term steps are being taken by the Ministry of AGRICULTURE in order to boost the production of pulses.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I appeal to you that you should go to Super Market and see what is the trend there. I want to ask the Hon'ble Minister as to whether or not the promises made in 1991 and the prices at which pulses are being sold, prove Government's failure. Please give your reply in yes or no?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : There is no doubt that the efforts are being made by the Government to check the prices of pulses. The prices of Gram have gone down as compared to the prices prevailing in other countries. We are trying to boost up the production as well, so that the prices could be curbed. Truth is that when production goes down, then the prices of pulses go up.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, poor people get protein from pulses but it is sad that the prices of pulses have increased one and half times within one and half month. Hon. Minister is not providing information to the House. Wherefrom it could be imported when there is shortage of pulses all over the world? Secondly, now since you have accepted that pulses have been exported on a large scale from here, what is the quantity of pulses exported so far, and what is its impact on the rise or fall in prices of pulses in the Indian Market?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request that whatever I have said should not be quoted wrongly. I have said that there are some export oriented units which import pulses and they export after processing them here only. The reason is that they are not processed outside. Outside this country only whole pulses are available and these are grinded here and then they are exported. Those pulses are not produced in the country. Those are brought here just for getting them processed. Pulses are exported after having processed them and a profit is earned on them. These pulses are brought from Turkey, Hungry, Canada, Australia, China-Burma, Thailand and Tanjania.

MR SPEAKER : What is the quantity exported so far?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : There are some units in Private Sector and there is a ban on the export of indigenous pulses.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANDREESWARA RAO VADDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as pulses are the available sources of protein for the common people of this country and as their per capita availability has come down to nearly 55 per cent, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister for Food -- who is also the former Minister of Agriculture and by whose side the present Minister of Agriculture is sitting -- whether the Government will extend the plasticulture subsidy which he has introduced currently for which a lot of funds are made available, through sprinkler system . . .

MR. SPEAKER : This is not relevant; not allowed.

SHRI SOBHANDREESWARA RAO VADDE : I am coming to the question, Sir. You have not understood what I am saying. Please permit me. Will the Government extend this plasticulture subsidy scheme for the pulse crop also,

that is my main question, Sir. We have to increase the productivity. That is more important.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : The facilities that are being extended to farmers are being allowed through the NABARD. The separate line of credit has been sanctioned by the NABARD for credit to the Central Cooperative Societies to encourage farmers to take more areas under pulses under drip irrigation. Subsidies are being provided, better seeds are provided, techniques available . . .

SHRI SOBHANDREESWARA RAO VADDE: Are the sprinklers being provided for the pulse crops?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sprinkler are also allowed on subsidy. A lot of inputs are being subsidised for those farmers who are taking up production of pulses. I have already written separately to the Agriculture Minister to kindy mount National Technology Mission, it has already been mounted, so that the farmers who grow cash crops are encouraged to grow pulses to get better profits.

Therefore, for making it more profitable, it has to be made a little more attractive which the Hon. Agriculture Minister has already accepted. He is replying by sitting here that he has accepted our proposals for enthusing the farmers to grow more crops.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask from Mr. Minister through you that farmers are not getting support price according to their production. You yourself held that the production of pulses had gone down. Whether an assurance will be given to the House that the farmers who produce pulses will get support price according to their production?

The second thing is that you have said in reply to my question that an import of 6.28 metric tonne was made during 1993-94. 5.55 metric tonne pulses were imported during 1994-95. It is good that the import has gone down. What are the reasons that the imports have gone down? Is it because the production has gone up or people have stopped eating it? The people from middle class below the poverty line eat only pulses and bread. I want to know how this has gone down?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, if Hon. Member has gone through the statement, it is categorically mentioned that the production of pulses has increased from ten and half million tonnes to fourteen and half million tonnes. This has made the situation optimistic. It is hoped that the production of pulses will increase furthermore and their price will go down furthermore. In the meantime we have reduced the import duty. This has been placed under OGL.

We are trying that the import of pulses be promoted. We have discussed the issue with our ministerial colleagues. We will try to check the prices of pulses.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: I would like to know as to whether you will try to give better support price to the farmers?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: At present it is in the open market, it is not with the PDS. Efforts are being made for this and we are trying that they should get better price.

[English]

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that the day-to-day basic necessity of any common man, whether he belongs to upper class or middle class or lower class includes basic food materials like cereals and other pulses. For the last 3-4 years, we have been finding that there is a lot of encouragement and incentives given through many other measures by the Agriculture Ministry and other Departments for growing commercial crops like cotton, sugarcane and other such crops. But for growing pulses, we have to give sufficient incentives to the farmers in proportion to other crops. We have been observing that there has been a total reduction in the production of these cereals and pulses. If we go to the retail shops, the prices are increased, sometimes by more than four times.

So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he is going to give some more incentives to the growers or the farmers through the PDS.

MR. SPEAKER : I think that question has already been replied. It is not necessary to ask the same question again.

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Sir, I want to know whether the Food Ministry is proposing to distribute some of these pulses through the PDS.

MR. SPEAKER: Both these questions have been replied by the Minister. As far as PDS is concerned, he has said "No".

[Translation]

SHRI SATYADEO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Minister has accepted in the reply that there is a gap of five lakh tonnes between the production and consumption of pulses. You have said that you have urged upon the Agricultural Ministry and efforts are being made for increasing its production. I will like to know through you as to whether you will go for import of pulses in order to fill up the gap of five lakh tonnes. If not, then what other alternative you have considered to adopt? You have said that pulses are exported after having procured the imported pulses, will you consider to stop this export as long as there is a shortage of pulses?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I have never said that we will export. I have said that EOU, which is in the private sector, has got

permission to export pulses after having procured them. The Government will consider this aspect. Secondly, you have talked about shortage and a gap between supply and demand. Farmers will be encouraged with the help of state Governments to grow more and more pulses so that the gap could be bridged. For this, good quality seeds are given to them. Subsidy is given for sprinkler system, special kits are also given so that the production of pulses could be increased. Besides, if needed, as the Hon. Agricultural Minister has said that he will hold a review meeting with the State Government. This year, more pulses are expected to be produced. We are trying our best in this direction and besides.

[English]

Above all we are allowing the *dal* to be imported on OGL by reducing the import duty to 5 per cent.

[Translation]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Prices soar up, but this does not have any impact on we poor people. But two things are important for us, garlic and onions. The prices of garlic goes up. Mr. Minister has not referred to garlic. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Here, we do not call pulses as garlic. . . .(Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, the facts indicate that the percentage growth of pulses production is 14 per cent. It has risen from 10 millions to 14 millions. Despite such a high rise in production, the rate of growth of price rise in pulses is much higher than the increase in the general inflation rate. The national economy has grown by, say, 5 or 6 per cent. Industries have grown by, say, 8 or 9 per cent. Now, this is the condition.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Nirmal Kantiji, Let 'Dal' be 'Dal', Do not make it 'theri'.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : In this context, despite 40 per cent increase in production the price rise is very high. You are implying that you do not know how much is going to be imported for the present year. My question arises out of this. Do you not think that when the situation is so awkward that with such a high growth rate, the prices continue to rise at a phenomenal rate, the public sector should go in for import directly and certain amount should be fixed for it?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : This is a suggestion for action.

MR. SPEAKER : Suggestion for action is an assurance.

SRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Since you have disallowed clubbing of my questions, I shall be on *dal*.

MR. SPEAKER : But you should not go to masala and *pyaj*.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Now I would like to know whether the Minister will assure that pulses will be supplied through public distribution system and if so from when ?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : At present there is no such scheme with the Government of India to put pulses in the public distribution system but we are examining it.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, Last year when there was a tremendous shortage of sugar the Government took a decision to import sugar on OGL at zero duty. Now, this year since there is shortage in respect of pulses, the Government has put it on OGL and reduced the import duty from 10 per cent to 5 per cent. I would like to know from the Government why they have kept the import duty at 5 per cent. Why do you not import pulses also at zero per cent duty ? Will the Minister take this up in the next meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Prices because the common man is agitated?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, one way of knowing how much quantity of pulses have really arrived at the ports is through the import duty. Otherwise 5 per cent is just nominal.

Productivity of Forests

*24. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal/specific plan to raise the productivity of forests in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether the facilities to establish seed storage and seed technology laboratories are being extended so as to see that the quality seeds that are collected can be appropriately utilised for raising good planting stock; and

(d) if so, the details regarding the Testing Rules framed for all the important species in order to make available the certified seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) :

(a) Yes, sir.

(b) The increase in the productivity of forests has been planned by massive afforestation and enrichment plantation of open and degraded forests under various schemes, including Externally Aided Projects, through use of improved planting stock. Adequate protection of natural forests with proper technical upgradation by silvicultural treatment is being done to increase production. National

Forestry Action Plan (NFAP) currently under preparation has also identified the 'Increase in productivity of Forests' as a high priority area.

(c) Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) is carrying out research in development of technology for quality seeds and is creating seed processing facilities including, the establishment of seed banks, through eight centres located in various parts of the country. The Ministry of Environment and Forests is also providing 100% central assistance under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to the State Governments for seed development activities. Under this scheme, the Central Government has provided Rs. 1030 lakh to State Governments during the period from 1988-89 to 1994-95.

(d) ICFRE has so far developed the testing rules for 59 important forest tree species.

SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this era of environment consciousness, the efforts made by the Government of India for the promotion of vital subject of forestry is indeed commendable. Now the Central Government has provided Rs. 1030 lakh to the State Governments from the years 1988 to 1995. May I know from the Hon. Union Minister the Statewise allocation out of this Rs. 1030 lakh under the Centrally sponsored scheme; and to what extent the State Government have been able to succeed in the development of seeds quality like in setting up of Gene Banks and Seed Technology Laboratories ?

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Sir, if the Hon. Member wants the Statewise distribution of the Rs 1030 lakh, which has been allotted in these years, there is a chart, which I will be happy to send to the Member. But for any specific State and for any specific year which Hon. Members desires to know, I will be able to give it to him straightaway. Sir, under the seed development programme which we have, we have achieved considerable success. That is why, our seed productivity has gone up and the States were, under this programme, required to do various practices which they have reasonably and successfully done.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir I would also like to know from our dynamic Union Minister, as to which are the different States where the National Forestry Action Plan is being implemented; and whether it would be introduced in Orissa State and also the year by which the plan would be implemented in the entire country as well.

SRI KAMAL NATH : Sir, for the first time, we launched the preparation of the National Forestry Action Programme. The National Forestry Action Programme is a perspective document and also includes the action plan giving higher priority to increase the productivity of the areas under forests and this priority is being given next only to preservation of existing forest resources. This National Forestry Action Programme is in the process of completion of its final stages

and Orissa being one of the important States, as far as their forestry is concerned, it obviously forms part of it.

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Just now, Hon. Prime Minister has said that from the year 1989-90 to 1995-96, Rs. 1030 lakhs were allocated to the State Governments, I would like to know as to whether you have carried out a Survey about the increase in the percentages of forests and in the state concerned ? Part 'b' of my question is as to whether Hon. Minister knows that the desert of Rajasthan is expanding towards Delhi? The Central Government does not provide funds to the State Governments. Hon. Minister, the datas you have given proves that the desert is expanding, whether you have decided to provide all necessary facilities in order to check its expansion ? If so, please give details.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Even if it does not arise out of this question, you will reply. You must ; and you are in a position to.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the question raised by the member is concerned that as to whether the Schemes which have been implemented proved successful? We do remote sensing through satellite imagery and we have prepared the State of the forest report only last year. We interpret district's photo every year on the basis of satellite imagery. Our forests have increased for the first time.

As far as the expansion of Rajasthan's desert is concerned, this is indeed right. So there is a 0.30 C.F. Scheme for Aravalli-region, this has been implemented. We are achieving success here and several members of our consultative Committee had gone there. They have given me all the informations after having verifying those. They were also satisfied that we would achieve success through the Scheme for Aravalli Ranges.

[English]

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH : I Would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government have identified any forests specifically for gene pool conservation for quality seed production. If they have, which are these products and whether additional funds will be placed with the States for this specific purpose ?

SHRI KAMAL NATH : The Indian Council of Forest Research and Education with its eight institutes is identified to take up these extension programmes in various places, whether it is Ranchi — we have one at Ranchi, we have one at Shimla, we have one at Coimbatore, we have one at Jorhat, we have one at Jodhpur, we have one at Jabalpur

and we have one at Allahabad — or anywhere. They have identified specific areas which are suitable not only for particular tree species but also for genetic improvement. Undoubtedly tree productivity in our country is very low. It is 0.7 cubic metre per hectare against the international average of 2.1 cubic metres per hectare per year. So, this is a matter for concern and it is receiving our attention.

[English]

Agricultural Growth Rate

+

*25. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR :

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in their Report has expressed concern about the falling of India's Agriculture farm growth;

(b) if so, the main recommendations therein in regard to the supply and demand of food in the next century; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has observed that India's agricultural growth has been sufficient in recent decades. However, the main observations made in the Report include more emphasis on diversification in agriculture, need to increase capital investment in agriculture higher outlays for agricultural research and extension, priority for completion of the ongoing irrigation projects, faster growth in institutional credit, and involving the NGO's and private sector in building rural infrastructure, etc.

(c) The findings of the study are of general nature and the Government is already Seized of the issues raised therein.

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am really surprised and stunned to read the reply of the Hon. Minister. In Part (a) he has stated that " The International Food Policy Research Institute has observed that India's agricultural growth has been sufficient in recent decades." I have got the report of the IFPRI and I would like to quote only two lines from the first paragraph:

" The International Food Policy Research Institute has said that rapid agricultural growth that India has experienced during the Green Revolution is waning and is becoming a cause for concern."

Now, in answer to part A of my question has said, 'No' I would also like to quote the report which states:-

" annual increment to gross capital formation in agriculture is now lower than in the early 1980s".

The Report further says :-

" For rice, the report noted, growth in TFP declined from 1.3 per cent annually in the 1970s to 1.0 per cent in the 1980's for wheat productivity growth dropped from 1.4 per cent annually to 1.1 per cent, and for coarse grains, the decline was from 1.1 per cent to 0.9 per cent."

Now, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he has done his home work or not and whether he has said, 'No' to say that there is no decrease in the production.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us know where the concern is expressed in the Report.

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR: The concern is that the Report said that private investment in agriculture has increased only modestly and the Report also predicted that in the years to come...

MR. SPEAKER: This is a matter of interpretation and let not the people be wrongly informed.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had the occasion, just recently, last month, to attend the Agriculture Policy Research Conference in Washington. I had full complete discussions with those eminent persons. There were 50 countries represented. I have also facts and figures with me to prove that whatever India has done has been spectacular. We have not decreased in production. We have rather achieved 2.8 per cent increase generally for the last year. In 1992, the net production was about 168.38 million tonnes and this year the production is 190 million tonnes. In every respect we have progressed.

On the investment front I am concerned and because of the decrease in the investment of public sector I am more concerned. I have written and we are taking steps to see that the public sector investment in agriculture is made that is the question for our absolute concern. But as far as private investment is concerned, there are increases. Because it is less profit oriented, people do not go in for that and they go about this industrial sector. That is the problem. But, as a whole, I am satisfied with what we have achieved in every respect. I would like to give an example. I may add that from the figure of 17 million tonnes, we have come to 62 million tonnes this year. In the field of foodgrains, the production figure of 190 million tonnes is the highest ever recorded in agriculture. (Interruptions).

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Have you reached the Eighth Plan targets regarding foodgrains?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : My dear friend, Shri Chatterjee, it is something spectacular. We have advanced more than the target itself and we are planning further more.

It is not always that you achieve a target. You fix a target that is something (*Interruptions*). Please listen to me. Please do, not interrupt me. (*Interruptions*). It is not essential that way that we achieve a target. There are targets which we fix, but whether we achieve that or not, is something else. It is a question of whether we have achieved certain things and we try to achieve certain things. We are marching towards that and the evidence is that we are not lagging behind. I have said that today we have 36 million tonnes in store whereas we need only 22 million tonnes as a buffer stock. That is the position. We are lagging in pulses. I know that and we are trying our best to boost up that production. For that purpose we have given incentive for the production and given incentive prices also because it is a rainfed crop. So, that is the problem when it comes to that. You take the case of fisheries. From the figure of 7 lakh tonnes, we have reached 48 lakh tonnes. This is the position. First, it was the Green Revolution, then it was that white Revolution, then it is the Feather Revolution which increased from 19 billion to 24 billion and the same thing is about the Green Revolution. Take the case of fisheries also. It is going to open a new vista for the Indian farmers. (*Interruptions*).

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : What can I do, if do not know.

[English]

You do not realise what I am saying. The question is what the report says about diversification and for that we have given orientation for a new agricultural policy that people get more money and also go in for diversification like horticulture, floriculture, mushroom etc. That is what the report has said. I have discussed it with the representatives all around and I also told them that we are on a safer ground and we can feed our population(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : Sir, I will come to my specific question and would like to add regarding the report. Now the report says that the decline is not happening only in the poorer States but the decline is there all over the country. That is what the report says. Now the Hon. Minister says that the report says that there is no concern. I would like to add that with a sizeable growth of population in the country and with the explosion of population in the country, the targets should be kept. Those targets should be kept in mind and report should be fully read.

On diversification, the main reason about the falling of India's agricultural farm growth is that the research work is not reaching the farmers. There is no guidance as to what effective steps the Government intends to take in this direction. On the diversification front a very important point is that the Government of Punjab or the State of Punjab lost Rs. 400 crore last year because the farmers were not educated on whether it is a fine quality of rice or paddy or

super fine quality of rice etc. The farmers lost Rs.400 crore because there was no research work done on that. In every grain market the farmer lost Rs. 20 per quintal. If anybody brings his product to the market he is told that it is a super fine or fine quality. Then, how can the research work reach the farmer? I want to know the details from the Hon. Minister.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : The question is just evident. The facts speak for themselves.

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : How do you explain?

MR. SPEAKER: I think the first question related to the rate of growth and not the actual production and the second relates to the extension programme. The rate of growth is different from the production.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, the rate of production of 2.8 per cent is general. That is the exact thing that it is an average. That is what it is (*Interruptions*) Secondly about the research work, it is not we have not done it. If you want to reach our farmers to let them know what it is about, then we have to do it. From Rs. 400 crore to Rs.1,300 crore the allocation has been made from different plans to this Plan. That is what I am doing. That is also about it. That is the thing which we are trying to focus because these are the areas where the general people will get more out of that.

Secondly what you said is not correct. It is not the question of lack of scientific knowledge which has to be provided. It is the question about FCI and other related things. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : The research work is being done by the Universities. What about it?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Brar, the Minister is not contradicting your statement. He is supporting your statement.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, I said that we are taking that into account. I have said that we should specify the details and the price has been fixed. (*Interruptions*). I think it will never happen again. (*Interruptions*).

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : My question is a very simple one, because the reply being given by Hon. Minister is totally unsatisfactory. My simple question is that the people living below the poverty line, use coarse grains like Bajra, millet, Barley, Maize and Mava. What are the reasons for fall in the production of these coarse grains? Whether the Government proposes to take steps to increase their production? The international food policy Institute which is a research institute has emphasised a expediting to the institutional loans. RBI has given its guidelines that a

revised percentage should be invested in the agricultural sector, whether these Banks do abide by these guidelines? I want to know as to whether the Government propose to take any positive steps in fields regard to the Schemes prepared for improvement?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : The production of Barely, and millet, has increased and their prices have also been increased. There is no special thing in this. It is true that the farmer show that which gives benefit to them. Nobody runs shop to suffer a loss. Farmer will sow for their benefits only and he will also definitely wish to have profit so this is not a matter of concern. In Maharashtra, millet worth Rs. 60 crore was lying there and was not procured. If people stop eating up, then I have got no remedy. We have also exported millet.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Sugar Mills

*22. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) Whether a large number of Sugar Mills having letters of intents have not implemented their schemes for production of Sugar upto a fixed target for a long time;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against erring sugar Mills?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c) As on 30-06-1995, 135 letters of Intent for establishment of new sugar factories and 163 letters of Intent for expansion in the existing Sugar Units were pending implementation. The state-wise and Sector-wise break up of these letters of intent is given at Statements I & II, attached.

The letters of intent are issued with a validity period of 3 years within which the entrepreneurs are required to comply with its conditions. Out of 135 letters of intent pending for establishment of new sugar mills, 75 have been issued during the sugar season 1993-94, (October - September). The balance 60, which were issued prior to Sugar Season 1993-94, are at various stages of implementation. Similarly, out of 163 letters of intent pending implementation for expansion in the existing units, 34 letters of intent have been issued during 1993-94 onwards. The progress of these pending letters of intent is reviewed from time to time.

During 1993-94, 11 letters of intent granted for

establishment of new sugar factories and 6 letters of intent issued for expansion in the existing sugar factories were treated as lapsed, as their progress was not found to be satisfactory.

During the Sugar Season 1994-95 till date show cause notices have been issued to four sugar factories for non compliance of the conditions of letters of intent which were issued more than 3 years ago and are reviewing their progress.

STATEMENT - I

Sector-wise break-up of letters of intent/industrial licences issued for establishment of new sugar factories and are pending implementation.

(As on 30-06-95)

Sl	State	Pvt.	Pub.	Coop.	Total
		Sector	Sector	Sector	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Prior to VIIth plan:					
1.	Uttar Pradesh	1	—	—	1
2.	Manipur	—	1	—	1
	Total	1	1	—	2
VIIth Plan:					
1.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	2	2
2.	Maharashtra	—	—	26	26
3.	Uttar Pradesh	1	—	2	3
4.	Dadra Nagar & Haveli	—	—	1	1
5.	Orissa	2	—	—	2
6.	Karnataka	—	—	3	3
7.	Andhra Pradesh	—	1	—	1
8.	Gujarat	—	—	7	7
9.	Madhya Pradesh	2	—	—	2
10.	Pondicherry	1	—	—	1
	Total	6	1	41	48
During the Year 1990-91:					
1.	Punjab	—	1	1	2
2.	Orissa	2	—	—	2
3.	Uttar Pradesh	2	—	—	2
4.	Maharashtra	—	—	2	2

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
5.	Haryana	1	—	—	1
6.	Gujarat	—	—	1	1
	Total	5	1	4	10

During the year 1993-94:

1.	Harayana	3	—	1	4
2.	Uttar Pradesh	25	—	1	26
3.	Madhya Pradesh	2	—	—	2
4.	Gujarat	—	—	2	2
5.	Maharashtra	—	—	17	17
6.	Bihar	1	—	—	1
7.	Orissa	—	1	—	1
8.	Andhra Pradesh	15	—	—	15
9.	Karnataka	1	—	4	5
10.	Tamil Nadu	2	—	—	2
	Total	49	1	25	75
	Grand Total	61	4	70	135

STATEMENT-II

Sector-wise break up of letters of intent/industrial licences issued for expansion in the existing units and are pending implementation

(As on 30-6-95)

Sl	State	Pvt.	Pub.	Coop.	Total
		Sector	Sector	Sector	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Vth Plan & Prior to VIIth plan					
1.	Bihar	1	—	—	1
2.	Punjab	—	—	1	1
3.	Maharashtra	—	—	2	2
4.	Uttar Pradesh	2	1	—	3
	Total	3	1	3	7
VII Plan :					
1.	Haryana	—	—	1	1
2.	Orissa	—	—	1	1
3.	Gujarat	—	—	2	2

During the Year 1990-91:

1.	Punjab	—	1	1	2
2.	Orissa	2	—	—	2
3.	Uttar Pradesh	2	—	—	2
4.	Maharashtra	—	—	2	2

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
4.	Bihar	1	—	—	1
5.	Karnataka	3	—	5	8
6.	Tamil Nadu	2	—	3	5
7.	Punjab	—	—	2	2
8.	Maharashtra	—	—	17	17
9.	Andhra Pradesh	3	2	3	8
10.	Uttar Pradesh	10	23	15	48
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2	—	—	2
Total		21	25	49	95

During the year 1990-91:

1.	Punjab	1	—	1	2
2.	Gujarat	—	—	3	3
3.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	2	2
4.	Nagaland	—	1	—	1
Total		1	1	6	8

During the Year 1991-92:

1.	Maharashtra	—	—	9	9
2.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	1	1
3.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	2	2
4.	Karanataka	—	—	1	1
5.	Bihar	2	—	—	2
6.	Haryana	—	—	2	2
7.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	1	1
8.	Gujarat	—	—	1	1
Total		2	—	17	19

VIIth Plan:**During the year 1992-93 :**

1.	Orissa	1	—	—	1
2.	Uttar Pradesh	1	—	1	2
Total		2	—	1	3

During the Year 1993-94 :

1.	Uttar Pradesh	6	—	—	6
2.	Punjab	1	—	—	1

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
3.	Maharashtra	—	—	6	6
4.	Tamil Nadu	1	—	—	1
5.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	1	1
6.	Rajasthan	1	—	—	1
7.	West Bangal	1	1	—	2
8.	Bihar	3	—	—	3
9.	Gujarat	—	—	1	1
Total		13	1	8	22

During the Year 1994-95 (As on 30.6.95)

1.	Uttar Pradesh	3	—	—	3
2.	Haryana	—	—	1	1
3.	Maharashtra	—	—	4	4
4.	Tamil Nadu	1	—	—	1
Total		4	—	5	9
Grand Total		46	28	89	163

[Translation]**Cess of Sugar Production**

*26. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) Whether cess is collected on Sugar for the development of Sugar Mills in the country;

(b) if so, the total amount collected through this source during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the extent of amount likely to be collected during 1994-95 keeping in view the increase in Sugar production;

(d) Whether funds have been allocated to various heads from this reserve amount during all these years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, year-wise?

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

(b) The Sugar Cess is collected not on the basis of production in a particular year but on the dispatches of Sugar from the factories in a particular period. Financial year-wise the position of Cess collected was as follows:

Financial Year	Rs. in Crores
1992-93	168.71
1993-94	165.47
1994-95	136.41 (Provisional)
Total :	470.59

(c) As mentioned above, a sum of Rs. 136.41 crores (provisional) has been collected on account of sugar Cess

during the financial year 1994-95. As on 30-06-1995, Sugar production was of the order of about 141.5 lakh tonnes for the sugar season 1994-95. The cess at the rate of Rs. 14 per quintal on this production would amount to about Rs. 198 crores when the entire sugar is ultimately dispatched from the factories. Final figures will be available only when firm production figures for the current season are in.

(d) and (e) A statement showing disbursements made for various items under SDF is enclosed.

STATEMENT

Statement Indicating the Amount Disbursed Under Various Heads of sugar Development Fund (Year Wise) During 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Sub-Heads	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1.	Subsidy for maintenance for buffer stock	—	120.82	146.62
2.	Grants-in-aid for Development of Sugar Industry	451.66	16.05	146.83
3.	Loans to Sugar Mills for Cane Development	1707.11	377.81	1326.134
4.	Loans to Sugar Mills for rehabilitation/Modernisation	9278.375	7750.062	5026.596
5.	Administration of Sugar Development Fund-Payment of Agency Charges to Financial Institutions and Salary of Some Staff etc.	96.58	196.13	188.18
6.	Expenditure on National Institute of Sugar and Sugar Technology, Mau.	—	—	11.67 (Provisional)
Total		11533.725	11860.872	6846.03

[English]

RURAL LIBRARIES

*27. PROF SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for setting up rural libraries in the villages;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

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

(d) the budget allocation made for the proposal during 1995-96 ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Such a proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A statement giving the proposed State-wise distribution attached.

(d) A Provision of Rs. 3 Crores has been made in the Budget of Department of Culture for the year 1995-96.

STATEMENT

Proposed State-Wise Distribution of Rural Libraries During 1995-96 as a Pilot Scheme

1.	2.	3.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	33
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5
3.	Assam	16
4.	Bihar	53
5.	Goa	5
6.	Gujarat	19

1.	2.	3.
7.	Haryana	10
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	5
10.	Karnataka	22
11.	Kerala	17
12.	Madhya Pradesh	35
13.	Maharashtra	33
14.	Manipur	5
15.	Meghalaya	5
16.	Mizoram	5
17.	Nagaland	5
18.	Orissa	19
19.	Punjab	11
20.	Rajasthan	23
21.	Sikkim	5
22.	Tamil Nadu	25
23.	Tripura	5
24.	Uttar Pradesh	79
25.	West Bengal	34
Union Territories		
1.	A&N Islands	3
2.	Chandigarh	3
3.	D & N Haveli	3
4.	Daman & Diu	3
5.	Delhi	3
6.	Lakshadweep	3
7.	Pondicherry	3
Total		500

Sugar Quota

*28. SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

SHRI D. VENKATESHWARA RAO :

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

(a) whether supply of Sugar through Public Distribution System has been reduced per unit due to less allocation of Sugar from Central Pool; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken by the Government to revive the quota of Sugar and the time by which it would be revived?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Central Government makes allocations of levy sugar to States for the Public Distribution System, generally on a uniform norm of 425 gms per capita per month availability to the projected population as on 1.10.1986. Due to subsequent increase in population, the actual per capita availability lower than 425 gms per month. An adhoc increase in the allocations of heavy sugar allocations was made to all the States/UT from August, 1991 to March, 1994. This additional allocation could not be continued from April, 1994 due to constraints in the availability of levy sugar. Central government has decided to restore the adhoc five per cent increase in the allocation of levy sugar to the States/UTs with effect from September, 1995. However, the actual scales of distribution to consumers is a matter under the jurisdiction of the State Governments and may vary from State to State and from region to region even within a State.

Imported Palmolein Oil

*29. SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire stock of imported Palmolein has since been sold out;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether nobody is ready to buy it as it is costly and the Government are still importing it; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to sell the existing stock of Palmolein so as to save the Government from loss?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) The State Trading Corporation is presently engaged in the process of importing RBD Palmolein for the Public Distribution System which is being lifted by the States/UTs from the Central Pool against allocations made in their favour during the financial year 1995-96

(c) and (d) Demand has been received from a number of States/UTs for supply of imported edible palmolein for PDS and orders for release of the oils have been issued accordingly.

Encroachment on Ridge in Delhi

*30. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the encroachment on ridge area in Delhi has been going on unabated;

(b) if so, the details of the Forest Land encroached upon so far; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the encroachments and to protect the ridge which was declared as reserve forest in May, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) Report have been received from various fora that encroachments have taken place on Delhi Ridge. This Ministry from time to time has taken up the matter with the Delhi Government for effective management to maintain green cover on the ridge.

The Lt. Governor of Delhi had also constituted a Committee in April 1993 for suggesting an alternative management pattern for Delhi Ridge with the objective of preserving its natural habitat. This Ministry after examination of the report of the said Committee had suggested to Delhi Government measures inter-alia to declare all areas of ridge as reserved forest and to determine status of present occupants of the ridge to identify illegal occupants.

A Forest Settlement Officer has also been appointed by the Delhi Government to determine any rights alleged to exist in favour of any person over the ridge areas notified under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act 1927. Action is now being taken to issue final notification under Section 20 of the Act to declare ridge as a reserved forest and this will include settlement of rights as well as eviction of encroachments.

[Translation]

Educational Standard

*31. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the standard of education being imparted from primary level upto college and University levels has fallen in the educational institute being run by the Union / State Governments and the standard of education being imparted in public schools is much better though the education in public schools is more expensive;

(b) if so, whether the Government have undertaken a review in this matter.

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) Whether any scheme has been formulated to make improvements; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) to

(e) There is no standardised touchstone to merit a generalised statement about the decline of educational standards in state-run institutions. Standards vary from time to time in all institutions, both private and public. However, the government is fully conscious of the need to upgrade the quality and contents of education in the state-run institutions and has been taking up specific programmes in this respect in pursuance of the National Policy on Education (NPE) , 1986. For improvement of primary education, Operation blackboard (OB), Non- Formal Education (NFE) and Teacher Education along with District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) are the major Centrally Sponsored Schemes. A number of measures have also been taken to improve the content and process of renewal of curricula, improvement of quality of text-books, inservice training of teachers to improve their professional competence and utilisation of educational technology to bring about improvement in the quality of education. Further, all technical institutions in the country are required to confirm to norms laid down by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), a statutory body created by the parliament. In order to foster quality in technical and higher education, recently the AICTE has set up a National Accreditation Council for Technical Education and the University Grants Commission has set up a similar body for higher education.

[English]

Production of Fruits

*32. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN :

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual production of fruits in the country;

(b) whether about 60 per cent of the fruits produced come from rainfed areas;

(c) whether there could be manifold increase in fruit production if the existing orchards are irrigated;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) As per the latest data available, the annual production of fruits during 1992-93 was 32.95 million tonnes.

(b) There is no survey specifically on the production of fruits in the rainfed areas. However, as per rough estimate nearly 50 % of the fruit production in the country is under the rainfed condition.

(c) and (d) Irrigation could have a significant effect in the fruits quality and yield of different fruit crops. Estimates of such increase in production have been reported in respect of acid lime and litchi as also some other fruit crops.

(e) The Government of India is providing assistance for large scale use of drip irrigation system in horticultural crops including fruits with VIII Plan outlay of Rs. 200 crores under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "use of Plastics". The assistance is limited to 50 % of the cost with a maximum limit of Rs.15,000/- per hectare. In addition, 1 hectare demonstration plots in drip irrigations are being set up in government farms in all the state.

[Translation]

Accidents

*33. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

SHRI DEV BUX SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of train accidents and derailments occurred during the last six months till date zone-wise;
- (b) the number of persons killed and injured as a result thereof;
- (c) the causes of these accidents and derailments; and
- (d) the amount of ex-gratia and compensation paid to the victims of these accidents and derailments?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Zone-wise breakup of consequential train accidents, including derailments, during the period 1.1.95 to 30.6.95 is as under :

Railway	No of Total consequential train accidents	No. of derailments
1	2	3
Central	19	17
Eastern	12	8
Northern	43	30

1	2	3
North Eastern	18	14
Northeast Frontier	12	11
Southern	30	16
South Central	15	10
South Eastern	38	34
Western	19	14
Total	206	154

(b) 199 persons lost their lives and 508 sustained injuries in these accidents.

(c) As per provisional information, 117 accidents were caused due to failure of railway staff, 39 due to failure of persons other than railway staff, 28 due to equipment failure and 3 due to sabotage. 5 accidents were incidental and 14 cases are under investigation.

(d) An amount of Rs. 8,23,750/- has been given as ex-gratia to the dependents of dead and injured passengers during the last six months. So far, no claim for compensation has been decreed by the Railway Claims Tribunal. Compensation will be paid to the claimants by the Railway Administration as and when cases are decreed by the Tribunal based on the evidence and facts.

[English]

Impact of Delayed Monsoon

*34. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL :

SHRI SANT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether delayed monsoon has created drought situation in several parts of the country and there is likelihood of shortfalls in the production of kharif crops on this account;
- (b) if so, the States mostly affected as a result thereof;
- (c) the estimated loss in the production of various crops including the oilseeds and its likely impact on the total availability of foodgrains in the country;
- (d) the measures proposed to be taken by the Union Government to meet the situation;
- (e) whether the affected States have asked for financial assistance; and
- (f) if so, the State-wise details and the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b) Although monsoon was delayed and rainfall was deficient in some of the States in early parts of the south-west monsoon season in the current year, the rainfall situation has considerably improved during the last 2-3 weeks. During the week ending 26th July, 1995, the cumulative rainfall became normal or excess of the normal in 26 out of 35 meteorological subdivisions of the country. The States which were having deficient rains in the initial period like Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Karnataka also received copious rains during this period. There is no likelihood of any significant shortfall in the production of kharif crops on account of delayed monsoon.

(c) As per present rainfall situation, no significant loss in production of kharif foodgrains and oilseeds is anticipated and availability of foodgrains in the country would remain comfortable.

(d) A multi-disciplinary Crop Weather Watch Group is continuously monitoring rainfall and crop situation in different parts of the country.

(e) and (f) A Memorandum has been received from the Government of Karnataka seeking financial assistance for drought relief measures estimated to cost Rs.256.23 crores. This memorandum was prepared taking into account rainfall situation prevailing upto 8th July, 1995. Subsequently, most parts of the Karnataka have received widespread rains. Since the situation has improved subsequently, a further assessment has to be made by the Government of Karnataka about latest situation. Moreover, the corpus of Calamity Relief Fund amounting Rs. 39.49 crore is available with the Government of Karnataka for any immediate relief measures which may be required to be taken by the State Government. No other State has asked for any assistance for drought relief measures.

Irregularities in IRCON's Project

*35. SHRI PRAMOTESH MUKHERJEE :

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned " Massive Irregularities in IRCON's Malaysian Project", published in "Indian Express" dated June 16,1995;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Internal Audit Report on Indian Railway Construction Company (IRCON) for 1994 has also made revelations regarding massive irregularities in IRCON's Malaysian Project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto ; and

(f) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to set right the IRCON's Projects?

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

(b) The matter reported in the newspaper is based on incomplete/incorrect information.

(c) to (e) A statement is attached.

(f) IRCON has been consistently doing outstanding work. In recognition of such performance, it has been awarded excellent grading by the Deptt. of Public enterprises, consecutively for last three years.

STATEMENT

(c) to (e) The internal audit is an annual exercise wherein all deficiencies are during the course of inspection. These points are then discussed at the corporate level and thereafter are either dropped or in the case of major issues involving improvements of a larger nature in the system, the necessary follow-up action is taken. The final report of accounts, audited by the statutory auditors who are nominated by the Company Law Board and also by CAG, is prepared after they have gone into the various aspects including observations of the internal audit and it is only then that they certify the accounts. The final report of the statutory auditors is incorporated in the annual report of the Company which is placed before the Parliament by December every year.

The internal Audit report for the Malaysian project for the year 1994 has raised minor points which are routine in nature and almost all the points have already been dropped cleared after clarification and corrective action. The final report of statutory auditors will be duly incorporated in the annual report of the company which will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Computerisation in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

*36. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to gradually computerise the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and its Regional Offices;

(b) if so, the annual outlay prescribed for this purpose;

(c) whether the employees are likely to be retrenched in view of this decision; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

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

(b) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has informed that during 1994-95 an amount of Rs. 21.06 lakhs has been spent toward hardware/software and site preparation of computerisation in Headquarters.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Development of sports

*37. SHRI TARA SINGH :

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated new guidelines for the development and management of sports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the performances of Sports in the country are on the decline; and

(d) if so, the effective steps taken by the Government to improve the declining performance levels?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have formulated Revised Guidelines for grants to apex sports bodies for the development and management of sports in the country. The guidelines cover areas such as conditions for recognition, prioritisation of sports disciplines, scales of assistance for coaching camps, sports equipment, competition abroad, national/international championships, selection procedure, development of coaches/referees and management practices of apex sports bodies. The guidelines are yet to be finally approved

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, in order to improve performance levels the Government have taken a number of steps in the fields of sports. These steps include the following:

(i) The Government recognises the need to select the events and disciplines for the 1998 Asian Games carefully and then concentrate the resources and expertise on them over a longer duration.

(ii) Concerned efforts are being made to improve the standard of performance of our juniors by providing them with intensive training.

(iii) The schemes of Sports Authority of India for grooming talented young children are being streamlined.

(iv) Efforts are also being made to establish sports Academies in selected disciplines in coordination with the concerned National Federations, Public and Private Sector undertakings and Sports Authority of India.

(v) National Sports Federations were asked to prepare Long Term Development Plans for the Olympics and Asian Games disciplines and as part of the plan a four year development plan coinciding with the Asian Games cycle is being prepared. These plans cover areas such as athlete development, coaching and official development, growth of clubs, domestic tournaments and international tournaments, equipment and scientific support, professional and financial management development. The plans have been prepared and approved in principle. These will be reviewed periodically.

Passing of Excise Duty Benefits to Consumers

*38 SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of industries have not passed on excise rebate to the consumers;

(b) whether Ministries of the Government have stated that there is no law under which action can be taken against the erring industries;

(c) if so, whether Government are considering to introduce any legislation providing penal action against those erring industries who have failed to pass on excise rebates to the consumers;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether the Ministry have forwarded the list of erring industries to the concerned Ministries including the Finance Ministry; and

(f) if so, their names and the action taken by Ministries against them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) BICP has been requested to conduct a study of select items for which substantive reduction in Excise/Customs duties were effected in 1995-96 budget to ascertain whether the industries have passed on the benefits to the consumers and submit its findings.

(b) to (d) Ministry of FINANCE has indicated that there is no provision in the Central Excise Laws for taking action against manufacturers for not passing the benefit of duty concessions announced in the budget to the consumers. However, MRTCP Commission have recently informed that

" in case the Govt. extends the benefit of excise duty concessions to a specified industry/ industries on the condition that the prices of the product will be reduced to the extent concessions given and in case the industry does not pass on the benefits, it becomes a case of restrictive Trade Practice of manipulation of prices and action could be taken against them under MRTP Act".

(e) and (f) The findings would be forwarded to all the concerned Ministries as soon as they are received from the BICP.

Prices of Essential commodities

*39. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA :

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

(a) whether there is tremendous increase in prices of most of the essential commodities particularly vegetables, cereals etc. in the recent past all over the country; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the steps taken by the Government to control them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) A statement showing percentage variation in the Wholesale Price Indices of essential commodities including cereals and vegetables is attached.

(b) The availability of most of the essential commodities like sugar, foodgrains, edible oils, etc.. is comfortable. The upward pressure on the prices of pulses like arhar, etc. is on account of existing gap between the demand and supply, their stagnant production for several years and their limited availability in the international market. The rise in the prices of vegetables is purely on account of poor arrivals of vegetables in the lean supply season. As far as cereals like rice and wheat are concerned, adequate buffer stocks are available and the same are being supplied through the Public Distribution System at subsidised prices. The Food Corporation of India has also stepped up its open market sale operations of rice and wheat in selected centres. In the case of pulses, apart from taking certain long-term measures to increase the production of pulses in the country, other steps taken by the Government to contain the rise in prices of pulses include placing pulses under open General Licence for imports, reduction of customs duty on import of pulses from 10% to 5% etc. The important items like rice wheat, sugar, palmolein, kerosene and softcoke are being supplied to the consumers through PDS at a price lower than the market prices.

STATEMENT

Percentage variation in the WPI of essential commodities during the week ending 8.7.95 over different periods.

Commodities	Over 1 week	Over 2 weeks	Over 1 month	Over 3 months	Over 6 months
Cereals	-0.1	Steady	+0.7	+1.0	+1.8
a) Rice	-0.1	Steady	+0.4	+ 3.3	+4.8
b) Wheat	+0.1	-0.5	+0.1	-4.1	-6.9
Jowar	+0.2	+1.0	+4.3	+6.9	+14.7
Bajra	-0.5	+1.8	+3.0	Steady	+13.8
Gram	+0.2	steady	-1.2	-10.0	-26.8
Arhar	+ 1.4	+0.8	+ 10.5	+ 20.7	+45.8
Sugar	+0.2	+0.7	+0.9	+0.8	steady
Vanaspati	steady	steady	steady	+0.1	+4.3
Groundnut oil	+0.3	+0.8	+1.0	+1.8	+18.4
Mustard oil	+3.6	+3.8	+1.9	-6.2	-5.4
Vegetables	+2.7	+2.2	+5.4	+32.2	+58.3
Tea	-1.3	-1.3	+6.6	+40.5	+9.3
Salt	+7.0	+22.0	+29.0	+35.5	+47.1

Crop Insurance Scheme

*40. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY :

SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to have some re-thinking about the speedy introduction of Crop Insurance Schemes to alleviate the sufferings of the farmers caused due to natural calamities like floods, excessive rains, droughts etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to undertake any fresh study of the problem in the light of the experiences gained in recent years in the calamities-hit areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating inter-alia the other measures proposed to be taken to extend relief to farmers in the event of natural calamities mentioned above?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) and (b) A comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme is already in operation in the country since 1985. It protects farmers against losses suffered due to natural calamities like floods, droughts etc.

(c) and (d) On the basis of experience gained over the recent year in the implementation of the scheme in different areas modifications are being considered to provide greater protection to farmers against natural calamities.

Imbalance Use of Fertilizers

168. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the report of the Fertilizer Association of India about the rising imbalance in the use of different fertilizers with long term adverse consequences for the soil health during 1994-95;

(b) the consumption pattern during 1994-95, State-wise;

(c) whether any steps have already been taken to reduce the imbalance; and

(d) the additional steps, if any which are under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of the report.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) and (d) The Government have taken following measures to narrow down the imbalance:

(i) The scheme of Concession on the sale of Phosphatic and potassic Fertilisers initiated after decontrol of these fertilizers during 1992-93 is continued since then.

(ii) A scheme on Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilisers has been taken up during the 8th Plan under which integrated use of nutrients through the use of organic manure, bio-fertilizer and micro-nutrients is promoted along with the use of chemical nutrients.

(iii) National Project on Development of Fertilizer Use in Low Consumption and Rainfed Areas has been taken up during 1994-95, under which green manure as well as integrated nutrient system is promoted.

(iv) Under the National Project on Development and Use of Bio-fertilizers, Production, distribution and use of bio-fertilizers is promoted.

(v) States are advised to organise training programmes for educating farmers about balanced use of fertilisers.

(vi) Government have proposed a Technology Mission on Biofertilizers. Implementation of the Technology Mission would also help narrow-down the imbalance in use of fertilisers.

STATEMENT

State-wise consumption of fertilizers

(Tonnes)

S.No.	State	1993-94				1994-95			
		N	P	K	Total	N	P	K	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1085746	369503	88089	1543338	1109154	382093	109940	1601187
2.	Karnataka	472816	215826	116403	805039	482498	202616	119458	804572
3.	Kerala	77599	33122	66110	176831	83725	42656	75227	201608
4.	Tamil Nadu	413884	161343	205694	780921	481868	193345	278123	953336
5.	Andaman & Nicobar	214	100	32	346	338	119	197	654

1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6.	Pondicherry	11516	3820	3933	19269	12689	3963	3931	20583
7.	Gujarat	472891	157015	39176	669082	562497	200990	50160	813647
8.	Madhya Pradesh	521264	235952	16827	773983	547538	286355	29848	863741
9.	Maharashtra	804000	259000	131000	1194000	948000	379000	187000	1514000
10.	Rajasthan	365988	133754	2627	502367	473726	147975	7943	629644
11.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	670	389	13	1072	668	408	45	1121
12.	Goa	3119	1857	1090	6066	3526	1415	1433	6374
13.	Daman & Diu	157	38	12	207	129	45	12	136
14.	Haryana	522875	148445	364	671684	550141	151629	2120	703890
15.	Himachal Pradesh	24659	2334	1621	28614	29162	2547	2262	33975
16.	Jammu & Kashmir	35166	6560	598	42324	41737	8887	1452	52076
17.	Punjab	946517	245481	7474	1199472	1032152	265144	16434	1313730
18.	Uttar Pradesh	1893528	359647	38754	2291929	2065592	424904	73190	2563686
19.	Chandigarh	507	23	4	534	356	42	1	399
20.	Delhi	13278	2443	14	15735	14202	2063	36	16301
21.	Assam	20713	4980	7701	33394	21963	4840	9794	36597
22.	Manipur	8201	853	51	9105	8959	2035	315	11309
23.	Meghalaya	1815	1132	263	3210	2237	1151	192	3580
24.	Nagaland	496	454	138	1088	255	283	109	647
25.	Sikkim	609	285	93	987	708	210	60	978
26.	Tripura	5254	1718	894	7866	5192	2210	1362	8764
27.	Arunachal Pradesh	284	213	84	580	305	237	109	651
28.	Mizoram	351	433	157	941	309	301	221	831
29.	Tea Board (N.E.)	32663	6543	8840	48046	26327	5771	16652	43750
30.	Bihar	471648	98671	15006	585325	525617	95519	34035	655171
31.	Orrisa	154591	34164	18947	207702	159536	37516	23575	220627
32.	West Bengal	425308	183212	136576	745096	450418	160352	136083	746853
33.	Lakshadweep	54	0	117	171	59	0	125	184
Total		8788321	2669301	908702	12366324	9641583	3006621	1181444	13829648

Shipping Casualties

169. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details for shipping casualties reported during 1994 and 1995 in the Indian Waters;

(b) Whether any of these casualties caused any harm to the Marine Environment;

(c) if so, the extent of pollution caused by each casualties, and

(d) the steps taken to prevent pollution of Marine Environment caused by these shipping casualties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) :
(a) The details of shipping casualties reported during 1994 and 1995 are as given in the statement.

(b) No harm has been caused to the marine environment.

(c) There was no oil spill, hence no pollution.

(d) The Indian Coast Guard ships and aircraft are equipped with pollution monitoring and control equipment. The vessels are located strategically around the coast of India for expeditious movement to the scene of any accident to combat any incident of oil pollution in the Maritime Zone of India.

STATEMENT

Shipping Casualties

S.	Date	Name	Nature
		No.	

1.	5.6.94	M.V. Sea Transporter	RAN AGROUND DUE TO CYCLONIC WEATHER
2.	5.5.94	M.V. Priyamvada	COLLISION
3.	5.6.94	M.V. Pacific Pioneer	GROUNDED
4.	5.6.94	M.V. Sanjeevani	COLLISION
5.	5.6.94	M.F.V. Zvezda Chernomorya	GROUNDED
6.	5.6.94	Tug Courageaus	GROUNDED
7.	5.6.94	M.V. Damodar Krishna	BROKE MOORING AND GOT ADMIT
8.	6.6.94	M.V. G. Mather	FLOODING IN CARGO HOLE
9.	11.10.94	M.V. Shivneri	GROUNDED
10.	30.10.94	M.V. Sagar	GROUNDED

1995

1.	26. 3.95	TSD Mandovi-II	DUE TO HEAVY INGRESS OF WEATHER IN TO THE PUMP ROOM WHICH LEAD TO THE FLOODING IN ENGINE ROOM AND SINKING.
2.	7.5.95	M.V. Lok Pragati	GROUNDED

1.	2	3	4
3.	14.5.95	M.V. Satyavati	FLOODING OF CARGO HOLE SINKING.
4.	17.7.95	M.V. Maratha Challenger	SHIP'S STARBOARD SIDE BROKEN BY HEAVY SHELL

Adult Education

170. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to provide hundred per cent financial assistance to voluntary agencies active in the field of adult education: and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Under the modified Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Agencies in Adult Education, cent percent financial assistance is being provided to eligible voluntary agencies subject to the condition that in field projects the total administrative cost does not exceed 9% of the total cost of the project.

During 1994-95 financial assistance amounting to Rs. 11.00 crores was provided on cent percent basis to 162 voluntary Agencies. In the current financial year, i.e. 1995-96 33 Voluntary Agencies have so far been provided a total financial assistance of Rs. 1.31 crores on cent percent basis.

Prostitution

171. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI :

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

(a) whether lakhs of young girls below the age of 18 are involved in prostitution in India as per UNICEF report, 1995;

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

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to eradicate this evil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARA) : (a) and (b) as per the UNICEF

Report 'Progress of Nations 1995' the estimate of the number of Children under 18 years involved in prostitution in India is 3 to 4 lakhs. However, this is only an estimation and there are no reliable statistics available about the number of child prostitutes in India or in the different States.

(c) The Government of India has set up a Central Advisory Committee to frame recommendation/plan of action for both legal and non-legal approaches for the rescue and rehabilitation of child prostitutes. The recommendation of the Committee have been sent to the concerned Central Ministries/ Departments and to the State Governments for taking appropriate action. Many of the State Governments have set up State Advisory Committees within their jurisdiction for suggesting measures for the care, protection, treatment and rehabilitation of the young victims rescued from brothel houses. Notification appointing special Police Officers and constituting local non-official advisory bodies under Section 13 of the ITPA Act, 1956 have been issued by some States. The Central Government has been requesting the States/Union Territories from time to time to issue such notification wherever they have not done so.

The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 supplemented by the Indian Penal Code prohibits trafficking in human beings including children. Higher Penalties, punishments have been prescribed in cases relating to the prostitution of a child or a minor, under the Act.

The Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 provides for the care, protection, treatment and rehabilitation of neglected or delinquent juveniles including girls.

The enforcement of the Acts is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government have issued instructions from time to time to all States/Union Territories

for strict implementation of the Act. Meetings with DGPs of all the States have been held in this regard.

The Government has an extensive network of Short Stay Home and Homes set up under the Juvenile Justice Act for protection and rehabilitation of victims. The services of qualified doctors, psychiatrists are available in the Short Stay Homes. These services are available on part time basis in the Homes under Juvenile Justice Act.

A National Plan of Action for the SAARC Decade (1991-2000 AD) of the Girl Child focussing on survival, protection and development of the girl child has been formulated. A special set of interventions for adolescent girls has been institutionalised through the ICDS infrastructure. Programmes of action and advocacy are being implemented to project positive images of girl children so as to bring about changes in social attitudes towards them.

Railway Projects

172. SHRI RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects of widening of narrow/ Metre Gauge Railway Lines into broad gauge and construction of New Railway Lines in the Maharashtra State pending with Government with period of their pendency;

(b) their present status and reasons for the pendency; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c) Requests were received from Maharashtra Government for the following new line and gauge conversion projects:

New Lines	Gauge Conversion
1. Wardha-Yavatmal -Pusad-Nanded (182 kms.)	1. Aurangabad-Parbhani (169 kms.)
2. Amravati-Narkhed (138 kms.)	2. Parbhani-Markhed-Adilabad (126 kms.)
3. Jalana-Khamgaon (115 kms.)	3. Gondia-Chanda Fort (242 kms.)
4. Pandharpur-Lonand (145 kms.)	4. Solapur-Bijapur (109 kms.)
5. Kolhapur-Ratnagiri (115 kms.)	5. Daund-Baramati (42 kms.)
6. Solapur-Beed-Aurangabad-Chalisgaon (300 kms.)	6. Miraj-Latur (359 kms.)
7. Pune-Nashik (190 kms.)	7. Pachora-Jamner (56 kms.)
	8. Nagpur-Nagbhid (120 kms.)
	9. Yavatmal-Murtizapur-Achapur (101 kms.)

Of these items, the following projects have been taken up :-

New Lines	Gauge Conversion
1. Amravati-Narkhed (Will be completed in IXth Plan)	1. Aurangabad-Parbhani (completed)
2. Jalna-Khamgaon (To be taken up as an out of turn work in 1995-96 through Supplementary Demands for Grants	2. Parbhani-Markhed-Ahilabad (Will be completed in 1996-97)
	3. Gondia-Chanda Fort (Will be completed in 1996-97)
	4. Solapur-Bijapur-Gadag (Will be completed from Solapur to Bijapur in 1995-96 and the rest in 1997-98)
	5. Miraj-Latur (Will be completed in IXth Plan)
	6. Daund-Baramati (completed)

The remaining items will be considered in the future years as per availability of resources and their priority in the overall list of such projects for the whole country.

Mangroves

173. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAM CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether mangroves exist in the coastal State of Kerala:

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) the details of total area in India covered by Mangroves and the main States/Union Territories where these exist; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to protect and preserve Mangroves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a). to (c) Mangroves in Kerala state occupy an area of 16.70 sq. kms. The details of the total area covered by mangroves in other States/Union Territories are given in the attached statement.

(d) The steps taken by the Government for the protection and preservation of mangroves include the following:

(i) A plan scheme has been launched to provide catalytic support to the State Governments/Union Territories for conservation and management of mangroves. On priority basis fifteen mangrove areas have been included in the national programme. An amount of Rs. 3.85 crores has been provided to the state governments for the implementation of management action plans. The activities under management action plans include survey and demarcation, natural regeneration, afforestation, nursery development, protection measures, education and awareness.

(ii) A National Committee on Westlands, Mangroves and Coral Reefs has been constituted to advise the Government on appropriate policies for conservation of mangroves research, training and identification of priority areas. At the State level Steering Committees have been constituted for formulation and implementation of the management action plans.

(iii) Research studies have been commissioned through the universities and research institutions for conducting scientific studies and investigations on various aspects of mangrove ecosystems.

(iv) A network of protected areas consisting of National Parks, Sanctuaries and Biosphere Reserves have been set up in the mangrove areas.

STATEMENT

State-wise Break up of Mangrove Areas (1991)

State	Area(in sq. km.)
1. Andhra Pradesh	378
2. Goa	3
3. Gujarat	419
4. Maharashtra	155
5. Orissa	195
6. Tamil Nadu	21
7. West Bengal	2119
8. Andaman & Nicobar	966
Total:	4256

Beneficiary Oriented Schemes For Women

174. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beneficiary oriented schemes for women implemented in Gujarat upto July, 1995;

(b) the number of women benefited form these schemes upto July, 1995, scheme-wise; and

(c) the number of schemes out of them directly implemented by the Department of Women & Child Development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and would be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Sustainable Agricultural Development

175. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have an idea to set up integrated data base for sustainable agricultural development in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The Government is seized of the requirement of integrated data base for sustainable agricultural development in the country.

(b) Improvement of data base in the country is a continuing process and it is being strengthened with the setting up of NICNET based Network.

Andhra Pradesh Forest Project

176. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for Organisation Development has completed the third phase of Institutional Development Study on the Andhra Pradesh Forest Project;

(b) whether the Centre is conducting this study on behalf of Andhra Pradesh Forest Department and Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Cooperation;

(c) whether the Andhra Pradesh Forest project being funded by the World Bank involves a sum of Rs. 353 crores to be spread out during the six years implementation period;

(d) if so, the extent to which the work on the project has started;

(e) whether the project aims at rehabilitation, rejuvenation and increases in productivity alongwith conservation of biodiversity and alleviation of rural poverty; and

(f) if so, the extent to which this project has been helpful in fulfilling its objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Centre for Organisation Development, Hyderabad has been engaged under Andhra Pradesh Forestry Project to take up institutional development study encompassing both Andhra Pradesh Forest Department and Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Cooperation Ltd. This study is proposed to be done on five modules. The study on three modules have already been completed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The project has been formally launched on 20th November, 1994. Under the project so far 200 Van Samrakshna Samitis have been set up for Joint Forest Management and 10,628 ha. of plantations have been raised. In addition 12.62 lakhs seedlings have been raised under Farm Forestry. Consultants have already been engaged for undertaking studies on Management Information System, Geographic Information System and vegetative propagation.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The implementation of project has just started and is gradually gaining momentum. It is expected that the objectives of the project would be fulfilled in due course.

Mahila Samridhi Yojana

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that many post masters are refusing to take the deposit of Rs. 4 from women under the Mahila Smriddhi Yojana;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that in this account families which are much better off are depositing lump sum money at many places, thereby, defeating the very purpose of the Scheme; and

(c) if so, whether any measures have been taken by the Government to effectively monitor the Scheme?

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

(b) No, Sir. The scheme does not provide for acceptance of deposits from the families.

(c) Elaborate measures are already in force for monitoring the scheme.

Extension of Railway Line

178. SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to extend the Railway Line from Namkhana to Bakkhali, a famous tourist spot of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not connecting an important sea beach from the tourist point of view?

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

(b) Does not arise,

(c) Constraint of resources.

EMU Coaches

179. DR. SUDHIR RAY :

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to replace all the outdated over-aged coaches by EMU Coaches in Asansol-Bardhaman section of Eastern Railway and to increase the frequency of EMU Coaches on Howrah-Sealdah-Khargpur-Midnapore and Asansol-Bardhaman and the other sections of South Eastern and Eastern Railways respectively; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K.JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) The conventional coach passenger trains running between Asansol-Bardhaman are being progressively replaced by main line EMU (MENU) ranks. Six pairs of passenger trains on this section have already been replaced with MENU trains and with the same rakes, one additional pair of service has been introduced in the section. Subject to availability of additional rakes, requisite resources, operational feasibility and traffic justification, increase in the frequency of EMU/MENU trains would be considered. MENU trains have been introduced/are proposed to be introduced in the following sections of Eastern and South Eastern Railways during 1995-96:

(i) Dhanbad-Gaya

(ii) Gaya-Mughal Sarai

(iii) Tatanagar-Kharagpur

(iv) Adra-Asansol

(v) Raipur Area

[Translation]

Production of cotton

180. SHRI N.J. RATHVA :

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) total production of Cotton in the country during the last three years variety-wise and State-wise;

(b) the year-wise financial assistance provided to the Cotton Growers in the country during the said period, State-wise;

(c) the quantum of cotton seeds distributed to the Cotton growing farmers during the said period, State-wise;

(d) the number of farmers among them belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Gujarat; and

(e) the steps being taken to improve the production of Cotton in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) State-wise production of cotton of all varieties during the last three years is as given below :

(In lakh bales of 170 kg. each)

S.No.	State	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11.47	13.40	13.50
2.	Gujarat	19.88	16.23	16.50
3.	Haryana	14.06	11.24	14.00
4.	Karnataka	8.65	7.70	8.59
5.	Madhya Pradesh	3.53	4.06	4.06
6.	Maharashtra	18.08	26.25	25.61
7.	Orissa	0.04	0.04	0.08
8.	Punjab	23.14	15.15	17.79
9.	Rajasthan	10.16	8.39	10.78
10.	Tamil Nadu	4.54	4.21	4.89
11.	Uttar Pradesh	0.13	0.13	0.13
12.	Others	0.34	0.32	0.32
All India total:		114.02	107.12	116.22

(b) Assistance to the cotton growing farmers is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme through the State Governments. State-wise amount released by Government of India under this scheme during the last three years is as given below:

S.No.	State	(Rs. in lakhs)		
		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1.	Andhra Pradesh	196.55	-	-
2.	Gujarat	102.555	45.65	11.65
3.	Haryana	102.39	58.71	31.92
4.	Karnataka	45.348	24.86	59.43
5.	Madhya Pradesh	55.725	20.33	-
6.	Maharashtra	174.47	71.58	361.96
7.	Orissa	2.95	3.48	3.14
8.	Punjab	109.80	151.15	227.78
9.	Rajasthan	90.535	88.35	69.41
10.	Tamil Nadu	73.652	200.06	300.94
11.	Uttar Pradesh	7.71	1.73	1.77
Total:		961.685	665.90	1088.00

(c) State-wise certified/quality seeds made available for distribution to farmers during the last three years is as given below:

S.No.	State	(Rs. in lakh quintals)		
		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.08	0.08	0.40
2.	Gujarat	0.17	0.10	0.11
3.	Haryana	0.19	0.20	0.22
4.	Karnataka	0.11	0.12	0.13
5.	Madhya Pradesh	0.08	0.10	0.10
6.	Maharashtra	1.26	1.21	1.07
7.	Rajasthan	0.17	0.23	0.61
8.	Tamil Nadu	0.04	0.04	0.04
9.	Punjab	0.14	0.09	0.11
All India Total		2.24	2.17	2.79

(d) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme envisages 25 per cent benefit to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe farmers in Gujarat also.

(e) In order to increase production and productivity of all types of cotton, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme is being implemented in 11 major cotton growing States on sharing pattern of 75:25 between Centre and State Govts. Under this scheme, incentives are provided on production and distribution of certified seeds, supply of equipments, conducting demonstration on production technology, Integrated Pest Management demonstration-cum-training, supply of sprinkler sets and farmers training etc.

[English]

Integrated Fisheries Development Project

181. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has approached the Union Government for establishing Integrated Fisheries Development Project of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC);

(b) whether such proposals have also been received from other States;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the cost involved in each case and the action taken thereon, State-wise;

(d) whether NCDC provides consultancy to the Cooperative Societies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Maharashtra Government has approached the National Cooperative Development Cooperation (NCDC) for assistance under its Integrated Fisheries Development Projects.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The details about the projects sanctioned by NCDC in the Marine and Inland Sectors are given in the Statement.

(d) and (e) NCDC provides support for engaging Consultants for preparation of the detailed project reports by the Fisheries Cooperative Societies. Proposals for appointing the Consultants have to be submitted to the NCDC through the State Govt. indicating therein the need for engaging the Consultants, the terms of reference and the cost of the consultancy, time frame as also the bio-data of the consultants etc. The amount spent for engaging the Consultant towards preparation of the detailed report is, however, provided by the NCDC under the project cost only if the project is sanctioned by the NCDC later.

STATEMENT

Details of Integrated Fisheries Development Projects Assisted by NCDC

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	Project Period	Cost	Block	Assistance	
			Sanctioned	Released	
-Marine Sector					
1. Andhra Pradesh-I	86/87 - 92/93	215.24	181.78	170.496	
2. Andhra Pradesh-II	90/91 - 95/96	2195.65	2060.16	582.895	
3. Kerala-I	85/86 - 90/91	555.84	431.69	431.690	
4. Kerala-II	86/87 - 92/93	1034.28	911.45	911.450	
5. Kerala-III	91/92 - 96/97	3560.00	3450.00	2102.178	
6. West Bengal-I	85/86 - 92/93	1526.03	1405.84	1401.440	
7. West Bengal-II	90/91 - 95/96	709.32	627.42	451.057	
8. Orissa	90/91 - 97/98	413.57	356.82	73.970	
9. Tamil Nadu	91/92 - 96/97	1588.20	1517.11	432.983	
Sub-total		11798.13	10942.27	6558.159	
-Inland Sector					
10. Gujarat	87/88 - 95/96	220.17	183.61	129.794	
11. Karnataka	87/88 - 96/97	473.88	406.58	63.199	
12. Maharashtra	91/92 - 96/97	565.85	565.85	166.664	
13. West Bengal	94/95 - 98/99	536.85	439.33	59.370	
Sub-total		1796.75	1595.37	419.027	
Grand Total		13594.88	12537.64	6977.186	

District Council of Karbi Anglong

182. DR.JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received memorandum from the District Council of Karbi Anglong regarding the District Primary Education Programme in that district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) Yes sir, a memorandum was received from Karbi Anglong District Council requesting Govt. of India for direct flow of funds under District Primary Education programme (DPEP) launched in 1994, from Govt. of India to the Karbi Anglong District Council by setting up a separate society for the district.

(c) The memorandum was examined and steps have been taken to ensure that Karbi Anglong District Council is fully represented on the management bodies of the Assam District Primary Education Programme Society. District Primary Education Programme is a decentralized programme in which districts draw up annual work plans and budget based on local specific needs and the programme's financial parameters. Funds are made available to districts after approval of the district proposals.

Foot Over Bridge

183. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for construction of Foot Over Bridge at Shertallai Railway Station in Alleppey district in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(a) and (c) Do not arise.

Forest Land to Lord Ayyappa Temple

184. PROF. P.J.KURIEN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstrated Question No. 1064 on December 13, 1994 and state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has furnished some requisite details sought by the Union Government in regard to the proposal for diversion of 115.60 hectare of forest land to Lord Ayyappa Temple, Sabrimala;

(b) if so, the details therefore; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No, Sir. Details sought by this Ministry on 23.9.94 have not been received from the state Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Opening of Krishi Vigyan Kendra

185. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount released so far by the Government for opening of Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the details of the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The ICAR has released Rs. 9.01 lakhs in the year 1994-95 for KVK, Allahabad in the year 1995-96, the total sanctioned budget in Rs. 48.9 lakhs out of which 50% has been released in first instalment.

i) The Project was sanctioned in 1994-95.

ii) The Farm land has already been earmarked for the project and it is being developed.

iii) The staff has already been recruited and is in position.

iv) The infrastructural facilities are in the process of development.

v) The Centre has already started its activities in the area.

Re-Introduction of Lions

186. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the proposal to reintroduction of some Lions in Madhya Pradesh from the Gir region of Gujarat;

(b) the Pairs of lions proposed to be sent to Madhya Pradesh as per the schemes formulated and the area of land required for this sanctuary and the number of families likely to be uprooted;

(c) whether the approval of the Government of Madhya Pradesh has been obtained for the proposed scheme; and

(d) if so, the total expenditure to be incurred on setting up on the said sanctuary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Based on the feasibility study of the proposal carried out by the Wildlife Institute of India to re-introduce lions in the Kuno-palpur Sanctuary, the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh has already initiated some preliminary project activities.

These include; a socio-economic survey of the villages requiring relocation and rehabilitation, including social impact, studies, survey and census of the prey base of assess availability and need for augmentation; habitat and infrastructure development; and public education and awareness programmes.

(b) The number of lions to be re-introduced is yet to be decided and this will depend on the results of the above mentioned pre-translocation activities. The area of the Kuno-Palpur Sanctuary is 345 sq. kms. The project will require the relocation and rehabilitation of 1575 families from 18 villages.

(c) and (d) The state Forest Department has reported that they have moved the State Cabinet for according approval to this project, including the village relocation plan. The first phase of the project covering 5 years is estimated to cost approximately Rs. 25 crores.

[English]

Locoshed and Yard

187. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal of upgrading and improving Darbhanga Locoshed and Yard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

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

Supply of milk

188. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Milk Scheme is not maintaining the time schedule for supplying the milk at the depots spread far and wide in Delhi and making people to wait for long for milk in the scorching heat;

(b) if so, the reasons for D.M.S. not maintaining punctuality in the supply of milk;

(c) by what time should the milk reach the Depots in the morning and evening; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure punctuality in the milk supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) does maintain its time schedule for supplying milk at its depots.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

(c) The milk should reach the depots a few minutes before the start of the scheduled distribution timings which are indicated below:

	Summer	Winter
Morning	5.30 AM	6.00 AM
Evening	4.00PM	3.30 PM

(d) The DMS has been instructed to ensure that milk reaches the depots ahead of the scheduled distribution timings.

Railway Line

189. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rail India Technical and Economic Services have given a report to the Railways regarding the preliminary engineering cum traffic survey conducted in the case of a Railway Line from Kottayam to Punalur via Erumely and Sabrimala in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the conclusion regarding the economic feasibility of this line from Kottayam;

(c) whether the Report of the survey from Erumely to Angamaly via Pala and Muvattupuzha has been received;

(d) whether there is a proposal to conduct engineering cum traffic survey from Angamaly to Nedumanagad and Trivandrum; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The survey work has been completed by M/s. RITES and the survey report is under finalisation by the railway in consultation with RITES.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Survey is already in progress.

Night Train

190. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no night train running between Belgaum-Hubli-Bangalore;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take steps to introduce night train on the route; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c) 283/284 Fast Passenger provides an overnight service between Bangalore and Hubli and vice-

versa. Moreover, it is proposed to introduce an over-night express train between Miraj and Bangalore via Belgaum during 1995-96.

[Translation]

Temporary Labourers in FCI

191. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of temporary labourers working in the godowns of Food Corporation of India and other places at present, State-wise;

(b) the norms fixed for regularisation of the said labourers; and

(c) the number of labourers regularised during the last three years, year-wise and removed subsequently and other labourers were recruited in their substitution?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) Number of labourers engaged in the FCI for handling foodgrains varies from day to day depending on the volume of work involved. Besides that, the Corporation has no control over the number of labourers engaged through the Mate/Workers Management Committee, Cooperative Society and Contract Systems. Exact number of labourers engaged is, therefore, not available.

(b) The workers are considered for regularisation by adopting a certain set of objective criteria such as the quantum of work available, the period for which the work is available and the work-load norms as would be applicable for a day, per workman employed after the appropriate authority under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 issues notifications prohibiting employment of Contract Labour in/under the Corporation.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Development Work

192. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the losses suffered and profit earned by the Railways during 1994-95, Zone - Wise:

(b) the details thereof:

(c) the achievements made in respect of renewal of tracks, electrification and other development works to be executed by the Railways during 1995-96, Zone-wise: and

(d) the expenditure to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b) The losses suffered and profit earned by the Railways during 1994-95 are as under:

	Central	Eastern	Northern	N.E.	N.F.	Southern	S.C.	S.E.	Western	(Rs./Crores) (Provisional)
Gross Traffic										
Receipts	3296.11	2368.71	3245.64	477.99	388.78	1327.35	1892.57	3839.18	3266.72	
Total Working										
Expenses	2565.11	2166.32	2748.54	849.72	722.44	1447.90	1588.89	2410.53	2074.19	
Net Traffic										
Receipts	731.00	202.39	497.10	-371.73	-333.66	-120.55	303.68	1428.65	1192.53	
Net Misc.										
Receipts	35.66	6.39	-5.88	9.43	78.69	53.24	13.37	77.02	-0.94	
Net Revenue	766.66	208.78	491.22	-362.30	-254.97	-67.31	317.05	1505.67	1191.59	
Dividend	180.52	115.51	162.89	57.21	-39.83	145.16	146.40	219.28	120.45	
Excess (+)/ Shortfall(-)	586.14	93.27	328.33	-419.51	-215.14	-212.47	170.65	1286.39	1071.14	

(c) Achievements in respect of Track Renewals during the last three years, Zone wise, are given below: -

Railways	Achievement of Track Renewals		
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Central	466	421	415
Eastern	389	328	295
Northern	477	431	399
North Eastern	104	100	112
Northeast Frontier	120	126	97
Southern	175	165	180
South Central	332	400	370
South Eastern	525	541	591
Western	350	302	303
Total	2938	2814	2762

As on 31.3.95 electrification of 12266 Route Kilometres have been completed. The Railway-wise /Zone-wise Route Kilometres electrified during the last three years are as under:-

Year	CR	ER	NR	SR	SCR	SER	WR	TOTAL
1992-93	138	44	9	-	58	225	5	479

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1993	136	69	34	13	11	219	23	505
-94								
1994	89	188	82	-	40	74	-	473
-95								

The new lines, doubling & Gauge Conversion works completed during the last three years are as under:-

1992-93		
NEW LINES		
Railway/Zone	Section	Length(Kms)
Central	Rampur Road-Rewa	21.00
	Birla Nagar-Sanichara	16.00
	Shivpuri-Khajuri	15.00
	Mathura-Deeg	29.00
North Eastern	Bilaspur-Rudrapur	22.00
Southern	Trichur-Guruvayoor	24.00
	Alleppey-Kayamkulam	43.00
	Ambathuria-Madurai	44.00
South Central	Telapur-Patancheru	9.00
South Eastern	Talcher-Angul	18.00
		241.00

1.	2.	3.
DOUBLINGS		
Central	Kohli-Kamleshwar	12.68
	Majhagawan-Tikaria	13.18
	Matatila-Basai	7.88
	Taku-Kala Akhar	10.48
	Betwa 'A' & 'B' Cabin	2.71
	Pakaria Road-Amdara	9.83
Eastern	Nathnagar-Bhagalput	3.83
	Jamir Ghata-Gaur Malda	5.77
	Haidernagar-Kosiara	6.07
	Japla-Haidernagar	7.02
	Kosiara-Mohammadganj	5.84
	Barasat-Duttapukur	7.67
Northern	Dhamtan Sahib-Himatpura	15.00
	Rampur-Milak	23.00
Northeast Frontier	Malda Town to 'B' Cabin	2.70
	Barsoi-Sudhani	11.91
South Central	Tandur-Mantati	8.49
	Raichur-Marichetral	29.81
Western	Mahi Bridge	1.27
		<u>185.14</u>
GAUGE CONVERSION		
Railway	Name of Section/Line	Length(Kms)
Northern	Lucknow-Kanpur	59
	Delhi-Rewari	83
	Kotkapura-Fazilka	80
	Lalgarh-Merta Road	177
	Lalgarh-Kolayat	47
North Eastern	Burhwal-Mehmoodabad	38
	Mankapur-Katra	30
Southern	Banglore-Tumkur	59
	Mysore-Banglore	138
	Banglore-Yelahanka	12
	Dindigul-Tuticorin	196
South Central	Bellary-Rayadurg	54
	Aurangabad-Jaina	64
	Parbhani-Parli Vaijnath	63

1.	2.	3.
Guntur-Narsaraopet		
South Eastern	Purilia-Kotshila	35
Western	Naddiad-Kapadwanj	45
	Sawaimadhopur-Jaipur	125
	TOTAL	1351
1993-94		
NEW LINES		
Central	Deeg-Alwar	79.00
North Eastern	Rudrapur-Kathgodam	14.00
Southern	Chitradurg-Rayadurg	100.00
South Eastern	Sambalpur-Maneswar	18.00
		211.00
DOUBLINGS		
Central	Kiratgarh-Kalaakhar	12.00
	Metpanjara-Bharatwada	16.00
	Narkhed-Metpanjara	34.00
	Narmada Bridge	1.00
Eastern	Jaminghata-Khaltipur	6.00
	Khaltipur-Chamagram	9.00
	Bonidanga Link Cabin	2.00
	Kiul-Jamalpur-Bhagalpur	5.00
	Mughalsarai-Gankkhar ja	4.00
Northern	Nizamuddin-Tilak Bridge	5.00
	Rampur-Azadpur	8.00
	Rohtak-Jhakal	11.00
Northeast	Telta-Dalkola	8.00
Frontlier		
Southern	Quilon-Darungapalli	14.00
South Central	Serum-Malkhaid	12.00
	Ligeri-Narayanpet	13.00
	Narayanpet-Chegunta	11.00
	Yadgir-Lingeri	11.00
	Thagundi-Yadgir	8.00
South Eastern	Joranda Road-Dhenkanal	9.00
	Raipur-Vizianagram line	83.00

1.	2.	3.
	Western Bolai-akodia	12.00
	Mahi Bridge	1.00
	<u>Total</u>	<u>295.00</u>
GAUGE CONVERSION		
Central	Daund-Baramati	42.00
Northern	Bathinda-Hissar	157.00
	Phulera-Jodhpur-Bhagathkhi-Kothi	261.00
	Patel Nagar-Sarai Rohilla	3.00
	Merta Road-Merta City	15.00
North Eastern	Mehmoodabad-Sitapur	60.00
	Varanasi-Allahabad	126.00
	Lucknow-Manaknagar	5.00
	Lalkuan-Kathgodam	29.00
Northeast	Guwahati-Lumding	181.00
Frontier	Tunkur-Chikjapur	215.00
Southern	Chikjapur-Chitradurg	16.00
	Mysore-Ashokapuram	5.00
	Tambaram-Egmore	27.00
South Central	Nararopet-Donkonda	75.00
	Jalna-Parbhani	116.00
	Falaknuma-Secundrabad	28.00
	Bolarum-Secunderabad	14.00
	Falaknuma-Mehboobnagar	99.00
South Eastern	Gondia-Arjuni	82.00
Western	Jaipur-Phulera	55.00
	Jaipur-Durgapur	8.00
	<u>Total</u>	<u>1619.00</u>

1.	2.	3.
DOUBLINGS		
Central	Narmada Bridge	3.60
Eastern	Mohammadganj-Satbahini	6.92
	Sidraja-Chandulimajhwar	8.40
	Chandilumajhwar-GanjkwaJa	8.5
	GanjkwaJa-Mughalsarai	7.00
Northern	Milak-Nagariasadat-Dhaneeta	16.00
	Bhitora-Paresakhenda	5.00
Northeast	New Jalpaiguri-Ambarifalakata	9.00
Frontier		
South Central	Chittpur-Mulkhaid Road	9.67
	Sulehalli-Chittpur	6.01
	Nawandgi-Kurkunda	7.55
	Rukmapur-Tandur	11.00
Sout Eastern	Tirubali-Singhapuram Road	11.00
	Singhapuram Road-Rayagada	9.00
Southern	Rayagada-Ladda	5.00
	Muriguda-Bissamcuttack	18.00
	<u>Total</u>	<u>141.65</u>
GAUGE CONVERSION		
Northern	Hissar-Rewari	143
	Delhi Cantt.-DLI/NDLS	14
North Eastern	Muzaffarpur-Raxaul	129
Northeast	Champeerumukh-Haibargaon	21
Frontier	Lumding-Naillung	22
Southern	Birur-Shimoga	63
	Amritapur-Chitraddurg	18
	Chikjapur-Harihar	60
	Harihar-Hubli	120
South Central	Parbani-Purna	29
	Purna-Nanded	32
	Donakonda-Giddalur	84
	Hubli-Londa	93
	Miraj-Londa	188
	Alnavar-Ambevadi	26

1994-95

NEW LINES

Central	Sanichera-Nonera	13.00
Eastern	Kulpi-Karanjali	5.00
	<u>Total</u>	<u>18.00</u>

1.	2.	3.
	Hubli-Gadag-Harlapur	78
South Eastern	Arjuni-Wadsa	23
Western	Rewari-Jaipur	225
	Phulera-Ajmer	81
	Khodiya-Mehsana	52
	Jodhpur-Jaisalmer	295
	Total	1805

(d) and (e) The details of electrification, new lines, doubling and gauge conversion works to be taken up during 1995-96 are as under:

Electrification

Railway	Name of the Project	RKMS to be electrified in 1995-96	Expenditure likely to be incurred in 1995-96 (Rs. in Crs)
Central	Bina-Katni (Residual Works to be completed)	-	4.72
Eastern	Sonnagar-Pastratu	65	40.00
	Sitarampur-Mughalsarai	32	31.00
	Gombia-Patraru	41	10.00
	Jamaoba-Mohuda	22	4.07
	Bandel-Katwa	52	20.20
Northern	Delhi-Ambala-Ludhiana	128	50.00
	Ambala-Muradabad	-	1.70
Southern	Erode-Ernakulam (including Cochin Harbour Terminus)	146	26.00
South	Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam	176	75.91
Central	Renigunta-Guntkal-Hospet (incl. Ranjipura-torangallu)	-	-
South	Katni-Bilaspur & Annupur	-	55.00
Eastern	Bishrampur/Chirimiri (Residual works to be completed Bokaro Steel	67	18.20
	City-Barsuan/Kiriburu		

1.	2.	3.	4.
	Chandil-Muri-Barakakana	-	5.20
	Adra-Midnaur	-	2.50
	Kharagpur-Bhuvaneswar	-	40.00
(incl. Talcher-Paradeep)			
GAUGE CONVESION			
Railway	Name of the section	Cost in crs.	
Northern	Luni Jodhpur	20.00	
North Eastern	Mathura-Achnera	32.00	
	Narakatiaganj-Bagaha-Valmikinagar	40.38	
	Khadda-Gorakhpur	45.00	
	Gorakhpur-Gonda loop	189.46	
	Indara-Phaphana	27.28	
Northeast	Siliguri Jn.-New Jalpaiguri Jn.	4.80	
Frontier	Dhubri-Fakiragram	36.00	
Southern	Mysore-Hassan	80.00	
	Yashwanthpur-Salem	140.00	
	Trichy-Nagore-Karaikal	100.00	
South Eastern	Rupsa-Bangriposi	57.95	
	Jabalpur-Gondia	185.00	
Western	Agra-Bandikui	88.73	
	Gandhidham-Bhuj	26.14	
	Wankaner-maliya-Miyana	51.00	
	Chittaurgarh-Udaipur	104.78	
DOUBLINGS			
Central	Diva-Vasai Road	90.00	
	Diva -Panvel	47.00	
	Dhaund-Bhigwa	38.78	
	Nishatpura-(A & D Cabina)	2.77	
Eastern	Gushjara-Bolpur-ph.III	24.14	
	Budge-Budge-Akra-Ph.I	7.85	
	Patna-Gaya	82.00	
Northern	Tundla-Yamuna Bridge	24.60	
	Muradnagar-Meerut	31.00	

1.	2.	3.
Southern	Ghaziabad-Muradabad patch doubling	30.00
	Kanpur-Panki-third line	20.00
	Kuttipuram-Guruvayoor	40.00
South Eastern	Bangalore-Kangeri	23.58
	Raghunathpur-Gorakhnath-Rahama (Patch doubling)	25.00
Western	Urkura-Raipur-Sarona	11.89
	Kota-Gurla-doubling of Chambal bridge	8.49
	Bombay Central-Borivali	39.80
NEW LINES		
Central	Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vaijnath	353.00
	Jalna-Khamgaon	228.00
Northeast	Kumarghat-Agarthala	575.00
Frontier		
Southern	Kottur-Harihar	65.93
South Eastern	Dallirajahare-Jagdalpur	128.00
	Bishrampur-Ambikapur	28.73

Working Women Hostels

193. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

- (a) the number of hostels for working women in Bihar;
- (b) the number of proposals received for the construction of such hostels from the State during the last three years;
- (c) the number of proposals approved and the amount allocated for this purpose; and
- (d) the time by which the remaining proposals are likely to be approved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI) : (a) 8 hostels have been sanctioned in Bihar so far to provide accommodation to 482 working women, since inception of the Scheme of financial assistance for construction/expansion of hostels building for working women with day care centre for children.

(b) Five

(c) Nil. Grants totalling Rs. 21.89 lakh were released

during the years 1992-93, 1992-94 and 1994-95 in respect of hostels sanctioned earlier and under construction in Bihar.

(d) Working Women's Hostels would be sanctioned as soon as complete proposals recommended by the State Government are received

[English]

Storage Capacity With FCI

194. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY :

DR. K.V.R.CHOWDARY :

(a) whether the FCI have any proposal in regard to improving and strengthening the storage facilities:

(b) if so, the details of the States where FCI have any proposal to construct godowns and expand the existing capacity in the near future, location-wise:

(c) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the total storage capacity of Food Corporation of India at present, state -wise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir . The existing storage capacity available with Food Corporation of India (FCI) as on 1.6.1995 was 285.79 lakh tonnes. FCI hires storage capacity from Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) as Well private parties, according to its need., The field officers have been authorised to hire additional storage capacity. The Corporation is also providing additional Railway Siding, Lorry Weighbridges as well as in-motion electronic weighbridges as measures for improving its storage facilities.

(b) and (c) FCI had proposed to construct an additional storage capacity of 6.60 lakh tonnes in the country during the 8th Five Year Plan (1992-97), out of which it has already constructed a capacity of 3.14 lakh tonnes. The Corporation proposes to construct an additional capacity of 1.43 lakh tonnes during 1995-96 at the following centres:-

S.No.	Centre (State)	Capacity	
		(in '000 tonnes)	
1	2	3	
1.	Bellary (Karnataka)		10.00
2.	Kullu (Himachal Pradesh)		1.67
3.	Jowai (Meghalaya)		5.00
4.	Srinagar (Jammu & Kashmir)		5.00
5.	Katni (Madhya Pradesh)		10.00
6.	Jammikunta (Andhra Pradesh)		10.00

1	2	3
7.	Kazipet (Andhra Pradesh)	15.0
8.	Zangapalli (Andhra Pradesh)	15.0
9.	Patiala (Punjab)	29.18
10.	Dhuri (Punjab)	21.69
11.	Rai Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh)	20.00
	Total	142.54

(d) A statement is attached.

Statement showing State-Wise total storage capacity with food corporation of India as on 1.6.1995

S.NO	State/UTs	Total storage capacity (in lakh tonnes)
1	2	3
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.12
2.	Andhra Pradesh	24.37
3.	Assam	2.79
4.	Bihar	6.23
5.	Goa	0.15
6.	Gujarat	14.60
7.	Haryana	20.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.25
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.97
10.	Karnataka	4.16
11.	Kerala	5.43
12.	Madhya Pradesh	16.98
13.	Maharashtra	19.18
14.	Manipur	0.13
15.	Meghalaya	0.17
16.	Mizoram	0.15
17.	Nagaland	0.18
18.	Orissa	4.22
19.	Punjab	83.67
20.	Rajasthan	19.40
21.	Sikkim	0.08
22.	Tamil Nadu	7.99
23.	Tripura	0.35
24.	Uttar Pradesh	36.56

1	2	3
25.	West Bengal	12.27
26.	Chandigarh	1.16
27.	Delhi	3.81
28.	Pondicherry	0.41
	Total	285.78*

Note* includes a capacity of 147.25 lakh tonnes hired from CWC, SWCs, State Govts & privates.

Vacant Posts in the Ministry

195. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the category-wise number of posts lying vacant in his Ministry/Department and subordinate offices along with the date since when these are lying vacant; and

(b) if so, the reasons for keeping these posts vacant and the time by which these are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The required information is given in the attached statement.

(b) Action to fill up vacant posts is initiated in advance except in case of unforeseen vacancies. Some of the reasons for posts remaining unfilled are: non-availability of suitable candidates, delay in receipt of nominations from nominating authorities, delay on the part of organisations in sending complete documents of applicants, delay in verification of character and antecedents and medical examination of selected candidates, etc.

Filling up of vacant posts in accordance with the prescribed procedure is a continuous process, in which Department of Personnel & Training/Staff Selection Commission, Union Public Service Commission etc. are involved. It is not possible to indicate any time limit for filling up of the posts under reference.

STATEMENT

Sl No.	Name of the post	Group	Number of Posts	Date since when lying vacant	5.
1.	2.	3.	4.		5.
Ministry of Civil Supplies, CA & PD (Proper)					
1.	Deputy Director (Coop)	A	2	20-06-1995	
2.	Deputy Director (SMIS)	A	1	01-04-1995	
3.	Deputy Director (OL)	A	1	01-04-1995	
4.	Programmer	A	1	12-08-1992	
5.	Research Assistant	B	1	27-07-1991	

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
6.	Senior Technical Asstt.	B	3	13-01-1994
				01-04-1994
				28-03-1995
7.	Assistant	B	2	07-06-1995
8.	Investigator	C	2	06-10-1993
				1-11-94
9.	Upper Division Clerk	C	4	16-03-1995
10.	Steno Grade "D"	C	1	22-06-1995
11.	Orderly Officer	C	1	11-08-1994
12.	Lower Division Clerk	C	4	17-11-1994
				01-12-1994
				12-12-1994
				06-01-1995
13.	Computist	C	1	22-06-1995
14.	Staff Car Driver	C	2	08-01-1993
				1995*
15.	Jamadar	D	1	01-07-1995
16.	Peon	D	2	19-12-1994
				31-01-1995

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Regional Reference Standard Laboratory Ahmedabad				
1.	Deputy Director	A	1	01-12-1993
2.	Assistant Director	A	1	01-08-1993
3.	Metrological Asstt.	B	1	01-09-1993
4.	Laboratory Attendant	D	1	12-06-1991
Regional Reference Standard laboratory Bangalore				
1.	Assistant Professor	A	2	04-11-1992
2.	Metrological Asstt.	B	1	13-11-1987
3.	A/C Mechanic	C	1	13-11-1987
Regional Reference Standard Laboratory, Bhubaneswar				
1.	Assistant Director	A	1	19-10-1994
2.	Stenographer Gr.III	C	1	01-11-1994
3.	Peon	D	1	01-04-1993
Directorate of Vanaspati, Veg. Oils and Fats New Delhi				
1.	Deputy Director	A	1	10-05-1991
2.	Programmer	A	1	30-06-1994
3.	Administrative Officer	A	1	09-12-1993
4.	Assistant	B	2	01-09-1994
				18-03-1995
Forward Market Commission, Bombay				
1.	Director (Enforcement)	A	1	01-12-1993
2.	Assistant Director	A	2	02-05-1994
				08-06-1994
3.	Enforcement Officer	B	1	14-09-1994
4.	Hindi Officer	B	1	13-03-1993
5.	Senior Research Asstt.	B	2	24-01-1994
				01-03-1995
5.	Junior Research Asstt.	C	1	16-12-1992
7.	Junior Hindi Translator	C	1	09-07-1993
8.	Computer	C	1	01-06-1993
9.	Lower Division Clerk	C	2	01-11-1994
				03-04-1995
10.	Stenographer	C	1	03-08-1994
11.	Peon	D	1	01-04-1995
Indian Institute of Legal Metrology Ranchi, Bihar				
1.	Professor	A	1	01-11-1992
2.	Assistant Professor	A	10	04-11-1987

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
3.	Metrological Asstt.	B	1	01-10-1993
4.	Librarian	B	1	04-11-1987
5.	Steno Grade III	C	1	04-03-1987
6.	Upper Division Clerk	C	1	04-11-1987
7.	Lower Division Clerk	C	2	01-03-1990
8.	Store Keeper	C	1	01-02-1992
9.	Duplicating Mach. Op.	D	1	01-06-1988
10.	Peon	D	1	06-06-1988
11.	Pumpman	D	1	04-11-1987
12.	Plumber	D	1	04-11-1987
13.	Mali	D	1	31-05-1995

National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi

1.	Section Officer	B	1	22-07-1995
2.	Court Master	B	1	01-02-1995
3.	Stenographer Gr. C	B	2	10-09-1994 01-04-1995

Cultural Relations

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

- (a) the policy of the Government to strengthen the cultural relationship between India and various important countries of the world;
- (b) the trust areas identified and included in various protocols signed during the past four years between India and different countries;
- (c) the major achievements during the last four years and plans proposed for the next two years;
- (d) whether the performance of the Missions abroad has recently been assessed at high level and the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the plans to improve cultural relations with U.K., U.S.A., China and Japan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) With a view to renewing revitalising and strengthening the cultural links between India and many countries in the world, the Government has been pursuing

actively a policy of cultural cooperation through a system of bilateral Cultural Agreements, Cultural Exchange Programmes and other programmes aimed at projecting India's culture and image abroad.

(b) the trust areas of cooperation identified and included in various protocols cover, besides art and culture wide, ranging activities in the fields of Education (including academic activities in the fields of science and technology), Public Health, Agricultural Research and Education, Tourism, Mass-Media including TV, Radio, Films and Press, Sports and Youth activities etc.

(c) The cultural interaction with various countries has led to enhanced people-to-people contacts and has also fostered closer links between academic and cultural institutions paving the way for long term institutional linkages. The rich and varied cultural heritage of the country has been projected in its proper perspective besides exchanges of language teachers, scholars in various fields for sharing experiences and ideas in the fields of their respective activities.

It is proposed to continue pursuing the policy of cultural cooperation in terms of the objectives enriched in the Cultural Agreements with various countries in the future.

(d) The Ministry of External Affairs Periodically assesses the performance of its Missions abroad through the visit of Foreign Service Inspectors who, during their visit to the Missions, go into the whole gamut of the functioning of the Missions, including cultural aspects. Based on the recommendations of the Foreign Service Inspectors, the functioning of the Missions is strengthened in desired areas, if required.

(e) Effects are being made to promote cultural exchanges with different countries. With U.K., a number of cultural activities are being organised through the Nehru Cultural Centre in London and other private organisations. Under the aegis the Indo-US Sub-Commission on Education and Culture, various projects in the field of culture and education are being undertaken. The cultural relations with China and Japan are proposed to be strengthened through bilateral cooperation in the fields of art & culture, education, mass-media of radio TV & Press, sports and youth activities including exchange of sports teams, scholars, students, members of academic and cultural institutions award of scholarships etc.

197. DR. K.V.R.CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount allocated to each State for the development of Agriculture during the last three years and the current financial year;

(b) the funds actually utilized by each State during the above period;

(c) whether some State Governments have sought more funds for the purpose during the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to make Agriculture a viable Profession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) A statement indicating State-wise plan outlay for Agriculture and allied activities during 1992-93 to 1995-96 is enclosed in Statement-I.

(b) The figures of actual expenditure by each State during 1992-93 and 1993-94 and revised outlay for 1994-95 are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) to (e) Except State Government of Nagaland, no other State has asked for more funds from the Planning Commission during the current year. The request is for an additional Central assistance of Rs. 22.18 crores for agriculture marketing in Nagaland.

Planning Commission have recommended and amount of Rs. 6.45 crores to be provided under their State Plan during 1995-96 and 1996-97.

(f) Some of the major steps taken by the Government to accelerate economic viability of agriculture include greater focus on public sector investments, substantial increase in farm credit, increase in minimum support prices of agricultural commodities, reduction in restrictions on domestic and foreign trade in agricultural commodities including seeds etc.

STATEMENT - I

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl	State	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	
1995-96		No.	-Appd.	Appd.	
Appd.		Appd.			
outlay		outlay	outlay	outlay	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	41.23	59.87	64.70	*
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	34.66	39.60	42.93	49.70
3.	Assam	133.31	139.33	139.33	166.00
4.	Bihar	150.37	158.02	158.02	155.43

* Not finalised

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Goa	10.73	11.26	11.34	11.19
6.	Gujarat	126.26	126.26	133.31	*
7.	Haryana	71.26	75.83	75.14	89.64
8.	Himachal Pradesh	86.60	93.58	100.11	107.69
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	80.86	91.90	94.46	110.11
10.	Karnataka	152.02	213.03	227.58	237.35
11.	Kerala	154.55	161.30	152.25	207.25
12.	Madhya Pradesh	188.45	181.64	185.05	213.83
13.	Maharashtra	256.50	343.31	372.87	*
14.	Manipur	21.47	23.60	24.51	26.63
15.	Meghalaya	37.56	44.74	41.99	38.12
16.	Mizoram	22.48	26.27	24.02	21.90
17.	Nagaland	22.40	23.60	21.10	21.10
18.	Orissa	161.42	137.87	150.12	170.83
19.	Punjab	96.45	82.64	89.55	107.89
20.	Rajasthan	171.20	182.15	245.55	317.40
21.	Sikkim	13.30	14.32	12.92	19.42
22.	Tamil Nadu	215.67	237.39	243.60	265.65
23.	Tripura	68.85	62.90	32.26	47.58
24.	Uttar Pradesh	377.51	312.94	367.68	396.07
25.	West Bengal	89.72	67.48	96.00	102.78
	U.Ts.				
26.	A & N Islands	11.36	11.70	16.27	15.73
27.	Chandigarh	2.68	3.00	1.75	2.60
28.	D & N Haveli	3.54	6.85	5.58	5.22
29.	Daman & Diu	1.47	1.41	1.41	1.60
30.	Delhi	12.00	9.68	12.10	13.60
31.	Lakshadweep	5.13	6.06	6.45	6.83
32.	Pondicherry	10.00	12.85	18.52	22.40

STATEMENT - II

Sl.	State/UT	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
95	No.	(Actual Expenditure)		
	Revised Outlay			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	57.64	64.74	34.49

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	32.70	34.59	42.07
3.	Assam	74.45	102.93	118.23
4.	Bihar	71.53	36.81	46.46
5.	Goa	9.77	10.89	10.43
6.	Gujarat	126.23	106.37	133.30
7.	Haryana	70.40	74.36	71.02
8.	Himachal Pradesh	84.06	83.63	88.10
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	78.62	81.02	98.47
10.	Karnataka	137.12	185.57	198.58
11.	Kerala	123.57	164.44	192.25
12.	Madhya Pradesh	137.75	149.28	164.60
13.	Maharashtra	193.53	242.91	346.37
14.	Manipur	20.93	18.10	21.06
15.	Meghalaya	34.26	31.70	26.24
16.	Mizoram	21.75	23.65	20.82
17.	Orissa	131.29	91.76	94.89
18.	Punjab	53.74	74.01	83.32
19.	Nagaland	8.60	16.21	6.18
20.	Rajasthan	128.24	161.01	245.80
21.	Sikkim	13.91	12.77	14.80
22.	Tamil Nadu	260.36	275.38	234.17
23.	Tripura	39.58	28.76	32.01
24.	Uttar Pradesh	330.18	311.13	348.59
25.	West Bengal	42.04	70.85	90.00

Union Territories:

1.	A & N Islands	9.43	10.53	16.27
2.	Chandigarh	2.57	2.83	1.75
3.	D & N Haveli	3.66	7.24	5.58
4.	Daman & Diu	1.39	1.28	1.41
5.	Delhi	9.73	6.80	12.10
6.	Lakshadweep	4.01	5.11	6.45
7.	Pondicherry	9.73	12.57	18.94

Industrial Pollution in Himachal Pradesh

198. PROF. PREM DHUMAL Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any

representation/complaint against various polluting industrial units including cement units in various Districts of Himachal Pradesh and failure of the State Pollution Control Board to take any action;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to send Central Pollution Control Board Team there;

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government; and

(e) if no action is proposed to be taken, reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) Complaints have been received about industrial pollution caused by a cement plant at Barmana, District Bilaspur, a lime kiln at Jadot, District Hamirpur, and general environmental degradation in Himachal Pradesh.

(c) to (e) As per the information provided by the Central Pollution Control Board, the major polluting industries in the State except one unit, are complying with the environmental standards. However, Himachal Pradesh Pollution Control Board has been asked to send an inspection team to assess the compliance status of the cement plant, against which a complaint has been received and has also been directed to take immediate necessary action against the defaulting unit. Further the District authorities have been asked to investigate the complaint the kiln at Jadot and take suitable action for redressal of the complaint. In addition, several steps have been taken by the Central Government to prevent environmental degradation. These include the following:

(i) Emission and effluent standards have been notified for the major categories of polluting industries.

(ii) Industries have been directed to install necessary pollution control equipment within a stipulated time-frame and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

(iii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

[Translation]

Central State Farms in Rajasthan

199. SHRI KUNJEE LAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land covered under Central State Farms in Rajasthan;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI) Limited has three farms in Rajasthan, namely, Central State Farm, Suratgarh, Sardargarh and Jetsar having an area of around 16,234 hectares.

(b) The total area utilised for production of seeds of foodgrain during 1994-95 was approximately 8343 hectares.

(c) The quantity of seeds of foodgrains produced in these farms during 1994-95 is likely to be 79,855 quintals.

[English]

Admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "KVs admission scheme drawsflak" appeared in the 'Pioneer', dated July 10, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the admissions in Kendriya Vidyalayas under special dispensation scheme exceed ten percent of the total admissions of the previous academic year;

(c) whether the class strength exceeds more than thirty five student per section due to the Special Dispensations Scheme;

(d) whether special dispensation provision affects the admission prospects of the deserving students; and

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to abolish the admission under Special Dispensation Scheme so that only deserving students and wards of Central Government employees get admission without any hassles?

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

(b) Yes, Sir, it has exceeded during 1994-95

(c) Yes, Sir, in some cases.

(d) No Sir. The admissions under special dispensations are over and above the class size of 35 enrolment per section

(e) Does not arise.

Wild Life Products

201. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :

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

(a) the details of seizures of wild animal skins, bones and other wildlife products since January 1995 in Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras separately;

(b) the details of gangs of poachers and dealers in animal parts/ products apprehended in connection therewith; and

(c) the steps being taken to stop smuggling of wildlife products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) :

(a) Details of seizures of wild animal skins, bones and other wildlife products since January, 1995 in Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras are given in the Statement attached.

(b) 18 persons were arrested in connection with the secure of wild animal products.

(c) Steps taken by the Government to stop smuggling of wildlife products include:

i) Hunting of Scheduled wild animals has been banned by law.

ii) Central assistance is provided to State/UT Govts. for strengthening anti-poaching infrastructure.

iii) Special schemes for protection and conservation of tiger, elephants and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.

iv) A network of wildlife sanctuaries and National Park has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of national parks and sanctuaries on request from the State Governments.

v) Raids are carried out by the Wildlife Authorities whenever information of illegal trading in wild animals reaches them.

vi) International trade in endangered species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

vii) Regional and Sub-regional offices of Wildlife Conservation are set up mostly at the main export centre of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

viii) Interdepartmental coordination is being enhanced with other enforcement organisations like Police, BSF, Customs, ITBP, Coast Frauds etc. A training programme on CITES enforcement and implementation was also conducted for all these organisations at New Delhi in February, 1995.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Item seized	Delhi	Bombay	Calcutta	Madras
1.	Leopard skin	5 Nos.	—	—	2Nos.
2.	Desert fox skin	796 nos	—	—	—
3.	Desert cat skin	212 nos	—	—	—
4.	Jungle cat skin	21 nos.	—	—	2
5.	Civet cat skin	7 nos.	—	—	—
6.	Otter skin	45 nos.	—	—	—
7.	Mongoose skin	61 nos.	—	—	—
8.	Lion skin	—	—	—	1no.
9.	Antelope skin	—	1 no.	—	—
10.	Tiger skin	—	—	—	1 no.
11.	Fishing cat skin	—	—	—	5 no.
12.	Leopard cat skin	—	—	—	2 no.
13.	Cheetal skin	—	—	—	3 nos.
14.	Monitor lizard skin	—	—	—	168 nos.
15.	Snake skin and article	—	11 nos.	—	24774 nos.
16.	Jackal fur skin and article	7 nos.	—	448 nos.	—
17.	Wild animal fur article	—	2016 Kg (2nos.)	—	—
18.	Mongoose hair brushes	—	—	312 pcs	—
19.	Ivory article	867 pcs	9pcs	7pcs	—
		6.236 kg+1 set	3 Kg		
20.	Femur bone of wild animal	—	—	11.20	—
21.	Turtle carapace	—	1 no.	—	—
22.	Antlers of Sambar & Deer	—	501 kg.	—	—
23.	Bone of ovis species	—	1 no.	—	—

SHIVALIK HILLS

202. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the ecological disaster of Shivalik Hills:

(b) whether the Government propose to save the Shivalik from ecological disaster;

(c) if so, the projects/schemes proposed to be implemented for the purpose; and

(d) the funds earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Various factors like population pressure deforestation,

Soil erosion, landslides have resulted in trends which could lead to the ecological degradation in Shivalik Hills.

(b) to (d) Keeping in view the ecological importance Himalayas, Government have set up Govind Ballabh Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development which has mandate to undertake indepth research and development in Himalayas including Shivaliks. This Institute is implementing action oriented ecodevelopment research and development programme in the areas.

A world Bank aided integrated watershed development project (Hills) is being implemented in the States of Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir at the cost of Rs. 187.58 crores for ecological restoration of Kandi tract in the Shivalik Hills. State Government of Jammu and Kashmir has furnished a project proposal for integrated

ecodevelopment of Shivalik at a cost of Rs. 202.67 crores for seeking external assistance. After examination of the proposal the State Government has been requested to revise the project. Ecological Task Force of Ex-servicemen also undertakes ecological restoration activities in part of the Shivalik Hills. In addition, afforestation programmes under difference schemes are also being implemented in the region.

[Translation]

Advertisement of Saharsa forest Division

203. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the advertisement under the caption "Saharsa Forest Division" appearing in the Rashtriya Sahara, dated July 6, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the Government had given directions for publishing the advertisement to this effect in the newspaper published from Delhi;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether such an advertisement was published to mislead the people of Saharsa Division of Bihar; and

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

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

Irregularities by Ticket Examiners

204. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: (a) whether the Government have reviewed the working of officers and units entrusted with the task to inquire into the irregularities committed by Ticket Examiners;

(b) if so, the outcome of such review; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c) The performance of the staff and officers entrusted with the ticket checking duties is regularly reviewed by the senior officers at Divisional, Headquarter and Board's level by way of assessing their performance through periodical returns checks, annual confidential reports etc. As a result of the review, suitable action is taken wherever the officials are found lacking in their performance. Consequent upon the constant vigil being kept, the ticket checking earnings showed an improvement of 23.2% in 1994-95 as compared to 1993-

94. During April-May, 1995, the earnings is 25.8% more as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

[English]

Development of Kharland

205. SHRI DILEEP Bhai SANGHANI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: (a) the total area in Gujarat State which is known as Kharland;

(b) whether the Government have prepared any programme to develop this Kharland and the total such land brought under cultivation in the State so far;

(c) whether the Government have given any special grant to the State during 1994-95 and 1995-96; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) In Gujarat State total Kharland area is roughly estimated as 11.30 lakh hectares.

(b) The state Government has been developing Kharland through the Gujarat Kharland Development Board. So far, about 9129 hectares of Kharland has been brought under cultivation.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Killing of Rare Species

206. SHRIMATI KRISHENDRA KAUR:

SHRIMATI MAHANDRA KUMARI:

SHRI P. KUMARASAMY:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned " Rare species killed for marks", appearing in the Hindustan Times, dated July 4, 1995;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against the guilty persons ?

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

(b) and (c) The Assam Forest Department have informed that on receipt of the information they took up the matter with the Vice-Chancellor of Guwahati University and requested him not to accept stuffed animals from the college

students. The wildlife officials also carries out search operations jointly with the Aranyak Nature Club and the Institute for Scientific and Technological Research in the various colleges at Guwahati. The team could not find any stuffed article of scheduled animals except stuffed items of common pigeon, duck and fishes only.

Railway Wagons

207. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY:

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has conducted survey on Railway Wagons Concerning coal movement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon ?

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

(b) The survey has concluded that loading of coal for non-core sectors as a whole has shown a declining trend during the last two years.

(c) Preferences is given to supply coal to thermal power stations, cement, steel plants and other industries in the core sectors. Supply of coal to important industries in non-core sector is also monitored and assistance as considered necessary is given from time to time. Zonal Railways have been instructed to endeavour to meet the demand of non-core sector.

Amendments to Consumer Protection Act, 1986

208. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred Question No 3244, dated April 25, 1995 regarding amendments to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and state:

(a) whether the Inter-State Working Group set up under the Chairmanship of West Bengal Government has since submitted its Report; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which the Report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The main recommendations are to enlarge the scope of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986; conferring

more powers on consumer courts; simplifying the procedures etc.

[Translation]

Prices of Papers

209. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Text Books and Exercise Books have become costlier for students due to frequent and enormous increase in the prices of papers;

(b) whether quality of papers used in Exercise Books has deteriorated and number of books has gone out of market due to increase in prices of papers;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the position, at least for the student community?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) (b) as per the study conducted by NCERT, by and large, presently, there is no/marginal increase in the price of textbooks published by NCERT/ State Governments, though some increase in prices of books published privately has been observed. Prices of exercise books have increased at some places due to an increase in the prices of paper.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Industry have informed that prices of paper have increased on account of rise in cost of coal, power, caustic soda, imported pulp and other raw materials. There is no statutory control over price of paper. Prices are determined by market forces. The Department of Education has been keeping a watch on the price of textbooks and exercise books in order to safeguard the interests of the students.

Retiring Rooms For Coolies

210. SHRI HANARDAN MISRA:

SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct retiring rooms for coolies working in railway for their rest in spare item;

(b) if so, the names of stations where this facility has been provided so far;

(c) whether the Government are going to take any step to provide this facility at other stations too;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;	Bhopal	Allahabad Jn.	
(e) if not, the time by which this facility is likely to be provided ;	Saharsa	Itarsi	Kanpur Central
(f) whether this facility has been provided at the stations located in Gujarat; and	Sonpur	Bine	Firozabad
(g) if so, the details thereof ?	Barauni Jn.	Jhansi	Tundla
THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Rest Shelter are provided for licensed porters at important stations where their number is substantial and wherever such resting facilities are inadequate.	Mathura	Aligarh Jn.	Katihar
(b) A statement is attached.	Agra Cantt.	Hathras	New Jalpaiguri
(c) to (e) The provision of rest shelters for licensed porters are reviewed from time to time and when justifies, the same are provided/augmented subject to availability of funds.	Gulbarga	Khurja Jn.	Guwahati
(f) and (g) Rest shelter has been provided at Surat in Gujarat. Besides a temporary rest shelter has also been provided at Ahmedabad.	Manmed	Lucknow	Khendwa
	Varanasi	Bareilly	Trivandrum Central
	Raja Ki Mandi	Quilon Jn.	Wardha
	Haridwar	Madras Central	Dehradun
	Mangalore	Cannuanore	Bankura
	Calicut	Bhanga	Coimbatore
	Hatia		
	Erode Jn.	Ramtek	Banglore City
	Bhandrak	Banglore Cantt.	Muri
	Mysore	Cuttack	Salem
	Khurda Road	Madras Egmore	Puri
	Katpadi	Behrampur	Madurai
Bombay V.T.	Sealdah	Palasa	Rameshwaram
Dader	Howrah	Tirunelveli	Bilaspur
Thane	Asansol	Bhatpada	Drug
Kalyan	Patna Jn.	Annuppur	Nizamabad
Pune	Mokama	Miraj	Titlagarh
Nagpur	Kirul	Usalapur	Kacheguda
Solapur	Mughalsarai	Rajamundri	Champa
Daund	Jodhpur	Rajal Ghat	Samalkot Jn.
Bhusawal	Gaya	Shimla	Vijayawada Jn.
Nasik	Ambala Cantt.	Guntur Jn.	Panskura
Jalgaon	Malda	Rupsa	Balasore
Gorakhpur	Seharanpur	Gondia	Guntekal Jn.
Badner	Delhi	Bombay Central	Renigunta Jn.
Jabalpur	New Delhi	Tatanagar	Itwari
Gonda	Basti	Surat	Vishakhapatnam
Kasganj	Meerut City	Ranchi	Vizianagaram
Ferrukhabad	Ludhiana	Ujjain	Payagada
	JammuTawi	Purulia	Dadar
	Attari Samastipur		Borivilli
			Jharsugude
			Ahmedabad
			Adre
			Bokaro Steel City
			Agra Fort
			Ajmer
			Jaipur

STATEMENT

Name of the Stations Where Rest Shelters for Licensed Porters are Available are as Under:

Bombay V.T.	Sealdah	Bikaner	Katpadi	Behrampur	Madurai
Dader	Howrah	Ratangarh Jn.	Palasa	Rameshwaram	Raigarh
Thane	Asansol	Churu	Tirunelveli	Bilaspur	Tiruchirappalli
Kalyan	Patna Jn.	Sadulpur	Bhatpada	Drug	Secundrabad
Pune	Mokama	Rewari	Annuppur	Nizamabad	Sadol
Nagpur	Kirul	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Miraj	Titlagarh	Nellore
Solapur	Mughalsarai	Jodhpur	Usalapur	Kacheguda	Champa
Daund	Gaya	Ambala Cantt.	Rajamundri	Kharagpur	Samalkot Jn.
Bhusawal	Malda	Shimla	Rajal Ghat	Vijayawada Jn.	Panskura
Nasik	Bhagalpur	Seharanpur	Shimla	Guntur Jn.	Balasore
Jalgaon	Akola	Delhi	Gondia	Renigunta Jn.	Guntekal Jn.
Gorakhpur	New Delhi	Lucknow Jn.	Bombay Central	Vishakhapatnam	Vizianagaram
Badner	Nizamuddin	Basti	Tatanagar	Payagada	Dadar
Jabalpur	Katni	Meerut City	Surat	Borivilli	Jharsugude
Gonda	Satna	Ludhiana	Ranchi	Rahagangpura	Ahmedabad
Kasganj	Seugor	JammuTawi	Ujjain	Ratlam	Adre
Ferrukhabad	Gwalior	Attari Samastipur	Purulia	Bokaro Steel City	Agra Fort
					Ajmer
					Jaipur

Education Technology Scheme

211. DR. K.D. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state : (a) The number of Primary Schools and Upper Primary Schools which have been assisted in Gujarat under the Educational Technology Scheme, District-wise:

(b) whether any programme has been developed in Urdu and the number of Urdu Schools in the State Provided assistance under the Scheme:

(c) Which agency selects the schools;

(d) whether aided schools are eligible under this scheme: and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) The state Government of Gujarat has been sanctioned 7000 Radio-cum-cassettes Players (RCPs) and 1040 Colour Televisions (CTVs) upto 1994-95. As per the information received from the Government of Gujarat, District-wise number of schools in which RCCPs/CTVs were supplied is given in the statement attached.

(b) No, sir.

(c) The State Government fo Gujarat.

(d) Though the aided schools are eligible under this scheme, the Government of Gujarat has informed that aided schools have not been covered under this Scheme.

(e) Does not arise.

STATEMENT*District-wise Number of Schools in which RCCPs/CTVs were supplied*

S. No.	Name of District	Number of Schools supplied with RCCPs	Number of schools supplied with CTVs
1.	Ahmedabad	518	565
2.	Amreli	182	197
3.	Kheda	643	658
4.	Panchmahal	662	758
5.	Gandhi Nagar	44	63
6.	Jamnagar	269	325

1.	2.	3.	4.
7.	Junagadh	322	419
8.	Dang	88	30
9.	Banaskantha	409	419
10.	Bharuch	360	405
11.	Bhavnagar	315	349
12.	Bhuj	282	285
13.	Mehsana	401	438
14.	Rajkot	336	361
15.	Valsad	396	422
16.	Vadodara	544	577
17.	Sabarkantha	512	523
18.	Surat	516	398
19.	Surendranagar	201	228

Gauge Conversion

212. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH :

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total distance between Samastipur and Darbhanga which is to be converted into Broad Gauge Railway Line:

(b) whether the work of Gauge conversion of Samastipur-Darbhanga Railway Line of North Eastern Railway which was likely to be completed by the end of June, 1995 has been extended till December, 1995;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore and whether the work is likely to be completed by the extended period; and

(d) the time by which running of trains on this route is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K.JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) 37.24 kms.

(b) It has been extended upto 31.10.95.

(c) There was some delay due to slow progress in the bridge works. The work will be completed by the revised target date.

(d) Immediately after completion of the work.

[English]

Raid at Rimpic Rajabhir Forest

213. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the raids jointly conducted by Forest Department and police at Rimpic Rajabhir Forest which is wild Life Sanctuary, under Siryalila Forest Range several previous materials including skins, horns etc. of wild animals along with fire arms were recovered on the 3rd and 4th March, 1994;

(b) details of the materials so recovered;

(c) the number of people arrested in this connection; and

(d) the details of the measures being taken to prevent such nefarious activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the information received from the State Government, in this raid, the following wildlife articles were seized:

3 heads with horn of Himalayan Tahr

3 heads with horn of Barking deer

2 heads of Barking deer

2 skins of Yak

1 skin of Himalayan Black Bear.

Some firearms were also seized by the Police during this raid.

(c) Two person were arrested on 5th March, 1994 in this connection and two offence cases were lodged by the Forest Department and the Police Department also lodged a separate case in connection with the seizure of firearms.

(d) Following this incident it is reported that the Forest Department has stepped up its protection enforcement activities including the frequency of patrolling, extension of the area under wireless communication network and personal for giving rewards for collection of intelligence has also been drawn-up.

Production of Potato and Onion

214. SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL:

DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of 'Potato and Onion' during the last three years in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether production of 'Potato and Onion' has witnessed consistent growth over the past several years enabling the country to export large quantity of 'Potato and Onion' to the foreign countries;

(c) if so, the quantity of 'Potato and Onion' exported during the above period and foreign exchange earned thereby;

(d) whether the Government have prepared any programme for augmenting production of 'Potato and Onion' during the year 1995-96 and to increase the export thereof; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) State -wise total production of Potato and Onion in the country during the last three years is given in the attached statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per Annual Reports of the DG:CIS, the quantity of onion and potatoes exported during the last three years and foreign exchange earned is as follow:-

Year	Quantity Exported (In Lakh tonnes)		Value of the Quantity Exported (Rs. in crore)	
	Onion	Potatoes	Onion	Potatoes
1991-92	3.70	0.05	149.59	0.87
1992-93	3.90	0.06	172.96	1.21
1993-94	3.57	0.07	182.67	2.35

(d) and (e) Government of India is implementing Central Sector Schemes on Production & Supply of Vegetable Seeds and Development of Root & Tuber Crops to augment the production of vegetables including onion and potato during 1995-96. Under the schemes, the assistance is being provided for improving productivity and production of vegetables by supplying quality planting material/seed and production of foundation seed of vegetables and True Potato Seed of potato in the Country.

STATEMENT

State-wise production of Potato During 1991-92 to 1993-94

State	(in Thousand tonnes)			
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	4.
1.	2.	3.	4.	.
Andhra Pradesh	3.3	5.2	8.4	
Arunachal Pradesh	32.5	35.5	37.8	
Assam	473.3	387.5	506.9	

1.	2.	3.	4.
Bihar	1525.8	1483.8	1609.1
Gujarat	532.9	444.3	455.0
Haryana	171.4	174.1	178.2
Himachal Pradesh	150.9	144.7	169.9
Jammu & Kashmir	3.0	2.9	3.2
Karnataka	358.4	327.8	294.4
Madhya Pradesh	433.6	378.2	487.8
Maharashtra	64.8	63.1	67.2
Manipur	23.1	20.4	20.4
Meghalaya	153.2	119.6	119.6
Mizoram	0.9	1.1	2.5
Nagaland	15.4	23.0	16.0
Orissa	111.3	107.0	117.1
Punjab	923.1	823.0	823.0
Rajasthan	21.3	24.6	19.7
Sikkim	32.0	32.3	32.3
Tamil Nadu	113.6	125.1	126.3
Tripura	64.2	65.5	65.5
Uttar Pradesh	6236.4	5662.0	7704.0
West Bengal	4942.9	4779.1	5171.6
Delhi	0.6	0.6	0.6
ALL INDIA	16387.9	15230.4	18036.5

State-wise production of Onion During 1991-92 to 1993-94

(in Thousand tonnes)

State	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Andhra Pradesh	172.4	152.0	415.1
Assam	12.0	12.7	15.1
Bihar	136.5	144.5	149.2
Gujarat	424.4	605.3	605.3
Haryana	48.0	64.2	41.6
Himachal Pradesh	1.4	1.8	1.5
Karnataka	522.8	425.7	445.0
Madhya Pradesh	232.4	170.4	185.0
Maharashtra	840.1	831.6	831.6
Nagaland	0.3	Neg.	Neg.

1.	2.	3.	4.
Orissa	335.0	306.4	306.4
Punjab	34.3	13.9	10.3
Rajasthan	128.7	118.9	122.4
Tamil Nadu	212.1	185.4	217.0
Tripura	0.3	0.3	0.3
Uttar Pradesh	483.3	456.6	370.6
Delhi	0.5	0.9	0.9
Pondicherry	0.2	0.2	0.2
ALL INDIA	3584.7	3490.8	3717.5

Neg. — Negligible

Prakash Tandon Committee

215. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether recommendations of the Prakash Tandon Committee to reform the Railways' organisational structure and management have been implemented;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c) The Minister of Railways had appointed a Committee known as Tandon Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Prakash Tandon to study organisational structure and management ethos of Indian Railways to enable Indian Railways to function as business led enterprise. The Committee's report submitted in March, 1994 conceptual in nature, suggested setting up of various committees/task forces to consider the implementability of various recommendations. Keeping in view this suggestion, Ministry of Railways have set up various committees/task forces to:

(i) Identify cost and profit centres - Hasan Iqbal Committee set up on 30.8.94. Tenure is upto 30.9.95.

(ii) Develop computer aided long range decision support system - Task Force with World Bank Assistance set up. Tenure is upto January, 1996.

(iii) Capital Restructuring - A.V. Poulose Committee set up on 2.5.94 Tenure is upto 31.12.95.

(iv) Modernising the financial management system-Task Force with Adviser Finance as Coordinator. Time frame 2 years.

(v) To examine unification of various railway

services in a common cadre - Gupta-Narain Committee set up on 15.4.94. Tenure is upto October, 1995.

The committees/task forces are yet to submit their final reports.

Mother Dairy Milk Prices

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

(a) whether the prices of Mother Dairy milk has been further raised w.e.f. 10th May, 1995;

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

► (c) whether the Mother Dairy has raised the prices of its milk more than three times during the last twelve months and present hike is the second within less than three months;

(d) if so, the reasons for hiking the price more frequently as compared to the previous years;

(e) whether in view of the fact that the frequent hikes in milk prices hard hits the economically weaker sections of the society with fixed income, the Government propose to take effective steps to stabilise the prices of the milk;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons thereof?

► **THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) :** (a) to (g) The prices of Mother Dairy Milk were increased with effect from 16th May, 1995 as follows:-

Full Cream milk : Rs. 14.00 per litre.

Toned milk : Rs. 9.00 per litre.

Toned milk in polypack : Rs. 10.00 per litre.

The increases became necessary on account of a rise in the procurement prices paid to the milk producers. This was the second price hike effected the Mother Dairy in the last 12 months. In order to increase the availability of milk in the country, shortage of which may have adverse effect on the stability of liquid milk prices, the Government opened up the import of the milk powder and milk fat which are used for recombination into liquid milk.

Cogentrix Power Project

217. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:

SHRI BALARAJ PASSI:

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA:

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

(a) whether environmentalists have expressed strong reservation regarding ecological impact of Cogentrix Power Project near Mangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) :

(a) and (b) Apprehensions have been raised about the likely adverse impact on the environment, including air and water quality, agriculture and rain forests.

(c) The environmental issues with respect to the proposed project have not been fully examined. The project has so far not been given environmental clearance from this Ministry.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

218. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the gauge conversion work of Kanpur-Agra metre gauge Railway line is likely to be completed;

(b) whether Government propose to double this railway route with a view to ply fast trains thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K.JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) In the 9th plan period.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The capacity of the section will get more or less doubled with the gauge conversion since capacity of BG is double than that of MG trains, both passenger and freight. Further doubling will be considered when traffic grows to a level justifying the same.

Electrical Engines

219. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether electrical engines with 5000 horse power capacity are being developed at the Chittaranjan Locomotive Factory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether with the development of such engines the number of bodies and the speed of passenger trains are likely to be increased; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b) So far 63 freight locomotives and 4 passenger locomotives of 5000 HP capacity have been manufactured by Chittrajan Locomotive Works.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) 5000 HP (WAP4) passenger locomotive is capable of hauling 19 coach train at a maximum speed of 140 km/h. It can also haul 26 coach train at a maximum speed of 130 km/h as against 19 coach train at a maximum speed of 130 km/h hauled by existing 3900 HP (WAP1) locomotives.

5000 HP (WAG7) freight locomotive is capable of hauling 4700 tonne freight train in 1:200 gradient at a balancing speed of 30 km/h as against the capacity of a 3900 HP (WAG5) loco to haul 3300 tonne train in a 1:200 gradient at balancing speed of 30 km/h.

[English]

Doubling of Railway Line

220. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken to handover Shoranur-Mangalore work of Doubling the Railway Line to Konkan Railway Corporation for construction under the BOLT Scheme:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The work on Kuttipuran-Mangalore line is being taken up under Build-Own-Lease-Transfer (BOLT) Scheme. KRC can also bid for the same.

Sugar on Fair Prices Shops

221. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar procured during the current season under levy system for distribution through the public Distribution System;

(b) what steps have been taken to ensure the availability of sugar for the PDS from indigenous production; and

(c) the reasons for which sugar is being imported by the

STC and MMTC despite optimistic domestic production estimates?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) At present, 40% of the production of each sugar factory (effective all India average about 33% on account of additional freesale allowed under various incentive schemes) is procured as levy. The monthly allocation of levy sugar for the public Distribution system at the existing level of allocation is 3.35 lakh tonnes for all States/UTs. In addition to the above, Government releases about one lakh tonnes per annum as festival quota for the entire country.

(b) With the carry over stocks of 21.93 lakh tonnes of indigenous as on 1.10.1994 and with the estimated production of sugar of about 143 lakh tonnes during the current sugar season 1994-95, there will sufficient quantities of levy sugar available for distribution system in the country.

(c) During the early part of the season 1994-95, when the firm trends of sugar production were not available, the Government, with a view to ensure adequate availability of sugar for the Public Distribution System, in the event of sugar production during the current season 1994-95 not coming upto the expected level, had directed STC and MMTC to enter into forward contracts for import of sugar. However, no sugar has actually been imported as yet.

[Translation]

Railway Engines

222. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be please state:

(a) whether Union Government have received export orders for Railway Engines from several countries;

(b) if so, the names of the countries from which the export orders for engines have been received and the number of Railway Engines likely to be exported to each of them; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange likely to be earned by the Government by the export of Railway Engines?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b) Orders have been received from Sri Lanka, (2BG Locos), Bangladesh (10 MG Locos) and Nepal (2 NG Locos)

(c) The approximate Rupee equivalent of the Foreign Exchange likely to be earned is:

Sri Lanka	Rs. 5 Crores
Bangladesh	Rs. 21 Crores
Nepal	Rs. 1.58 Crores.

[English]

Modernisation of Railway Stations

223. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the South Central Railway has any plans for modernisation of major Railway Stations in 1995-96;

(b) the details of on-going work on stations in South Central Railways in 1995-96; and

(c) the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon?

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

(b) Modernisation works taken up at major railway stations are:-

(1) Hyderabad - remodelling of station building; (2) Khamman - Provision of booking office and extension of foot-over-bridge on the western side; (3) Guntur - Provision of booking office; (4) Srikalahasti- provision of retiring rooms; (5) Yeraguntla-Provision of waiting hall; and (6) Dharmavarm- Improvements to station building.

(c) Rs. 55.40 lakh during 1995-96.

Recovery of loans

224. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of recovery of loans given by Primary Agricultural Credit Societies in 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(b) the percentage of over dues in agriculture sector;

(c) the comparative over dues growth rate in the case of Regional Rural Banks, Land Development Banks and Commercial Banks; and

(d) the step taken by the banks to fulfil their farm lending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The percentage of Recovery of Loans of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in the country during 1991-92 and 1992-93 was 51% and 52% respectively.

(b) and (c) The percentage of over dues in respect of Agricultural Credit of Various agencies in the country during 1991-92 and 1992-93 was as under:

Agency	1991-92	1992-93
Primary Agril	49	48
Credit Societies		
District Central		
Coop. Bank	34	32
State Cooperative Banks	27	13
Land Development Banks	50	48
Regional Rural Banks	60	59
Commercial Banks	46	44

(d) Government of India, Reserve Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development have taken various policy measures to improve the flow of credit for agriculture and rural development. These measures include-

(i) revision of security norms for agricultural advances;

(ii) rationalising interest rates on loans and on refinance;

(iii) enlargement of scope for financing of individuals of SCBs/CCBs;

(iv) adoption of flexible approach in release of refinance assistance to defaulting SLDBs.

Banks have also been advised to open specialised Agricultural Branches to attend exclusively for financing innovative and hi-tech projects in agriculture, floriculture, tissue culture etc.

[Translation]

Joint Development Programme

225. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether any project has been formulated under joint Development Programme to control fire in forests;

(b) if so, the full details thereof;

(c) whether financial assistance had been discontinued for the above mentioned programme; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) (a

and (b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely 'Modern Forest Fire Control Methods' is in operation since 1992-93 in 11 states viz., Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Utter Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. 100% financial assistance is provided to the states for procurement of wireless sets, hand tools, fire resistance clothing, creation of fire lines, construction of watch tower, training and demonstration, research and publicity.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

[English]

Alleged Irregularities in Central Schools

226. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any case of irregularity in the admission in Central Schools in Kanpur has come to the notice of the Government during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that admission in Central Schools be made strictly according to rules?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) Based on some complaints received, the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has already ordered an enquiry into the alleged irregularity in admissions in the Kendriya Vidyalaya at Kanpur.

(c) The Regional Offices have been asked to be vigilant and the Principles have been directed to strictly adhere to the rules of admission.

[Translation]

New ADB Policy on Forests

227. SHRI RAM PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Asian Development Bank has evolved new policy in view of its experience of deforestation that took place between 1980 to 1990 in several Asian countries including India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government on the said policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The new policy of ADB encompasses protection of the forests, soil, water and biodiversity, which are vital to present and future generations; production and harvesting of renewable resources in a sustainable manner; and participation of local communities and NGOs in policy formulation and implementation. It also envisages reduction of demand for fuelwood by promoting wood substitutes and alternative fuel energy sources. The essence of new forest policy of ADB is broadly in conformity with the National Forest Policy 1988.

Livestock Sector

228. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of production in the Livestock Sector in the year 1994-95;

(b) the production in the year 1991-92; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) The value of output from Livestock Sector during 1994-95 and 1991-92 is as under :-

Year	(Rs. in crores) At constant (1980-81) prices
1994-95	19926*
1991-92	17777

* Advance Estimates.

(c) Besides various State Schemes for the development of cattle and buffalo some Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the areas of genetic improvement, feed and fodder and health cover are being implemented to increase the output.

[English]

Railway Line

229. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Understand Question No. 7764 on May, 30, 1995 and state:

(a) whether the survey for Lanka-Silchar Railway Line has been sanctioned;

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

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

(d) if not, by when it is expected to be received?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) By the end of the current financial year.

Wild Animals in North Eastern States

230. SHRI LAETA UMBREY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some rare species of endangered wild animals are found in the forests and hills of Arunachal Pradesh and other North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and measures taken to protect these species;

(c) whether any study has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) Out of the rare and endangered wild animals listed in Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, there are 34 species of mammals, 7 species of reptiles and one whole family plus 17 species of birds which occur in the North-eastern States. All these scheduled species are fully protected against hunting and trade or commerce under the Wildlife (Protection) Act. 11 National Parks and 32 Sanctuaries have been established in the North-eastern States for the protection and conservation of the rare and endangered wild animals and their habitats. Special schemes are also being implemented for the conservation for rhino, tiger and elephant.

(c) and (d) The Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun has conducted surveys and studies on the Takin in Arunachal Pradesh and Leaf Monkey in Tripura. The Zoological Survey of India has also conducted several faunistic surveys in the North-eastern States.

(e) Does not arise.

Drought

231. SHRI K.G.SHIVAPPA.:

SHRI A.VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:

DR. SATYNARAYAN JATIYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether several parts of the country are recalling under severe drought condition at present;

(b) if so, the names of Districts in each State which are recalling under drought situation;

(c) the assessment of loss of land and crops etc. in these Districts;

(d) whether some districts out of them are facing drought problems for the last two or three years continuously;

(e) if so, the names thereof;

(f) whether any Central team has visited these Districts to assess the situation;

(g) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(h) the additional financial assistance sought by the affected State Governments and the amount actually provided by the Union Government to them to meet the situation?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

(f) No Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) On the basis of the rainfall situation upto 8th July, 1995, the Government of Karnataka have submitted a Memorandum seeking financial assistance for drought relief measures expected to cost Rs. 256.23 crores. Government of India have released two instalments of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund amounting to Rs. 14.91 crores to the State Government during 1995-96.

UNICEF Assistance

232. SHRI RATILAL VARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects being undertaken with the assistance from "UNICEF" for dissemination of education in Gujarat particularly in tribal areas of the State;

(b) the target fixed at the time of undertaking these projects;

(c) the progress made so far in this regard; and

(d) the amount which has been incurred on these project so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d) The projects undertaken with UNICEF assistance in the education sector in Gujarat are Education for ALL (EFA); projects for Integrated Education for Disabled (PIED); District Planning for Education for ALL (EFA)/ Universalisation of Primary Education (UPE); Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). Various activities under these projects include development/implementation of state plan of action on education; preparation of competency based textbooks for achievement of Minimum Levels of Learning (MLLs); training and capacity building for achievement of MLLs; training and capacity building of teachers including mobilisation of communities for integrating disabled children in the formal primary education, community mobilization for enrolment of children and training of teachers, development of curriculum and materials for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), etc.

These activities are at various stages of implementation. Since these are process-oriented activities, no targets are fixed. An expenditure of Rs. 23.25 lakhs has been incurred on these activities.

Kanha National Park

233. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ : Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Tigers and other major species in the Kanha National Park at present;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to check poaching in this Park and to develop it; and

(c) the assistance provided by the Government for this purpose during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) As per the census carried out in 1994, the estimated population in tigers and some of the major species in Kanha National Park is as under:-

i)	Tiger	100
ii)	Cheetal	21717
iii)	Barasingha	366
iv)	Gaur	1230
v)	Bear	53
vi)	Sambhar	4346
vii)	Leopard	72

(b) and (c) The steps taken by the Government to check poaching in this Park and to develop it as follows:

i) The State Government has been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling;

ii) Steps have been initiated to set up "Special Strike Force";

iii) Madhya Pradesh, which has the largest number of tigers in India, has been designated as "Tiger State" to focus attention on the conservation of tiger and its habitat.

iv) A "Tiger Cell" has been set-up by the Government of Madhya Pradesh to ensure coordination amongst various enforcement agencies for the prevention and detection of poaching;

v) Central Government is providing assistance regularly for development of the Park, the details of which for the last three years is as under:-

1992-93	:	Rs. 61.061 lakhs
1993-94	:	Rs. 75.301 lakhs
1994-95	:	Rs. 74.349 lakhs

[Translation]

Operation Black Board

234. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise amount earmarked for Operation Black Board Scheme during 1994-95; and

(b) the outcome of this scheme and the proposed changes likely to be made in view of these outcome and the time by which this scheme is likely to be continued?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Information is given in the Annual Report 1994-95 of the Ministry.

(b) The objective of the scheme was to provide minimum essential facilities in primary schools. As on date, central assistance has been fully provided for teaching learning equipment to all primary schools in the country covered by the scheme and the scope of the scheme has since been expanded to cover upper primary schools during the 8th Plan.

[English]

Environment Tribunals

235. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the locations of Environmental Tribunals;

(b) whether investigation cells would be set up under tribunals to examine the allegations of environmental pollution;

(c) if not, the reason therefor; and

(d) the manner in which the liability arising out of radioactive accidents is proposed to be dealt with?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) The Principal Bench of the National Environment Tribunal will be located at Delhi. Other Benches will be located at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, to begin with. Gradually this will be increased to cover capital cities of most States.

(b) and (c) The powers of the National Environment Tribunal are limited to giving relief and compensation for damages to persons, property and the environment arising out of any accident occurring while handling any hazardous substance. Therefore, the setting up of investigation cells to examine allegations of environmental pollution does not arise.

(d) The Environmental Tribunal will not deal with any liability arising out of radioactive accidents.

[Translation]

Fisheries in Reservoirs

236. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted any scheme to Union Government for fisheries in Reservoirs:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question do not arise

[English]

Environmental Education

237. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state.

(a) whether his Ministry have constituted a Committee to review the facilities available for training in management of resources and environmental management at school and college level educational programme.

(b) if so, the composition and work done by the Committee so far; and

(c) the atmosphere created by the Government to impart environment education in the country?

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

(b) The Committee consists of Shri V.B. Eswaran as its Chairman with eleven members as experts drawn from various institutions of eminence and associated with environmental management and educational programmes.

The Committee has held several meetings and solicited relevant information from various States/UTs on the present State-of-art on Environmental Education. The Committee is now in the process for finalising its report.

(c) Government has been successful in integrating environmental concepts in both formal and non-formal systems of education at school, college and University levels including in-service training programmes for teachers and others. Environmental Awareness among the various sections of population are being created through several schemes and programmes of the Government.

[Translation]

Shortage of Seeds

238. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is acute shortage of seeds of Cotton, Millet etc. in Maharashtra due to which its black marketing is flourishing on large scale and the farmers are facing difficulties; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check the black marketing and to make required quantity of seeds available to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Sufficient quantities of seeds through public and private seed organisations including cotton, millet, etc. available in Maharashtra to meet requirement of farmers.

(b) Maharashtra has also made arrangements for contingency requirements. State Government has exercised control over seed quality as per the provision of the Seeds Act, 1966 and Seed Control Order, 1983 which has resulted in smooth seed distribution at reasonable price.

[English]

Aquaculture Industries

239. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industries engaged in agriculture in Orissa;

(b) the number of applications pending for setting up industries on Agricultural in the State; and

(c) the number of applications approved by the Government during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The Government of India have permitted establishment of four aquaculture true units in Orissa.

(b) No application in pending with this Ministry for setting up of aquaculture units in Orissa.

(c) The number of application approved by the Government during the last two years is two in Orissa.

[Translation]

Sugar Industry

240. SHRI N.K.BALIYAN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to encourage co-produces of sugar Industry;

(b) if so, whether any research has been carried out in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other produces for which sugarcane could be used as per the research?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) The Central Government does not have any specific scheme for encouraging co-produces of Sugar Industry. It is for the individual sugar factory/Institution to undertake such projects on their viability basis.

(b) to (d) The National Sugar Institute, Kanpur has carried out the following research work in respect of the co-produces of the Sugar Industry:-

(i) Manufacturing and refining of sugarcane wax from sulphitation press mud.

(ii) Compressed bakers yeast from molasses.

(iii) Animal feed from bagasse.

(iv) Oxalic Acid from molasses.

In addition to the above the following co-produces of sugar are being made:-

(i) paper and particle board from bagasse.

(ii) Co-generation of surplus power.

The other co-produces for which sugarcane could be used as per the research is the production of alcohol from sugarcane juice.

National Education Policy

241. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the objectives of National Education Policy, 1986 are being fulfilled with the participation of voluntary organisations;

(b) if so, the details of the progress made during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make the various schemes under National Education Policy, 1986 a big success?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) In accordance with the policy pronouncement in para 10.9 of the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 and its Programme of Action (POA), 1992, Voluntary Organisation are associated in a collaborative relationship in the implementation of various schemes for Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE), total adult literacy, vocationalisation of education, etc. Voluntary organisation who have been given substantial grants are listed in the Annual Reports of the Ministry.

(c) Community participation and voluntary efforts are encouraged in programmes like Total Literacy Campaigns (TLCs), District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) and Non-Formal Education (NEF). Further, in pursuance of the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments, guidelines have been issued to the states for establishment of a decentralised management structure in education for greater community involvement.

[English]

Demarcation of Fishing Operations

242. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to enact

a comprehensive legislation for demarcating the three main sectors of fishing operation like the fishing by traditional boats, fishing by mechanised boats and deep sea fishing vessels to control the frequent conflicts and to pave way for smooth fishing; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) There is no such proposal to enact a comprehensive legislation for demarcating the three main sectors of fishing operation like fishing by traditional boats, mechanised boats and deep sea fishing vessels because of the fact that the fishing operations by these fishing boats/vessels are being controlled under various acts of State Governments and Government of India. The right of fishing and fisheries within the territorial waters is a State subject and as much the 'fishing regulation within the territorial waters is made under provisions of Marine Fishing Regulation Act (MFRA) enacted by the maritime States except the State of Gujarat, based on the guidelines issued by this Ministry in 1978. The matters related to fishing etc. including fishing by deep sea fishing vessels beyond territorial waters in the Indian Exclusive Zone (EEZ) are being dealt by the Government of India (Ministry of Food Processing Industries). The deep sea fishing vessels are allowed to operate only beyond territorial waters (12 nautical miles) on both the East and West Coasts. The regulation of fishing in the Indian EEZ area by foreign fishing vessels is done under the provisions of "The Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981" In the case of foreign flag vessels (like charter/lease), the fishing operations are allowed only beyond 12 nautical miles on the East Coast and 24 nautical miles on the West Coast. Moreover, there are certain restricted areas

also where the deep sea fishing vessels under foreign flags are not allowed to operate.

Ministry of Food

243. SHRI RAJ NARAIN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints against the officials "A" & "B" group of the Ministry of Food and its attached officers for economic offences etc. reported during the last 3 years and the details thereof, category-wise and office-wise;

(b) the number of cases filed and the number of cases registered during the last 3 years, year-wise and category-wise;

(c) the number of cases out of them reported to the Central Vigilance Commission during this period and action taken thereon; and

(d) whether some Members of Parliament have reported the illegal economic favours committed by the officers of the Ministry of Food and its attached officers to the Central Bureau of Investigation for investigation during the year 1993-94, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c) A statement indicating the category-wise number of complaints against the officials "A" & "B" group of the Ministry of Food and its attached offices for economic offences etc. received during the last three years and action taken thereon is attached.

(d) No Member of Parliament has reported the illegal economic favours committed by the officers of the Ministry of Food and its attached officers, to the Central Bureau of Investigation during the year 1993-94.

Ministry of Food

Year	No. of Complaint Received (Category-Wise)		Cases Filed		Cases Registered		Cases Referred to CVC
	'A'	'B'	'A'	'B'	'A'	'B'	
1992	1	2	—	1	—	2	2*
1993	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
1994	—	3	—	—	0	3	3**

Directorate of Sugar

1992	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
1993	1	2	1	2	—	—	—
1994	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* out of complaints received during 1992, two cases were referred to CVC. The CVC advised major penalty in two cases. One category 'B' case has been closed after imposing major penalty. One case has been referred to CVC for Second Stage advice, recently.

** Three complaints/cases received during 1994, have been referred to CVC for first stage advice, Advice of CVC is awaited.

[*Translation*]

Seeds Corporations

244. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of efforts made by Government to improve the working of National and State level Seeds Corporations in the Public Sector; and

(b) the extent to which the Government have succeeded in this regard during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) An assistance of Rs. 121.50 crores has been made available to the 2 National and 10 State Seeds Corporations. The Corporations have been assisted for financial and operational restructuring by way of contribution towards margin money, equity, contributor's share for raising institutional finance, repayment of loan to Government and banks.

(b) The assistance provided to the Corporations has improved the financial and working efficiency of these Corporations, and has resulted in reduction in loan burden, increase in financial and physical turnover, restructuring of organisation, creation of infrastructural facilities, and improved financial performance

[*English*]

Substandard Sugar on Fair Price Shops

245. DR. SHRIMATI K. S. SOUNDARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the imported Sugar is being supplied on Fair Price Shops;

(b) the reason for supply of the poor quality of Sugar to the Fair Price Shops;

(c) whether the quota of sugar for the months of November and December 1994 is exclusively the imported Sugar;

(d) whether the price of the Sugar which was supplied to the Fair Price Shops is uniform throughout the country; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (e) The allocation of sugar for the Public Distribution System (PDS) during the period September, 1994 to March, 1995 was a blend of imported as well as indigenous sugar. The actual distribution of sugar to Fair Price Shops is the responsibility of State Government/UT Administration. In a vast operation much as the PDS, a few shortcomings here and there, cannot be ruled out altogether. However, complaints regarding supply of sub-standard imported sugar to fair price shops were received only from the NCT of Delhi. These complaints were investigated and the sub-standard sugar supplied to fair price shops were replaced. Sugar is distributed at a uniform retail price of Rs. 9.05 per kg throughout the country through the PDS.

Promotion of Groundnut in Gujarat

246. SHRI HARILAL NANJI PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) the funds allocated and released for the promotion of Groundnut areas of Gujarat State during the last three years;

(b) the total areas brought under cultivation in the State, District-wise;

(c) the number of farmers actually benefited under the scheme; and

(d) the total production of Groundnut in the State during the above period, and the target fixed for 1995-96 year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The funds allocated and released for the promotion of Oilseeds including groundnut areas of Gujarat State under the Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) during the last three years are as under :-

Year	(Rs. in lakhs)	
	Fund allocated	Funds released
1992-93	725.00	725.00
1993-94	1139.249	931.449
1994-95	948.750	500.000

(b) A statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

(Area in 00 ha.)

S.No.	District	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1.	Ahmedabad	21	6	3
2.	Banaskantha	26	28	21
3.	Baroda	220	217	69
4.	Broach	107	110	36
5.	Bulsar	16	12	5
6.	Dangs	10	11	33
7.	Gandhinagar	2	2	-
8.	Kaira	145	139	24
9.	Mehsana	23	32	23
10.	Panch Mahal	189	186	67
11.	Sabarkantha	387	382	308
12.	Surat	259	221	112
13.	Amreli	2890	3276	3189
14.	Bhavnagar	2180	2488	2100
15.	Jam Nagar	3335	3936	3572
16.	Junaghar	3816	4017	3927
17.	Kutch	925	541	627
18.	Rajkot	3912	4632	4202
19.	Surendranagar	377	294	245
Total Gujarat State		18840	20530	18563

(c) The total number of farmers benefited under the scheme is indicated below:

Year	Total number of Farmers
1992-93	Not available.
1993-94	316986
1994-95	215427

(d) The total production of groundnut in the State of Gujarat during the last three years is as follows:-

Year	Production (.000 tonnes)
1992-93	2068.4
1993-94	676.6
1994-95	2369.0 (tentative)

The target of production for groundnut fixed for the State during 1995-96 is 1755.00 thousand tonnes.

[Translation]

Production of Pulses/Oil Seeds

247. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) the State-wise total production of Pulses and Oilseeds during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95, separately;

(b) the amount of Central Assistance provided under various schemes to increase the production of Pulses and Oilseeds during each of the last three years, State-wise and scheme-wise;

(c) whether prices of Pulses and Oilseeds are continuously increasing; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to arrest the increase in prices thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) State-wise total production of pulses and oilseeds during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 (Likely is given in Statement- I)

(b) State-wise central assistance provided under various scheme to increase the production of pulses and oilseeds during the last three years is given in statement-II & III.

(c) The prices of oilseeds and pulses also those of other commodities have been showing a rising trend over the years. However, the pulses have witnessed a somewhat larger increases in the prices in recent period.

(d) Apart from taking certain long-term measures to increase the production of pulses in the country, the other steps taken by the Government to contain the rise in prices of pulses include pulses under OGL for import, reduction of customs duty on import of pulses from 10% to 5% etc. Recently the Pulses, Edible oilseeds and Edible oils (Storage Control) Order, 1977 of storage limits prescribed under the said order. In addition to this, agencies like, STC, NAFED have been permitted to import pulses in the most desired quantity to augment indigenous availability of pulses. Pulses are also supplied through retail cooperative outlets like Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar and State Civil Supplies Corporation.

STATEMENT - I*Production of Pulses and Oil Seeds*

(000 tonnes)

State	Total Pulses			Total Oilseeds		
	1992-93	1993-94 (likely)	1994-95	1992-93	1993-94 (likely)	1994-95
Andhra Pradesh	739.0	609.8	590	2312.7	2845.6	2354
Assam	51.1	57.0	65	149.7	144.7	176
Bihar	693.3	754.8	940	117.6	151.4	251
Gujarat	648.1	537.9	541	3185.6	1572.4	3725
Haryana	330.2	469.6	485	588.8	869.7	908
Himachal Pradesh	12.2	10.8	17	7.4	4.7	12
Jammu & Kashmir	18.1	18.1	21	47.7	47.7	49
Karnataka	562.6	599.6	638	1761.2	1940.5	1634
Kerala	20.0	19.2	19	12.4	12.7	12
Madhya Pradesh	2898.2	3362.7	3565	3583.4	4576.6	3587
Maharashtra	1829.1	2013.4	1597	1771.5	2346.2	1920
Orissa	362.4	387.4	855	240.8	255.1	608
Punjab	74.6	73.6	91	231.2	232.2	271
Rajasthan	1457.9	1068.7	1315	2541.5	2402.8	2952
Tamil Nadu	342.7	397.1	446	1866.1	2025.5	1731
Uttar Pradesh	2526.9	2488.3	2441	1202.2	1532.9	1467
West Bengal	198.6	178.1	203	411.0	436.6	541
Others	49.5	53.5	49	76.1	81.9	78
All India	12814.5	13099.6	13878	20106.5	21479.2	22276

STATEMENT - II*Production of Pulses and Oil Seeds**Funds Released to States Under NPDP (Pulses)
During 1992-93-1994-95 - NPDP - Pulses*

S.No.	State	Amount Released		
		(Rs. in lakhs)		
		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	90,417	126.00	24.64
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.43	2.00	1.95
3.	Assam	14.51	8.00	--

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
4.	Bihar	102.061	89.00	33.00
5.	Goa	1.43	2.00	--
6.	Gujarat	95.949	51.50	78.41
7.	Harayana	74.556	100.00	--
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12.505	7.00	--
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	9.554	10.00	--
10.	Karnataka	99.848	138.11	32.00
11.	Kerala	9.135	10.00	11.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	294.20	480.00	4.78
13.	Maharashtra	158.046	373.00	456.81

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
14.	Manipur	4.564	4.16	4.97	23.	Uttar Pradesh	233.099	405.00	413.87
15.	Meghalaya	4.564	5.00	--	24.	West Bengal	28.359	35.00	20.15
16.	Nagaland	3.009	4.00	12.00	25.	A & N Island	0.50	35.00	20.15
17.	Orissa	65.449	100.00	--	26.	Delhi	--	1.00	0.72
18.	Punjab	24.625	30.00	1.24		Sub-Total	1588.006	2368.22	1562.41
19.	Rajasthan	166.319	261.45	311.44	27.	NSC/SFCI	91.27	50.00	95.78
20.	Sikkim	7.798	8.00	10.00	28.	AFC	15.00	29.65	35.55
21.	Tamil Nadu	80.269	110.00	137.43	29.	ICAR	100.00	60.00	163.00
22.	Tripura	5.81	6.00	7.00		Grand Total	1794.276	2507.87	1856.74

STATEMENT - III*Production of Pulses and Oil Seeds**Funds Released to States During 1992-93 - 1994-95 Oil Seeds.*

S. No.	State	Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs)			Total (3+4+5)
		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	855.50	1436.55	1452.10	3744.150
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.75	29.891	28.52	65.101
3.	Assam	149.00	155.743	231.95	536.593
4.	Bihar	153.00	69.12	--	222.120
5.	Gujarat	725.50	931.449	500.00	2156.949
6.	Harayana	215.00	160.81	--	375.810
7.	Himachal Pradesh	30.00	14.43	--	107.897
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	41.50	66.397	--	107.897
9.	Karnataka	685.00	750.00	715.20	2150.200
10.	Kerala	--	--	67.50	67.500
11.	Madhya Pradesh	730.35	1005.849	1379.04	3115.239
12.	Maharashtra	733.71	985.00	961.52	2680.230
13.	Manipur	15.00	22.026	8.775	45.801
14.	Meghalaya	6.75	15.825	7.50	30.075
15.	Orissa	315.08	430.447	457.335	1202.862
16.	Punjab	128.50	187.50	64.00	380.000
17.	Rajasthan	551.00	830.438	811.89	2193.328
18.	Sikkim	43.00	55.857	52.723	151.580
19.	Tamil Nadu	653.00	1425.00	1337.785	3415.785

1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Tripura	15.47	67.276	11.50	94.246
21.	Uttar Pradesh	459.63	193.24	511.90	1164.770
22.	West Bengal	125.17	224.792	225.00	574.962
	Total	6699.91	9048.00	8824.138	24519.688

Sub-Standard Pesticides

248. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

SHRI AMARPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that sub-standard pesticides are begin sold at large scale in the country;

(b) if so, the details of cases noticed by the Government and the action taken against the persons found guilty; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check sale of sub-standard pesticides in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The data related to analysis of pesticide samples in the State Pesticide Testing Laboratories drawn by insecticide Inspectors across the

country reveal that on no average 3 to 5 per cent pesticide samples are substandard/misbranded.

(b) The details are enclosed as Statement-I and II.

(c) Insecticide Inspectors of the respective states drawn samples form pesticide manufacturing premises as well as from the wholesale and retail outlets.

Government of India have also notified forty nine Insecticide Inspectors for drawal of samples.

It has been decided to open one more Regional Pesticide Testing Laboratory in North Eastern region.

Special training programme are being conducted in association with Pesticide Industry to upgrade the technical skill the analysis of State Pesticide Testing Laboratories.

An outlay of Rs. 600 lakhs has been provided under the VII Five Year Plan to strengthen the State Pesticide Testing Laboratories.

STATEMENT - I

Statement Showing Statistics of the analysis of Pesticide samples for quality control in spils

S.No.	Name of State/ UT	No. of SPTLs	1993-94			1994-95
			Samples	Sub-standard analysed	Samples	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	7583	508(6.5)	5513	138(2.5)
2.	Assam	1	26	2(7.6)	90	(03)
3.	Bihar	1	110	6(5.4)	--	--
4.	Gujarat	2	2821	173(6.1)	2348	175(7.45)
5.	Haryana	1	910	167(18.3)	360	48(13.3)
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	856	--	--	--
7.	Karnataka	2	2224	117(5.3)	1116	68(6.0)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Kerala	1	1467	15(1.02)	--	--
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1	832	21(2.5)	338	56(16.5)
10	Maharashtra	4	3393	61(1.8)	391	5(1.27)
11.	Manipur	1	12	--	18	-(0.0)
12.	Orissa	1	833	5(0.6)	762	8(1.01)
13.	Punjab	3	1033	148(8.07)	2711	149(5.49)
14.	Rajasthan	2	578	113(12.8)	501	71(14.0)
15.	Tamil Nadu	9	12569	197(1.6)	8899	122(1.37)
16.	Uttar Pradesh	3	3424	126(3.7)	1577	81(1.0)
17.	West Bengal	1	375	--	--	--
18.	Pondicherry	1	457	6(1.01)	136	--
19.	Mizoram	1	--	--	--	--

S.P.T.L. - State Pesticide testing Laboratory

Figures in brackets represent the % age of substandard/misbranded samples

STATEMENT - II*Action Taken Statistics (April, 94 to December 94)*

Name of the State/UT	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
1. Andhra Pradesh	2	-	35	17	26	
2. Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-		
3. Assam	-	-	-	-		
4. Bihar	-	-	-	-		
5. Goa	-	-	-	-		
6. Gujarat	-	-	29	28	21	
7. Haryana	-	4	30	-	-	
8. Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-		
9. Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	6	-		
10. Karnataka	14	12	10	2	2	
11. Kerala	-Appropriated action being taken					
12. Madhya Pradesh	64	3	20	Awaited	-	
13. Maharashtra	-	2	5	-	-	
14. Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-
15. Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-
16. Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-
17. Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-
18. Orissa	-	-	-	-	-	-
19. Punjab	2	-	26	135	-	-
20. Rajasthan	-	-	-	1	-	-
21. Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-
22. Tamil Nadu	33	-	-	14	25	-
23. Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	-
24. Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	81	9	-
25. West Bengal	2	-	2	6	-	-
26. Andaman & Nicobar	-	-	-	-	-	-
27. Dadar & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-
28. Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-
29. Delhi	-	1	15	-	-	-
30. Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-
31. Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-
32. Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	-

[English]

Jawaharlal Nehru University

249. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1080 on March 21, 1995 and state:

- (a) whether any progress have since been made in regard to eviction of the accommodation occupied by the staff of Jawaharlal Nehru University at NAA Campus;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by Jawaharlal Nehru University, 120 Type-I and 40 Type-II residential quarters of NAA Campus are still under occupation of the University. The construction of houses earmarked for accommodating these employees has been completed. It has, however, not been possible to shift the employees as the Municipal Corporation is yet to provide additional water supply for these houses.

Government have taken up the matter with the Corporation.

Environment and Forestry Projects in Gujarat

250. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had undertaken some Environmental and forestry Development Projects in Gujarat State including the tribal areas during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the progress made so far in each case;

(c) the assistance provided in each case; and

(d) the Projects likely to be started during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) The details of the Environment and Forestry Projects undertaken by Government in Gujarat during the last three years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 along with achievements both Financial and Physical are given in the statement attached.

(d) The projects are continuing in nature.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the	Broad Objective Scheme	Extent of funding	Status	<u>Achievement during the last three years</u>			
					1992-93 (Financial)	1993-94 (Physical)	1994-95 (Physical)	9.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
1.	Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	To develop National Parks and Sanctuaries	100%	on-going	29.64	36.06	31.70	16 National Parks covered
2.	Eco-development around protected areas	To Provide alternative sustenance to communities living on fringes of National Parks	100%NR 50%R	on-going	19.52	14.04	--	5 National Parks covered
3.	Central Zoo	Upgradation of Zoos Authority Scheme	100%	on-going	--	14.08	3.75	3 Zoos were covered
4.	Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in regeneration & degraded forest on dsufruct shari- ng basis	To associate Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in afforestation of degraded forest	100%	on-going	--	10.36	--	NA

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
5.	Modern Forest Fire Control Methods	Controlling forest fires to protect and conserve forests	100%	on-going	5.00	8.00	3.40	Target fixed in terms of financial releases
6.	Paryavaran Vahini Scheme	Create environmental awareness through active participation of public	100%	on-going	0.54	1.02	--	Set up in four districts
7.	Association to Botanic Gardens	To upgrade Botanic Gardens	100%	On-going	--	7.15	6.05	2 Botanic gardens Covered
8.	Assistance for abatement of Pollution	To strengthen the State Pollution Control Board through technical manpower	100%	on-going	8.08	6.84	--	Target Fixed in terms of financial release
9.	National River Conservation Plan Scheme	Pollution abatement of river Sabarmati	150%		River Sabarmati has been included in the National River Conservation Plan.			
10.	Minor Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants	Raising Minor Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants	100%	On-going	47.69	103.00	197.63	1961 ha. area covered
11.	Seeds Development Scheme	To develop infrastructure for quality seeds	100%	on-going	10.62	18.72	9.36	Target fixed in terms of financial releases
12.	Integrated Afforestation & Eco-development Project Scheme	Promote afforestation and Eco-development	100%	on-going	--	--	236.09	3655 ha. area Covered
13.	Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Scheme	Augmenting supply of fuelwood & fodder in identified fuelwood deficit districts	50%	on-going	120.55	84.87	60.00	4876 ha. area covered

R - Recurring, NR - Non-recurring,

NA- Not Available

*[Translation]***Promotion of Sports**

251. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any pointed efforts had been made to promote sports at the primary level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the awareness about sports among the youths and students; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regards and amount allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is implementing a number of schemes to promote sports at the primary level. These schemes include:-

(i) **Rural Sports Programme:** The Scheme envisages financial assistance to the State Government/UTs for organising rural sports tournaments at the district

and the State/UT level. Each rural sports club/centre under the scheme is given a one time grant upto Rs. 30,000/- in case of those sports clubs/centres located in non-tribal blocks and Rs. 45,000/- for those located under tribal blocks such grants are for purposes of purchasing sports equipment. Subsequently, Rs. 5,000/- per annum is given to such clubs/centres for two years.

(ii) Grants to rural Schools for developments of playing fields and purchase of non-consumable sports equipments:

A maximum of rupees one lakh is given to rural secondary/higher secondary schools for the development of playing fields and purchase of non-consumable sports equipment.

(iii) Sports talent search scholarships: State level and national level scholarship at the rate of Rs. 2700/- per annum and Rs. 4800/- per annum respectively, are available to selected talented sports persons studying in schools.

(iv) National Sports Talent Contest Scheme: (NSTC) The scheme attempts to identify talented children in the age group of 9 to 12 years. These children are admitted in adopted centres where the cost of their boarding, lodging, tuition fees, books, sports kits, uniform etc. are met by the Sports Authority of India (SAI). They are provided coaching and specialised training in selected sports discipline.

(v) Special Area Games Scheme: Under the scheme, population groups and regions were natural talent and aptitude for a particular sport exists, are identified. The promising young boys and girls are given intensive training in such identified sports in Special Area Games (SAG) centres.

(vi) National Sports Championship for Women: The Sports Authority of India organises annually sports tournaments for women from block level to national level.

(c) & (d) : Yes, Sir. With a view to increasing awareness about sports among students, apart from the schemes mentioned above, the Government is concentrating on the following aspect:

(i) Encouraging participation in sports generally by providing playfields and other infrastructure.

(ii) Integrating sports and physical education in the education curriculum.

(iii) Utilising Television media gainfully for creating necessary climate for development of sports.

(iv) Encouraging corporate investment in sports.

(v) Facilitating availability of inexpensive sports goods.

(vi) Providing incentives to performing sports persons in matters of employment and admission to courses of higher education.

No separate budget has been allocated for this purpose.

[English]

Privatisation of Sale of Tickets

252. SHRI ANNA JOSHI:

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Southern Railway proposes to invite private parties to take up reservation of train tickets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such scheme is likely to be implemented on other Zonal Railways;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K.JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (e) No decision has been taken as yet regarding operation of computer terminals for train reservations by private parties on any railways.

Vacancies in Group D Posts

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

(a) the number of vacancies of Group 'D' post lying vacant in Ratlam Division of Western Railway including Dahod Workshop, Department-wise;

(b) whether the action is being taken to fill up these vacancies; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) The number of Group 'D' vacancies in Ratlam Division and Dahod Workshop, is as under:-

Department	Vacancies		
	Ratlam	Division	Dahod Workshop
Mechanical	35		138
Civil	235		—
Electrical	6		24
Traffic	1		—
Commercial	8		—
Signal and Telecommunication	21		—
Medical	21		21
Administration	4		—
Stores	—		36

(b) and (c) The arising and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process as vacancies keep arising due to promotions, resignations, retirements, etc. and keep getting filled up through promotions, direct recruitment from open market, redeployment of surplus staff, regularisation of casual labour/substitutes etc.

As per the extant instructions, barring certain exceptions, virtually all vacancies in Group 'D' are, at present being filled by absorption of casual labour substitutes after due process of screening. Accordingly Railway have initiated the action for regularising the services of casual labour/substitutes for filling up of Group 'D' vacancies.

Railways Bridge

254. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a third Railway Bridge is under construction on river Godavari at Kovvur-Rajahmundry in South Central Railway;

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(c) whether it is possible to convert this Bridge into a road cum-rail bridge;

(d) whether studies have been done to consider the feasibility of converting this Bridge; and

(e) if not, whether studies are proposed to be conducted to determine economic feasibility at this stage?

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

(b) August, 1996

(c) No, Sir

(d) No, Sir

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Spread of Education

255. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government in regard to Primary Education, Adult Education and Complete Literacy in the country at present;

(b) the percentage of target achieved for providing free and compulsory primary education in each State;

(c) the name of the State and Union Territories where free primary education is being imparted; and

(d) the amount and the facilities provided by the Union Government to the States for imparting primary education from 1993 till date, state-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) In pursuance of National Policy on Education 1986, the Central government has launched a number of programmes in the areas of primary education and adult education details of which are available in the Annual Report of the Ministry.

(b) and (c) Primary Education has been made free in all government, aided schools and schools run by local bodies in all States and Union Territories. The Statewise details of enrolment, dropout are contained in the Annual Report of the Ministry; These details provide a measure of universalisation of elementary education. The Annual Report also provided State-wise details of releases under different schemes funded by Government of India.

[English]

Scholarship to IIT Students

256. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

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

(a) Whether aerospace engineering students of Indian Institute of Technology have refused the prestigious scholarship from leading organisation; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) Aeronautics Research and Development Board under Defence Research and Development Organisation has offered 82 scholarships to students of Indian Institute of Technology during the period 1990-1994, out of which 30 have been availed of. This scholarship is not popular among Aerospace Engineering students for various reasons such as non condition proficiency level etc.

Privatisation of Higher Education

257. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to privatisise Higher education; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) Privatisation cannot handing over control of a State owned institution to the Private Sector

Government is not contemplating to privatise any institution of Higher Education.

Procurement of Copra

258. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN:

PROF. P.J. KURIAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the date of announcement of floor Price of Copra along with the date of starting procurement of Copra;
- (b) whether the announcement of both the above dates has been delayed inordinately;
- (c) if so, the reasons for this inordinate delay;
- (d) the amount allocated to Kerala for the procurement of Copra from the coconut cultivators of Kerala;
- (e) whether the Union Government have received any requests from the Government of Kerala that the allotment is meagre and this will not help to raise the price of Coconut in the market;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) the quantum of Coconut procured so far; and
- (h) whether Copra will be processed and oil used for the production of 'Dhara' and 'Vanaspati'

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of Copra for 1995 season were announced on 23rd May, 1995 NAFED has started purchase of Copra under Minimum Support Price (MSP) programme from 7th July, 1995.

(b) and (c) There was some delay in the announcement of MSPs and for understanding procurement operations for copra for 1995 season. Some administrative issues caused delay in taking these decisions.

(d) The Government does not allocate funds state-wise for procurement of copra.

(e) No. Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.

(g) NAFED has procured 1302 MT milling Copra till 24th July, 1995

(h) Use of coconut oil in the production of 'Vanaspati' without any quantitative restriction has been allowed by the Government.

Fuel Wood and Fodder Scheme

259. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the fund earmarked during Eighth Plan for

implementing the Area Oriented Fuel Wood and Fodder Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : The 8th Plan outlay for Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project Scheme is Rs. 158 crores.

Technical Institutions

260. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether as per the directives of the Supreme Court, All India Council of Technical Education has started processing of the proposals regarding recognition and derecognition of the technical Institute in the country; and

(b) if so, the number of proposal processed for recognition and derecognition so far?

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

(b) All India Council for Technical Education has processed 1912 proposals so far.

[Translation]

Construction of Dams

261. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee on Environment and Evaluation have recommended that construction of ten major dams in the country may be stopped;

(b) if so, the names of these Dams; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) The Expert Committee set up in the Government for environmental appraisal of River Valley and Hydroelectric projects has not made any such recommendation.

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

Over Bridge

262. SHRI SIMON MARAND : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scheme for construction of Railway Over Bridge in Pakur, Godda and Sahibganj Districts of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target proposed and fixed for the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 alongwith the estimated cost to be incurred thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Shortage of Sugar

263. SHRI HARISINGH CHAVDA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of Sugar during the last four months and full quota of Sugar could not be supplied to the fair price shops;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the full quota of Sugar to various States particularly Gujarat State has been supplied for distribution to the fair Price Shops during the months of November and December, 1994;

(d) if not, the reason therefore; and

(e) the steps taken by the government to provide sufficient Sugar to the state as per their requirement?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Report have been received from some North Eastern States about the shortage of sugar at Fair Price shops which were mainly on account of non-movement of adequate quantity of levy sugar from the sugar producing States.

(c) Monthly levy sugar quota of Gujarat State is 16194 MTs. The Central Government had allocated the full quota of levy sugar to various States including Gujarat during November, 1994 and December, 1994 for distribution through the Public Distribution System. As regards the supply to Fair Price Shops, it is the responsibility of the State Government.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Formation of Cooperative Companies

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

(a) whether Union Government are considering to review the old proposal of 1991 for allowing the formation of cooperative companies;;

(b) if so, the details of the final decision taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the extent to which such decision will help IFFCO

KRIBHCO and NDDB to complete with large business houses on an equal basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) A proposal was received in the year 1992 from the Department of Company Affairs to facilitate the formation of Cooperative Companies incorporating a chapter in the Companies Act, 1956. The Department of Agriculture and corporation has communicated its views. The proposed provisions have to be incorporated in the Companies Act by the Department of Company Affairs.

(c) The proposal is only for the producer members who are engaged in agriculture or allied activities. NDDB is not a Cooperative Society.

Care for Environment

265. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a separate "Care of Environment" Section;

(b) if so, the main function of the Section; and

(c) the activities taken up so far and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) No separate section was established for implementing the "Care for the Environment Contest" project. Only limited project staff was sanctioned to the National Museum of Natural History to handle the contest. The project staff were required to perform various functions related to the contest such as advertisement, conducting the contest and subsequent use of material generated.

(c) The project generated considerable public participation and resulted in more than 2 lakh entries. The rich resource material generated by the project is being utilised for dissemination of environmental awareness messages among schools, colleges teachers and the general public.

Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshamitra Award

266. SHRI UDAYISINGRAO GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has instituted Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshmitra Award;

(b) if so, the details thereof with criteria for conferring of such award;

(c) the name of individuals and agencies in chronological order to whom such award have been conferred upon ;

(d) whether such move has given encouraging response to afforestation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) The Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshamitra Award was instituted in 1986 in recognition of exceptional contribution in the field of afforestation and wastelands development. Twelve awards are given to person / institutions / organisations covering six categories viz (i) Individuals, (ii) Panchayats/ Gram Sabhas/ Village Level Institutions, (iii) Educational Institutions, (iv) Voluntary Agencies including Mahila Mandals, Yuval Mandals etc. (v) Govt. Agencies (not above the district level), (vi) Corporate Sector (Private / Public / Sector Agencies). The number of awards in each category has been restricted to two since 1988. The category of 'corporate sector' has been included in the 1993 Awards Onwards.

Criteria for considering the nominations is based upon pioneering and innovative work in afforestation and tree planting: involvement of rural and tribal people specially women in afforestation and eco-development; extension work, motivation and creation of awareness among people, establishing peoples lands and creating sustainable institutional structures such as Committee and work done in specially difficult areas and difficult agroclimatic zones. Replicability and sustainability of the work done is also given importance while considering the nominations.

(c) The list of Awardees year-wise and category-wise for the period 1986 to 1993 is given in the attached statement.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Awards Create awareness and motivation for afforestation and waste lands development work among the masses.

STATEMENT

Awardees of Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshamitra Awards

1986

INDIVIDUALS

1. Shri Karbhari Kashinath Chavan, Pune, Maharashtra.
2. Dr. Vishnu Mahadev Gogte, Nasik.
3. Shri Annasaheb Hazare Ahmednagar, Maharashtra
4. Shri Mitha Lal Mehta, Govt. of Rajasthan, Jaipur
5. Shri T. Govindakutty Menon, Kasturbagram, Indore
6. Shri Anupam Mishra, Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi
7. Dr. Surinder Mahadeo Mohnot, Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

8. Shri Devendra Singh Negi, Etwah, Uttar Pradesh
9. Shri Gopal Krishna Panthri, Chamoli, Uttar Pradesh.
10. Shri Visheshwar Dutt Saklani, Tehri Garwal, Uttar Pradesh

11. Shri Sugatha Kumari, Trivandrum, Kerala.

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

1. Bhartiya Agro-Industries foundation, Pune, Maharashtra
2. Brukhy 'o' Jeevar Bandho Parisada, Puri, Orissa.
3. Central Young Mizo Association, Aizawl, Mizoram.
4. Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad, Trivandrum, Kerala.
5. Mahila Mangal Dals, Chamoli, Uttar Pradesh.
6. Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Ranchi, Bihar
7. School of Fundamental Research, Calcutta, West Bengal.

GRAM PANCHAYATS

1. Gram Panchayat Bhustala, Kurukshetra, Harayana.
2. Gram Panchayat, Kovilur, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

1. Rabbani School, Suseta, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

COOPERATIVE ORGANISATIONS

1. Fodvel Tree Growers Cooperative Society Ltd. Bulsar, Gujarat.

2. Vrikshmitra Sahayog Sindhudurg, Maharashtra.

OTHERS

1. The Municipal Corporation of Visakhapatnam, Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
2. The Karnataka State Cooperative Land & Development Bank Ltd. Bangalore.
3. Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited, Neyveli, Tamil Nadu

1987

INDIVIDUALS

1. Shri Kishori Mohan Singh Mahapatra, Bankura, West Bengal.
2. Shri Ben Soans, Tumkur, Karnataka.
3. Shri V.M. Manohar Prasad, Visakhapatnam, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
4. Shri Arun Bhim Rao Nikam, Jalgaon, Maharashtra
5. Shri Vasant Rao Thakre, Dhule, Maharashtra.

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

1. Halpati Seva Sangh, Bardoli, Gujarat

2. National Institute of Rural Integrated Development, Bombay, Maharashtra
3. Taralabalu Rural Development Foundation, Chitradurga, Karnataka
4. Shri Vaijnath Bhav Darshan Trust, Baroda, Gujarat.
5. Forestry Board Kerala, Trivandrum.

PANCHAYATS

1. Social Forestry Committee, Panruti, Chinglepet, Tamil Nadu.
2. Forestry Project of 11 villages in Arabari Range, Midnapore, West Bengal.
3. Bhagbantapure Social Forestry Group, Midnapore, West Bengal.

COOPERATIVES

1. Harekala Landless Poor & Marginal Farmers Development Society Bangalore, Karnataka
2. Mahila Mandals of Jamkhed, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra
3. Tree Growers Cooperatives of Bhal Region, Gujarat.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

1. Mahatma Gandhi Vidhyalaya, Pune, Maharashtra.
2. Dalyon Ka Dagrya, Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh
3. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ramakrishna Ashram, Nimpith, West Bengal.

1988

INDIVIDUAL

1. Shri Mohan Dharia, Pune, Maharashtra
2. Shri P.R. Mishra, Daltonganj, Bihar

VOLUNTARY AGENCY

1. Magra Mewar Vikas Sanstha, Ajmer, Rajasthan
2. Comprehensive Social Service Society, Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh

GRAM PANCHAYATS

1. Sitarampur Panchayat, Midnapur, West Bengal
2. Prattabaramapuram Panchayat, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

1. Rekhade Vidyalaya, Nagpur, Maharashtra
2. Government Inter College, Chamoli, Uttar Pradesh

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

1. Social Forestry Division, Surat, Gujarat
2. Green Belt Division, Bangalore, Karnataka

1989

INDIVIDUALS

1. Shri Sona-Ullah Banihali, District Doda, Jammu & Kashmir.
2. Shri M. Padamanabha Reddy, Divisional Forests Officer, Andhra Pradesh.

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

1. Rural Education Society, Kothapeta, Chittoor District Andhra Pradesh
2. A.M.M. Murugappa Chettiar Research Centre, Madras, Tamil Nadu

GRAM PANCHAYATS

1. Sreerampur Village Level Protection Committee, Distt. Purulia, West Bengal
2. Jungle Surakshya Samiti, Suruguda Distt. Sudargarh, Orissa

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

1. Brahmanand Mahavidyalaya, Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

1. 128 Infantry Battalion (Territorial Army) Ecological Task force, Rajasthan
2. Forest Division, Uttar Kannada District, Karnataka
3. Howrah Social Forestry Range, West Bengal

1990

INDIVIDUALS

1. Shri Vinayak Rao Patil, Nasik, Maharashtra.
2. Shri Om Prakash Agrawal Surguja, Madhya Pradesh.
3. Shri A. K. Upadhyaya, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

1. Jan Shiksha Evam Vikas Sangathan, Dungarpur, Rajasthan.
2. Ubeshwar Vikas Mandal, Udaipur, Rajasthan

GRAM PANCHAYATS

1. Gram Vikas Mandal, Pingor, Distt. Barauch, Gujarat.
2. Rakhyaval Primary Farm Forestry, Co-operative Society Ltd. District Udaipur, Rajasthan.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

1. Sivagiri Shree Narayana, Sr. Secondary School, Sreenivasapuram, Varkala, Kerala.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

1. Tirumalla Tirupati Devasthanams, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

2. Social Forestry Project Division Sambalpur, Orissa

1991

INDIVIDUALS

1. Shri Krishan Chander, Raigarh, Madhya Pradesh
2. Shri Dhondiram Mahadev Mohite, Sangli, Maharashtra.

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

1. Vikash Bharti, Bishunpur, Gumla, Bihar
2. Ramakrishna Mission Ashram (Lokasiksha Parishad) South 24 Parganas, West Bengal.

GRAM PANCHAYAT

1. Cooch Behar-II Panchayat Samiti, Cooch Behar, West Bengal.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

1. Chandrapur Girls High School (Primary Unit) Udaipur, South Tripura
2. Govt. High School, Ayyalur, Anna, Tamil Nadu.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

1. South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh.
2. Visakhapatnam Steel Plant Vishakhapatnam Andhra Pradesh.

1992

INDIVIDUAL

1. Shri B. M. Singh Rathore, Harda, Madhya Pradesh.
2. Shri Abasaheb Rajaram More, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

1. Santhal Pargna Gramodyog Samiti, Deoghar, Bihar.
2. Irula Tribal Women's Welfare Society, Chinglept, Tamil Nadu.

PANCHAYAT/VILLAGE LEVEL INSTITUTION

1. Sangawa Primary Farm Forestry Co-operative Society Ltd. Udaipur, Rajasthan
2. Gram Panchayat Gawadewadi, Pune, Maharashtra.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

1. Maharishi Balmiki Laghu Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Pipraicha, Deoriya, Uttar Pradesh.
2. Sanskrit Sanvardhan Mandal, Sagaroli, Nanded, Maharashtra.

GOVERNMENT AGENCY

1. National Watershed Development Programme Division

Department of Agriculture, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.

1993

VOLUNTARY AGENCY

1. Women Sangams' of the Deccan Development Society, Village Algole, Medak, Andhra Pradesh.
2. Gramin Vikas Parishad, Deoghar, Bihar

PANCHAYAT / VILLAGE LEVEL INSTITUTION

1. Mudialy Fishermen's Co-operative Society Ltd., Calcutta, West Bengal.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

1. Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, Ahmednagar Maharashtra.

GOVERNMENT AGENCY

1. Jammu Social Forestry Division, Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir
2. Field Research Laboratory (FRL), 3 Inf Division, c/o 56, A.P.O.

CORPORATE SECTOR

1. Tata Engineering and Locomotive Company Limited.,(TELCO) Pimpri, Pune, Maharashtra.

[Translation]

V.I.P. Room at Railway Station

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

(a) Whether it has been decided to construct VIP room at Surat Railway Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be constructed; and

(d) the estimated cost to be incurred on the work?

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

(b) to (d) The Work of provision of V.I.P. room at Surat Railway Station has already been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 1 Lakh and the same is targetted for completion in the current financial year.

[English]

State Farm Corporation

268. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAM CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the state Farm Corporation of India and the Central State Farms are running at profit :

(b) if so, the details thereof during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 farm-wise;

(c) Whether any of the Farms are proposed to be closed down or expanded; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI) Limited incurred losses in its operation during 1992-93 and 1993-94 to the extent of Rs.603.88 lakhs and Rs. 176.44 lakhs respectively. The details regarding financial performance of Central State Farms of SFCI for the years 1992-93 and 1993-94 are given in the attached statement. The Accounts of 1994-95 are under finalisation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of the position indicated above, the question does not arise.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in lakhs)

Profit (+)/Loss (-)

S.No.	Central State Farm	1992-93	1993-94
1.	Suratgarh	(-) 157.65	(+) 69.97
2.	Sardargarh	(-) 82.23	(+) 16.09
3.	Jetsar	(-) 95.58	(-) 111.43
4.	Hissar	(+) 83.70	(+) 84.57
5.	Ladhowal	(-) 45.86	(+) 0.45
6.	Bahraich	(-) 10.64	(+) 31.14
7.	Raebareli	(-) 15.58	(-) 22.05
8.	Raichur	(-) 142.51	(-) 68.13
9.	Chengam	(-) 120.99	(-) 94.95
10.	Arlam	(-) 33.12	(-) 86.22
11.	Kakilabari	(+) 4.21	(+) 10.95
12.	Barpeta	(+) 0.31	(+) 0.66
Total		(-) 615.94	(-) 168.95

Note: Profit and Loss Accounts of L.D. Unit of Central State Farm, Suratgarh and H.O. of SFCI at New Delhi have also been taken into consideration while calculating the net loss of the Corporation indicated in the reply to the question.

[Translation]

Self Sufficiency in Oilsseeds, Pulses

269. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the country is still dependent on other countries for Oilsseeds and Pulses to meet the domestic requirement;

(b) if so, the quantum of Oilsseeds and pulses imported from abroad during the last three years;

(c) the amount spent on import of Oilsseeds and Pulses during the above period; and

(d) the special measures being contemplated or proposed to be contemplated to achieve the self-sufficiency in the field of Oilsseeds and Pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Some quantities of edible oil and pulses are required to be imported to meet domestic consumption need. However, since 1989-90 the income from export of oilsseeds and its products has been always higher than import.

(b) and (c) Import of oilsseeds was not made during the past three years. however, import of pulses along with its value is as follows:

Year	Quantity ('000 Tonne)	Value Rs. in crores
1992-93	382.62	334.37
1993-94	628.16	567.01
1994-95(P)	554.89	573.57

(Source: DG CIAP Calcutta) 'P' = Provisional

(d) To increase the production of oilsseeds, centrally sponsored oilsseeds Production Programme is under implementation. Similarly for pulses, centrally sponsored National Pulses Development Project in cooperation. Under these projects an assistance for the key inputs such as production and distribution of seeds, farm implements, Roxonial cultures, gypsum and pyrite sprinklers etc. is given to the farmers to increase their production.

[English]

National Fisheries Policy

270. SHRI RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any Export Group has been constituted with representation from agriculture, Food Processing,

Commerce and various State Government for formulation of National Fisheries Policy;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the group has submitted its report to the Government;
- (d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken proposed to take by the Government thereon; and
- (e) if not, the time by which the group expected to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes. Sir The Government has constituted an Expert Group to formulate a National Fisheries Policy. various Ministries, Departments, State Government, Organisation and experts who are concerned with the diverse activities of the fisheries sector in the country were included as members. A Statement list of members and the terms of reference of the Expert Group is enclosed

(c) to (e) The group has completed its work and the draft policy is at the stage of finalisation.

STATEMENT

Composition of the Expert Group

i) Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (Incharge of Fisheries)	Chairman
ii) Joint Secretary (Fisheries, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation	Member
iii) Representatives of ICAR	Member
iv) Representative of Ministry of Commerce	Member
v) Representative of Ministry of Food Processing Industries	Member
vi) Representative of Ministry of Environment & Forests	Member
vii) Representative of Department of Bio - Technology	Member
viii) Representative of Department of Revenue	Member
ix) Representative of Department of Insurance	Member

x) Representative from the States Kerala, A.P. & Orissa	Members
xi) Representatives of Association of Indian Fishery Industries	Member
xii) Shri J.V.H. Dixitulu, Editor, "Fishing Chimes"	Member
xiii) Representative of Fisheries Coop. Federation (FISHCOPFED)	Member
xiv) Fisheries Development Commissioner Convenor	Member

Terms of Reference

To formulate a comprehensive National Fisheries Policy by

- i) covering all aspects of production, marketing, processing, and exports in fisheries sector;
- ii) coordinating the efforts of all concerned both in the public and private sector of Fisheries;
- iii) laying special stress on the issues relating to welfare of fishermen;
- iv) incorporating strategies for production of fish ensuring at the same time adequate inputs of science and technology;
- v) including adequate environmental safeguard so that the production growth could be made ideologically sustainable
- vi) giving special focus on the development of brackish water aquaculture; and
- vii) Providing adequate measures for combating fish disease.

Gauge Conversion

271. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Conversion of matter gauge line between Forbesganj and Araria is under consideration;
- (b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be undertaken; and
- (c) the estimated cost to be incurred on this project.

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

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

Booking Counters at Rohini

272. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether representations have been received for opening of a railway booking counter at Rohini for a long time; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) As there is no railway land available at Rohini, it is proposed to provide computerise reservation facilities at Shakurbasti and Badli stations, which are located near Rohini, in the next financial year subject to technical feasibility. This would benefit the public residing in and around Rohini area.

Education For Minorities

273. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the report of high powered group set up by the Government to review the recommendations made by various Ministries and Departments of the Central and State Governments of Education for Minorities is pending with the Government for a final decision;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the time by which the Government will announce the policy of Education for Minorities under the 2986 Education Policy and the 15-points programme for the welfare of minorities?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The report of this Task Force was incorporated as Chapter 3 in the programme of Action (POA), 1992 which has been laid on the Table of the House in August 1992.

Railway Network

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

(a) the names of the tourist places of West Bengal so far connected by Railway Net-work;

(b) the names of the tourist places of West Bengal so far not being connected by Railway Link;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to connect those places by Railways; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) The tourist places of West Bengal connected by Railway Net-work are- Calcutta (Howrah/Sealdah), Murshidabad, Palassey, Diamond Harbour (for Sundarban and Gangasagar), Nabadwip Dham (for Iskcon-Mayapur), Belur (for Belur Malda), Bolpur (for Shantiniketan), Bandel, Tarapith Road, Rampurhat, Durgapur, Malda, Chandannagar, Canning Azimganj City, Bishnupur, Bankura, Garbeta, Barabhum, Anara, Burnpur, Jhalda, Purulia, Jhargram, Darjeeling, kurseong and Coochbehar.

(b) Tourist places of West Bengal not connected by Railway Net-work are- Namkhana, Kakdwip, Digha, Mukutmanipur, Kalimpong and Jaldapara Game Sanctuary.

(c) and (d) While construction of rail links to important tourist centres at Namkhana and Digha is already in progress, the tourist traffic to tourist centres such as Mukutmanipur, kalimpong, Jaldapara, etc. is well served by convenient and adequate by services from nearby rail heads.

Dependence of agriculturists on Rain

275. SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total percentage of agriculturists depending on rain water for agriculture in the country;

(b) the states, the Government intend to take to reduce this percentage; and

(c) the details of progress made during the past two years in reducing the percentage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) As per the Agricultural census 1985-86 the number of operational holdings operating wholly unirrigated area and partly unirrigated area are as follows:

(1) Holdings which have wholly unirrigated area.	: 51.3 (million)
(2) Holdings which have partly unirrigated area.	: 16.6 (million)

As the total number of operational holdings in 1985-86 is 94.9 million, the number of operational land holdings wholly or partly unirrigated would be around 71.5%.

(b) and (c) During the year 1990-91 and 1991-92, 8.20 lakh ha. area has been brought under irrigation through major/medium irrigation projects while 37.50 lakh ha. area has been brought under minor irrigation.

[Translation]

Betel Growers

276. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether good quality of Betel is grown in Tribal Districts of Gujarat;

(b) Whether the farmers are suffering heavy losses for the last several years due to damage being caused by the insecticides to the Betel-crop;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to tackle this problem and to provide financial assistance to such farmers; and

(d) the amount of assistance provided to Gujarat to Promote Betel crop during the last three years and the number of farmers benefited therefrom particularly those from tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) There is no cultivation of betel leaf in tribal areas of Gujarat.

(b) and (c) There is no report regarding the damage caused by insecticides to the betel crop in Gujarat.

(d) The Government of India has launched a scheme on the development of betel-vine cultivation in the country during VIII Plan under which assistance is being provided for establishment of demonstration plots, construction of conservatory/trellis, development of water sources and purchase of plant protection equipments. The scheme is being implemented in Gujarat from 1994-95 for which Rs. 1.25 lakhs has been released during that year and another Rs. 1.25 lakhs allocated in 1995-96. 14% of the fund allocated has been earmarked for the benefit of tribals and 7% for schedule cast beneficiaries. The number of beneficiaries in this regard are not available.

[English]

Railway Line

277. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there is any proposal to take Railway Line from Lanka station of Guwahati-Lumding section of North Frontier Railway to the Cachar District of Barakvalley via North Cachar Hill Districts of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) updating Surveys for construction of new rail line from Lanka to Silchar has been taken up as an out of turn work in 1995-96.

Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Railway Station

278. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there is any proposal to beautify the Alleppey Railway Station in Kerala and its surroundings;

(b) if so, the schemes formulated and the financial allocations made for the beautification of this Railway Station; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c) Alleppey Railway Station and its surroundings are being maintained in a satisfactory condition. The station building is provided with adequate facilities, a well maintained circulating area and good approach roads. No specific scheme for further beautification of the station is contemplated.

[Translation]

Production of Sugarcane

279. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have formulated any scheme called "Development of tillage" to reduce the production cost of Sugarcane and to increase its production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total production of Sugarcane at present and the target fixed for the next year;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to increase the modes of crushing of sugarcane in proportion to its production targets; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) As such no scheme on "Development of tillage" has been formulated to reduce the production cost of sugarcane.

However, for increasing the productivity and product of sugarcane a Centrally sponsored Scheme entitled "Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System" is being implemented in 20 States and one UT of funding pattern of 75:25 between Government of India and

State Governments, from the current financial year i.e. 1995-96.

Under the scheme, emphasis is laid for training to farmers on newly developed production technology, demonstration, quality seed production, distribution of improved implements etc., which would result in increased productivity, thereby reducing the cost of production.

(c) The likely production of sugarcane during 1994-95 is 259.38 million tonnes and the target fixed for 1995-96 is 255 million tonnes.

(d) and (e) Information is given in the attached statement.

STATEMENT

The Minister of Food has taken the following measures in order to improve the drawal of sugarcane by the Sugar factories in the country:

i) Letters of intent for new sugar factories and expansion projects have been issued to augment the licensed/installed capacity.

ii) Incentives in the form of higher freesale quota have been announced for early and late crushing period.

iii) A new incentive scheme has been announced on 10.3.93 under which new sugar units in "High Recovery Areas" will be entitled for 100% freesale for 8 years and those in "Other Recovery Areas" to 100% for 9 years and 66% in the 10th year.

iv) State Government have been requested to ensure prompt clearance of cane price dues to the farmers by the sugar factories.

v) The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for 1994-95 season has been raised to Rs. 39.10 per quintal linked to the basic recovery of 3.5% subject to premium of 0.46 for every 0.1% point increase in the recovery above that level upto 10% and Rs. 0.60 for every 0.10% point increase in the recovery above 10%.

vi) An advance announcement of SMP for 1995-96 season has also been made at Rs. 42.50 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5% subject to premium for higher recoveries.

Irrigation Projects of Madhya Pradesh

280. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of proposals regarding irrigation projects sent by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for Environmental and Forest Clearance to the Union Government during the last three years;

(b) the names of proposals cleared, rejected and under consideration of the Union Government, separately;

(c) the time by which these projects are lying pending and the reasons therefore; and

(d) the time by when these proposals are likely to be cleared by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (d) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has referred sixty irrigation scheme for environmental and forestry clearance during last three years to the Ministry. List of these projects is enclosed as statement. Out of these sixty proposals, forty three have been accorded environmental and forestry clearance and one proposal was rejected due to non submission of requisite environmental plans. In respect of the remaining sixteen proposals, the State Government has not furnished the requisite information. As and when the necessary information is made available, a decision would be taken expeditiously.

STATEMENT

A statement showing name of irrigation proposals received from Madhya Pradesh State Government for Environment and Forest Clearance during the last three years as referred to in part (a) (b) of the reply to Lok Sabha unstarred Question No. 280 due for reply on 1.8.1995.

I. Name of the Proposals Approved/Approved in Principle

(a) ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE.

1. Bargi Diversion Project.
2. Omkareshwar Project.
- (b) FOREST CLEARANCE
3. Shyamgiri Tank Project
4. Batra Tank Project
5. Bansagar Feeder Canal
6. Patra Tank Project
7. Kamthi Tank Project
8. Sendhri Pani Tank Project
9. Mani Canal Project
10. Bhatapara Canal
11. Koched Irrigation Project
12. Bhitiyari Tank Project
13. Parsatola Irrigation Tank
14. Rampur Minor Irrigation Project
15. Mini Div. Scheme

16. Keswi Irrigation Tank
 17. Batati Tank Project
 18. Khunti Dis. Scheme
 19. Devari Irrigation Tank
 20. Baiga Piparia Irrigation Tank
 21. Dongaria Irrigation Project
 22. Kwnwarpura Tank
 23. Babdi Irrigation Project
 24. Lalpur Irrigation Project
 25. Chandra Nagar Project
 26. Samardep Project
 27. Bisampur Project
 28. Manda Tank Project
 29. Gawara Tank Project
 30. Lufa Tank Project
 31. Rusia Tank Project
 32. Rajali Tank Project
 33. Chakdahi Tank Project
 34. Santapur Tank Project
 35. Dam in Bailadila Iron Ore Project
 36. Lasanga Irrigation Project
 37. Inter State River Project in MP and Maharashtra
 38. Baghara Tank Project
 39. Palli Tank Project
 40. Tarpur Tank Project
 41. Bapatpur Tank Project
 42. Debena Project
 43. Dholka Irrigation Project.
 II. *Name of the proposal Rejected from Environmental angle*
 44. Monga Irrigation Project (Rejected due to non furnishing of requisite information and environmental Plans).
 III. *Names of the Proposals in Respect of which the State Government is Required to Furnish Essential details in Forestry Aspects*
 45. Pachna Irrigation Project
 46. Aurapani Tank Project
 47. Bharat Irrigation Project
 48. Jhiriya Nalla Tank Project

49. Chappi Tank Project
 50. Samloor Tank Project
 51. Wain Ganga Project
 52. Piparkhar Tank Project
 53. Pater Tank Project
 54. Indira Sagar Project
 55. Semarkhar Project
 56. Kewai Tank Project
 57. Mini Mata Bango Dam Project
 58. Jhikri Irrigation Tank Scheme
 59. Bana Bel Tank Project
 60. Chargaon Tank Project.

[English]

Production of Pulses

281. SHRI TARA SINGH:

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

SHRI D. VENKATESHWARA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government propose to have contractual production of several Pulses in foreign countries to augment the availability of pulses and the check price rise in the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the existing production of Pulses in the country is insufficient to meet the demand thereof; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to boost production of pulses in the country rather than having contractual production in foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) There is no such decision.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) To increase production of pulses a Centrally Sponsored National pulses Development Project is under implementation in 26 States/U.T. Under this project, farmers are assisted for the production and distribution of seeds, sprinklers, Rhizobial and PSB culture, improved farm implements, dal processors and storage bins etc. In addition demonstration areas also organised on the farmers, field to propagate the improved production technology.

Global Environment Facility

282. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the country is likely to get fund from Global Environment Facility (GEF) for launching some environment projects;
- (b) the details and the main objectives thereof;
- (c) whether any such project was launched in the past with external assistance; and
- (d) if so, the details of those project(s) and work done thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIEONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) The Global Environment Facility is its pilot phase have approved for assistance 5 projects in India. These

projects aim to addressing the problem of Global Warming by reducing or limiting Green House Gas Emissions through alternative energy systems and cleaner technologies. A statement giving details of these approved projects in the area of global warming, is attached. In addition, project preparation funds have been approved by the Facility for the "India Eco Development Project" which aims at Bio-diversity Conservation

(c) and (d) These projects have not been launched in the past with external assistance. However, a project dealing with impact of climate change was completed in 1993 with the financial assistance of the Asian Development Bank. With the assistance of the Asian Development Bank, a project titled "Asia Least-cost Green House Gas Abatement Strategy, Project for preparation of Green House Gas Inventories, identification of mitigation Options and Response Strategy" has been finalised.

STATEMENT

Approved GEF projects

	Project Name	Dept.	Implementing Agency	Theme	Indian Rs.	Size
1.	Alternate Eney Project	MNES	World Bank	Global Warming	94.5 Crs.	\$30 million
2.	Optimising Development of small Hydel Resources in the Hilly Regions of India	MNES	UNDP	Global Warming	23.6 Crs.	7.5 million
3.	Development of High Rate Biomethanation Processes a means of reducing GHG emmisions.	MNES	UNDP	Global Warming	17 Crs.	\$5.4 million
4.	Cost Effective Options for Limiting GHG emissions	MOEF	World Bank	Global Warming	4.7 Crs.	Technical assistance of \$1.5 mill. approved
5.	Clean Coal Technology Centres and Bagasse Co-generation.	USID/ NTPC	USAID Co-financing MNES.	Global Warming	59.85 Crs.	\$ 19 mill. Approved by the GEF Council in 7/94.

Abbreviations:-

1. MNES:- Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.
2. MOEF:- Ministry of Environment and Forests.
3. NTPC:- National Thermal Power Corporation.
4. USAID:-United States Agency for International Development.

Railway Line

283. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether there is any proposal to lay a new Railway Line between Udupi-Guruvayoor; and
- (b) whether any survey has been undertaken in this regard?

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

[Translation]

World Bank Assistance to Madhya Pradesh

284. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the financial assistance proposed to be provided by the World Bank to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for Intensive Agricultural Development in the State;
- (b) the main benefits likely to be derived therefrom;
- (c) whether the World Bank had laid down any conditions in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) At present there is no proposal to provide World Bank Assistance to Government of Madhya Pradesh for Intensive Agricultural Development in the State.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

[English]

Super Bazar

285. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Super Bazar: Kimton mein aage, gunvatta mein peechhe" appeared in the Hindi 'Hindustan', dated 16 July, 1995;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) the action taken thereon by the Government;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to merge Super Bazar with the Kendriya Bhandar; and
- (e) if not, the justification for not doing so keeping in

view the nefarious activities of the Super Bazar that have been highlighted all over?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The newspaper report referred to, alleges that prices of various grocery items are higher and the quality inferior in the Super Bazar as compared to Kendriya Bhandar, and in some cases even in comparison to the open market. The report is not entirely correct as Super Bazar has a system of laboratory testing of grocery items sold by them for ensuring quality. Comparison of prices of grocery items in the open market, Kendriya Bhandar and Super Bazar do not always reflect the correct picture, as there could be a range of qualities in each grocery items and it is difficult to specify whether the same quality of the item is being sold at a higher price by Super Bazar. However, Central Government have advised Super Bazar to further streamline their procedures for quality assurance and to evolve a system for monitoring prices of various items in the open market, Kendriya Bhandar and Super Bazar.

(d) and (e) Kendriya Bhandar is a Consumer Cooperative Store organised by Central Government Employees. Membership in Kendriya Bhandar is restricted to Central Government Employees. Super Bazar is a Consumer Cooperative Store wherein the membership is open to one and all. In view of the difference in membership base Super Bazar cannot be merged with the Kendriya Bhandar.

Vacant Posts in the Ministry

286. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the category-wise number of posts lying vacant in his Ministry/Departments and subordinate offices alongwith the date since when these are lying vacant; and
- (b) the reasons for keeping these posts vacant and by when these are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Clearance to New Industries

287. DR. K.V. R. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of new Industries in which production was delayed due to the delay caused in getting clearance from his Ministry during the last three years; and

(b) the proposals/schemes under the consideration of the Government to streamline it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) There is a well established procedure for environmental appraisal. A decision on a project is taken in a time-bound manner after obtaining the required environment-related data and clarifications from the project authorities and experts where required. Unnecessary delays in production due to delayed environmental clearance have therefore been avoided by following the procedure. This procedure has been further streamlined through a notification, No S.O. 60(E) dated 27.1.1994, as amended on 4.5.1994, for examination of the project proposals referred to this Ministry within a specified time frame.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Goa

288. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the central sector/centrally sponsored schemes being implemented for harnessing horticultural potential and fishing in Goa along with the details of allocation of funds, funds actually utilised, targets set and achieved, both physical and financial, additional income and employment generated through each such scheme during the last four years, year-wise; and

(b) the details of similar information for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) Information regarding funds released and funds utilised during the last four years as well as allocation made for the current year for implementing various Central Sector/ Centrally Sponsored Schemes for harnessing horticultural and fishing potential in Goa, is given in the attached statement-I. The scheme-wise information regarding physical targets and achievements during the same period is given in the attached statement-II. However, information on additional income and employment generated by these schemes is not monitored.

STATEMENT - I

Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored being implemented in Goa to harness horticulture and fishing potential - Funds released and funds actually utilised.

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.N	Name of the Scheme	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96
		R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	Allocation
A. Horticulture										
1.	Development of Cashewnuts	11.18	12.20	29.16	25.26	77.94	32.79	106.42	87.70	125.97
2.	Development of fruits	0.90	0.92	3.10	0.94	14.55	1.15	46.27	8.30	43.00
3.	Development of coconut	1.96	1.96	11.65	0.93	1.89	--	2.82	--	--
4.	Development of Spices	1.15	0.71	1.83	1.33	1.34	0.49	0.90	1.62	1.50
5.	Use of Plastic in agriculture	5.00	0.94	5.00	10.83	9.82	2.39	6.92	9.17	18.00
6.	Development of mushroom	--	--	0.50	--	--	--	14.75	14.18	1.00
7.	Development of commercial floriculture	--	--	--	--	1.00	0.45	1.00	0.38	2.50
8.	Development of root & tuber crops	--	--	--	--	0.80	--	0.25	1.05	0.85
9.	Development of vegetables	--	--	--	--	3.00	--	1.50	2.26	1.50
B. Fisheries										
1.	Development of coastal & marine fisheries	3.00	3.00	4.70	4.70	5.45	5.45	3.00	3.00	Prior state-wise allocation is not made

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
2.	Integrated brackish water Fish farm development	50:75	6.66	-	2.73	2.00	4.32	1.00	Not available	-do-
3.	Welfare of fisherman	0.25	0.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-do-

R : Funds Released

U : Funds Utilised

STATEMENT - II

Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented in Goa to harness horticulture and fishing potential-Physical Targets and Achievements.

Sl.N	Name of the Scheme/ Component	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96
		Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
A. Horticulture										
1. Development of cashewnut :										
(a)	Maintenance of plantations raised in previous years (ha.)	N.A.	N.A.	3442	1075	1534	1472	3442	1900	2790
(b)	Development of new plantation for export (ha.)	-do-	-do-	1800	555	600	555	1800	1304	1500
(c)	Adoption of pest control measure (ha.)	-do-	-do-	4000	2200	5200	1571	4000	3300	4000
2. Development of fruits :										
(a)	Large nurseries (nos.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
(b)	Small nurseries (nos.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
(c)	Training of farmers (nos.)	-	-	-	-	100	-	100	100	100
(d)	Area expansion (ha.)	-	-	-	-	100	80	300	123	100
(e)	Rejuvenation (ha.)	N.A.	N.A.	350	100	612	190	762	790	762
3. Development of cocônut:										
(a)	Area expansion (ha.)	N.A.	N.A.	30	31	30	8	30	30	30
(b)	Integrated farming for Productivity improvement:									
(i)	Diseased & old palms uprooted (nos.)	-	-	-	-	500	429	500	500	500
(ii)	Fresh Plantation (ha.)	-	-	-	-	50	50	50	25	50
4. Development of spices:										
(a)	Distribution of plant Protection equipments (Nos.)	N.A.	N.A.	25	10	25	15	25	39	25
(b)	Production & distribution of planting materials:									
(i)	Rooted pepper cuttings	N.A.	N.A.	50000	32500	50000	27000	50000	39000	50000

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
(ii)	Cloves seedlings	N.A.	N.A.	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
5.	Use of Plastics in Agriculture:									
(a)	Drip installation (ha.)	N.A.	N.A.	33	84	50	34	20	16	44
(b)	Drip demonstrations (Nos.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	27
(c)	Green house (ha.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.35	0.30	2.82
(d)	Mulching (ha.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.0	7.1	60.00
6.	Development of Mushroom:									
(a)	Setting up of spawn lab. (nos.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
(b)	Training of farmers (nos.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	1000	200
7.	Commercial Floriculture:									
(a)	Area expansion (ha.)	-	-	-	-	10	15	10	12	10
8.	Development of Root & Tuber Crops:									
(a)	Demonstration plots (nos.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	N.A.	50
(b)	Distribution of minikits (nos.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	N.A.	300
9.	Development of vegetables:									
(a)	Distribution of minikits (nos.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1000	N.A.	1000
B.	Fisheries									
1.	Development of Coastal Marine Fisheries									
	No. of crafts sanctioned to be motorised	*	60	*	60	*	100	*	40	*
2.	Integrated Brackishwater Fish Farm Development									
	Area brought under brackish water aquaculture (in ha.)	50	14	50	46	50	52	50	15	N.A.
3.	Welfare of fishermen									
	No. of fishermen insured	*	3000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

* = State-wise physical targets were not fixed

N.A. = Not available.

Working Women Hostels

289. SHRI KUNJEE LAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hostels for the working women in Rajasthan.

(b) the number of proposals received for construction of such hostels in the above State during the last three years;

(c) the number of proposals sanctioned out of them and the amount allocated for this purpose; and

(d) the time by which the remaining proposals are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI) : (a) 35 hostels have been sanctioned so far in Rajasthan to provide accommodation to 1641 working women, since inception of the Scheme of financial assistance for construction/expansion of hostels building for working women with day care centre for children.

(b) Three

(c) Nil, out of the proposals mentioned in part (b). However, one new hostel was sanctioned in 1992-93 for 35 working women from an earlier proposal. The approved estimated cost of construction of the hostels is Rs. 13.72 lakh of which Government of India share has been approved as Rs. 10.29 lakh. Grants totalling Rs. 24.65 lakh were released during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 in respect of hostels sanctioned earlier and under construction in Rajasthan.

(d) Working Women's Hostels would be sanctioned as soon as complete proposals recommended by the State Government are received.

Subsidy on Fertilizers

290. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether scheme for concession on sale of decontrolled fertilizers to the farmers for the year 1995-96 will continue on the pattern of the previous year;

(b) if so, whether the Government had also sent a communication to this effect to manufacturers and State Governments;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Fertilizer Association of India has submitted any representation in regard to stagnation in consumption of Fertilizers due to present scheme and had demand immediate review and corrections;

(d) if so, the main demands made by the fertilizer industry; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A Communication was sent to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and copies given to Fertilizers manufacturers/Importers that the scheme would continue during 1995-96 on 1994-95 pattern and would be effective from 1st April, 1995.

(d) and (e) Fertilizer Association of India, in their representation, has suggested that State Governments should not be involved in implementation of the scheme and funds earmarked for the purpose be enhanced.

(f) The existing system is working satisfactorily and payments amounting to Rs 514.02 crores were made to Fertilizer Manufacturers/Importers during 1994-95 on the

basis of certified reports of sales received from State/UTs and further payments are being made during 1995-96.

Import of sugar

291. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA :

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI :

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :

SHRI M.V.S. MURTHY :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have contracted for import of Sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the amount of foreign exchange to be spent thereon;

(c) whether representations have been received for scrapping of the agreements of fresh sugar imports in view of the surplus domestic production this year;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) the domestic production and consumption level of sugar this year; and

(f) the steps taken to export surplus quantity of Sugar or to built a buffer stock?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) As per information received from the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. and the Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation of India Ltd., the total contracted quantity of imported sugar as on date held by them stands at 2.91 lakh tonnes with the total value of about U.S. \$ 1231.62 lakhs.

(c) and (d) A representation from apex bodies of the industry has been received. On noticing the encouraging production trends of the current season, the total quantity under forward contracts was reduced from 4.09 lakh tonnes to 2.91 lakh tonnes. Efforts are being made to dispose of as much of the contracted sugar as is possible in the international market at the best possible price.

(e) The estimated production of indigenous sugar during 1994-95 season is about 143 lakh tonnes as against the estimated consumption of about 121.45 lakh tonnes.

(f) Considering the encouraging trends of production, Government has decided to export sugar out of surplus availability during this season (1994-95).

[Translation]

Research on Pulses

292. SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: (a) whether research work is being done to increase production of pulses; and (b) if so, since when this work is being done and the details of progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Concerted efforts are being made to increase pulses production through development of improved varieties and package of production practices. The ICAR started Coordinated Pulses Improvement Research Projects in 1966. Since then, a number of improved varieties of pulse crops have been identified and released for cultivation. The improved package of practices including use of fertilizers, insecticide and suitable cropping system have been developed.

Allocation for Research Work

293. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

a) whether less amount was allocated against the requirement for conducting research work in agriculture sector in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan period:

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

(c) the total amount spent till March, 1995 out of the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Looking to financial position, adequate budget support is there for conducting research work in agriculture.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The total amount spent during the VIII Plan till March, 1995 is Rs. 680.48 crore out of Rs. 1300.00 crores allocated.

Jobs in Farm Sector

294. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Fewer Jobs in Farm Sector", appearing in the 'Daily Telegraph', Dated June 17, 1995;

(b) reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the facts pertaining to unemployment in Agricultural sector ?

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

(b) The Government is sized of the problem of expanding employment in agriculture.

(c) According to National Sample Survey 46th Round, 1990-91, the unemployment rate as per the 'usual status' classification was 0.7 per cent for male and 0.1 per cent for female in the rural areas.

[English]

Poultry Breeding Programme in Kerala

295. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state : (a) Whether the College of the Government by way of providing the Central assistance to boost the Poultry Breeding Programme for production of high yielding egg type and fast growing meat type chicken with better hatchability and efficient feed conversion ratio;

(b) if so, the Reaction of the Government by way of providing the Central assistance to boost the Poultry Industry in Kerala;

(c) whether the Government have evolved any better programmes to boost such industry in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the salient feature thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Kerala Agricultural University (KAU), Mannuthy has taken up Poultry Breeding Programme for production of high yielding egg type chicken under the All India Coordinated Research Project on poultry breeding sponsored by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and a commercial hybrid on (ILM-90 ('Athulya')) has been released from this centre. No research programmes have been taken up at the K.A.U. to produce fast growing meat type chicken.

(b) The gross outlay during 8th Five Year Plan for the All India Coordinated Research Project on Poultry Breeding

to evolve high yielding egg type chicken at KAU sanctioned by the ICAR is Rs. 124.92 lakhs with an ICAR whare of Rs. 52.44 lakhs.

(c) and (d) Government of India (Dept. of Animal Husbandary and Dairying) at present is not implementing any Central/Centrally sponsored Poultry Development Scheme under which any financial assistance can be granted to the Government of Kerala.

Super Bazar

296. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rate of profits of Super Bazar during January-November, 1994 was about 10 per cent as compared to growth rate of 28 per cent during months in 1993; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Super Bazar works out profitability of the business for the year as a whole. It does not work out monthwise profitability.

The profit and the growth rate for the last 3 years are as follows:-

Year	Net Profit (Rs. in lakhs)	Growth rate (%age increase)
1991-92	9.33	--
1992-93	10.83	16.08%
1993-94	41.65	284.58%

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Diesel Engine

297. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to import railway Diesel Engines from America is under consideraion of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) The letter of acceptance for procurement of 21 Nos. of 4000 HP Diesel Locomotives with Transfer of Technology has since been issued to M/s Electro Motive Division, General Motors Corporation/USA.

[English]

Women's Court

298. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to establish a Women's Court to deal with atrocities on women; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARA) : (a) No Sir. The Administration of Justice in the District/Subordinate Courts comes under the purview of the concerned State Governments and High Courts. It is within the prerogative of the State Governments/ High Courts to set up such exclusive courts to be called Women Courts. As per available information, 4 Women Courts, one court of Additional Session Judge and 3 Courts of Metropolitan Magistrate have been established in Delhi w.e.f. 31.8.1994 and a Mahila Court was established in Hyderabad in 1987.

(b) Does not arise.

World Bank Assistance For Agricultural Sector

299. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank is providing financial assistance for the development of agricultural sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance provided to Gujarat during the last three years;

(c) whether the entire funds received by the State had been utilised; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Details of the projects and assistance provided to Gujarat State during the last three years are as under:-

Year-wise details of assistance

S.No.	Name of the Projects	(Rs. in lakh)
	Cr. No. 1569-IN-II National Agricultural Extension Project	Integrated Watershed Development (Plains) Cr.No.2131-IN
1.	Effective Date	10.5.85
2.	Date of Closing	31.03.93
3.	1992-93	Rs. 200.00
4.	1993-94	Project
5.	1994-95	life is over
		Rs. 172.66
		Rs. 633.06

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Development of Degraded Forest Lands

300. SHRI RABI RAY .

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH :

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA :

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO :

SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY :

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

(a) whether the Government had earlier proposed to lease out or hand-over degraded forest land to the industry including paper and pulp industry as captive plantations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have now abandoned those proposals;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the alternative proposals for development of the degraded forest lands/wastelands and whether Government have any tentative estimates for development of such land per hectare;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the total amount that would be required for reclamation and development of such land, statewise;

(g) whether the Government have received any proposals/offers from industry /private entrepreneurs for undertaking development programmes for these lands at their costs; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) :

(a) There has been no proposal whatsoever to lease out or hand over degraded forest lands to industry as captive plantations, during the last four years.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) In view of the increasing threat to encroachment upon large quantum of degraded forest land in the country, and the need to afforest it urgently in order to expand green cover, inhibit encroachment and check soil erosion, as also to meet rural fuel and fodder needs, and thereby reduce pressure on existing natural forests and protected areas, several State Governments has approached the Central Government with suggestions to tap the resources of industry in order to augment current efforts at afforestation. The Central Government is therefore considering the formulation of guidelines for Forest Development Corporations of states to associate with industry in these efforts within the parameters of the Forest (Conservation) Act of 1980.

The scheme under consideration will be finalised only after assessment of various issues involved and ensuring protection of traditional rights and concessions being enjoyed by the rural and tribal communities, as well as environmental, civilcultural and socio-economic factors. As envisioned, the scheme is intended to benefit the environment as well as rural and tribal communities by increasing total biomass availability in the rural areas and also opening up avenues for rural employment generation.

(g) and (h) Some State Forest Development Corporations have forwarded proposals from some industries such as M/s. Straw Products Ltd., M/s. Bilarpur Industries Ltd., M/s. Oriented Paper Mills Ltd., M/s. Mangalam Timber Ltd., etc. for afforestation in degraded forest lands in association with the State Forest Development Corporations. No decision has been taken on these proposals, since the guidelines are still under formulation.

[Translation]

Agricultural Production

301. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

SHRI V. SOBHNADREESWARA RAO VADDE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which agricultural production has increased by use of the new varieties of seeds;

(b) whether the country will become self-reliant in the field of production of foodgrains by 2000 A.D. by using these varieties of seeds; and

(c) if so, the details of various programmes being adopted to educate the farmers to make proper use of these seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI. S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) With the use of new varieties of seeds, the agricultural production has increased to the extent of 182.1 million tonnes in 1993-94 comparatively 74.20 million tonnes in 1966-67.

(b) The country has also become self-reliant in the field of production of foodgrains. However, with the use of new varieties and hybrids developed and /or being developed in different crops, it is expected, will help in meeting the further requirement of foodgrains by 2000 A.D.

(c) Use of quality seeds in adequate quantities and in time is propagated through various programmes viz. Seed Minikit Demonstrations, Distribution of Certified Seeds and Farmers training, under different Production Oriented Crop Development Schemes. State Agricultural Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and several other extension agencies are regularly involved in transfer to the farmers.

[English]

Prawn Culture In Orissa

302. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Prawn cultivation at the cost of forests", appearing in The Statesman, New Delhi dated 6th July, 1995;

(b) whether dense mangrove forest on thousands acres

of land in the Mahanadi Delta in Orissa has been destroyed due to Prawn Culture;

(c) whether these several Prawn ponds had come up in the area violating forest laws;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Mangrove forests in the Mahanadi Delta have been seriously affected by agriculture and prawn farming. About 22 major prawn farms covering approximately 1600 hectares of mangrove forests have come up in Mahanadi Delta violating forest laws.

(e) The State Government of Orissa has booked 70 forest cases against encroachers. Steps have been taken to demolish the prawn ponds and evict the encroachers with the help of Police and Revenue Officials. However, several title suits have been filed by various prawn farmers and in some cases stay orders have been issued by the courts. At present, 27 such title suits are pending in different courts. The Government of Orissa have removed 1.38 hectares of land under prawn culture and mangrove plantation is being raised over this land

Subsidy to Educational Institutions

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

(a) whether subsidies till now given to Educational Institutions and programmes run or aided by the Government are in the process of being reduced;

(b) have these cuts in subsidies been already effected; and

(c) if so, to what extent and at what level of education?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMAR SELJA) : (a) to (c) Investment in education by Centre and States has been increasing continuously from year to year inspite of resource constraints and competing priorities. Government Policy in regard to financing of education is guided by the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 which envisages the Government and community in general finding funds for educational programmes.

Tourism Development Projects in Gujarat

304. SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Projects of Tourism Development are pending in Gujarat for Environment and forest clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the stage where these projects are lying pending; and

(d) the steps taken to clear those projects expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) As per the information provided by the Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited, no project of Tourism Development is pending in Gujarat for Environment and Forest clearance.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Kendriya Vidyalay Sangathan

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

(a) whether some deputationist officers in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan have recently been recommended for grant of extension in deputation period despite the fact that they have been facing numerous allegations levelled/ forwarded by public men; and

(b) if so, the reasons and justification for grant of extension in each of the cases?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Farmers in the Country

306. SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE :

SHRI LALL BABU RAI :

SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of small, marginal and big farmers amongst the total population of farmers in the country at present, state-wise; and

(b) the percentage of credit facilities utilised by each category of the farmers from the various banks and cooperative societies during the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) the requisite information is given in the enclosed Statement-I

(b) The information is given in the enclosed Statements II to V.

STATEMENT - I

Percentage of Marginal, Small and Big Operational Holdings Amongst the Total Operational Holdings, 1990-91

State/U.T.	Marginal	Small	Big*	All Sizes
	(Below 1.00 ha.)	(1.00 to 2.00 ha.)	ha & above)	
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	56.1	21.2	22.7	100.0
Assam	60.0	22.6	17.4	100.0
Bihar	76.6	11.3	12.0	100.0
Gujarat	26.3	26.0	47.7	100.0
Haryana	40.7	19.9	39.5	100.0
Himachal Pradesh	63.7	19.9	16.4	100.0
Jammu & Kashmir	74.1	16.2	9.8	100.0
Karnataka	39.2	27.5	33.4	100.0
Kerala	92.6	5.2	2.3	100.0
Madhya Pradesh	37.3	22.8	39.9	100.0
Maharashtra	34.6	28.8	36.6	100.0
Manipur	48.3	34.5	17.2	100.0
Meghalaya	36.7	26.2	37.2	100.0
Nagaland	9.4	15.1	75.5	100.0
Orissa	53.7	26.2	20.1	100.0
Punjab	26.5	18.2	55.3	100.0
Rajasthan	29.7	20.0	50.3	100.0
Sikkim	49.6	21.2	29.3	100.0
Tamil Nadu	73.1	15.9	11.0	100.0
Tripura	68.1	21.8	10.1	100.0
Uttar Pradesh	73.8	15.5	10.6	100.0
West Bengal	73.8	17.6	8.6	100.0
Arunachal Pradesh	17.4	18.4	64.2	100.0

1	2	3	4	5
Chandigarh	66.2	16.0	17.7	100.0
D & N Haveli	46.7	30.7	22.6	100.0
Delhi	61.5	18.0	20.4	100.0
Goa	80.4	11.6	8.0	100.0
Lakshdweep	91.2	5.9	2.8	100.0
Mizoram	46.8	37.7	15.5	100.0
Pondicherry	74.6	14.3	11.1	100.0
Daman & Diu	78.7	14.8	6.5	100.0
A & N Islands	23.4	23.3	53.3	100.0
ALL INDIA	59.0	19.0	22.0	100.0

Note: 1. Figures for Assam & Bihar relate to 1985-86.

* Big includes semi-medium (2 to 4 ha.), medium (4 to 10 ha.) and large (10 ha. & above) operational holdings.

STATEMENT - II

The Percentage of Small Farmers Assisted Through Nabard Refinance During 1993-94 is as Under:

(Rs. in Lakhs)				
State /Type of Loan	Total Amou- nt of Nabard Refinance Disbursed	Amount Disbursed to Small Farmers	% Of Loan Disbursed to Small Farmers	
1.	2.	3.	4.	
1. Chandigarh				
MT/LT	3	2	70	
2. Delhi				
MT/LT	94	81	86	
3. Haryana				
MT/LT	9363	7489	80	
4. Himachal Pradesh				
MT/LT	1365	1139	83	
5. Jammu & Kashmir				
MT/LT	288	261	91	
6. Punjab				
MT/LT	6062	4766	79	
7. Rajasthan				
MT/LT	8683	7531	87	
8. Arunachal Pradesh				
MT/LT	160	149	93	

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
9. Assam				
MT/LT	2594	2169	84	
10. Manipur				
MT/LT	181	156	86	
11. Mizoram				
MT/LT	152	120	79	
12. Meghalaya				
MT/LT	213	196	92	
13. Nagaland				
MT/LT	100	87	87	
14. Tripura				
MT/LT	447	408	91	
15. Andaman & Nicobar Islands				
MT/LT	68	65	96	
16. Bihar				
MT/LT	6789	6624	98	
17. Orissa				
MT/LT	6410	5900	92	
18. Sikkim				
MT/LT	86	73	85	
19. West Bengal				
MT/LT	9220	8509	92	
20. Uttar Pradesh				
MT/LT	33705	29089	86	
21. Madhya Pradesh				
MT/LT	7996	7301	91	
22. Dadra & Nagar Haveli				
MT/LT	26	23	90	
23. Goa Daman & Diu				
MT/LT	367	294	80	
24. Gujarat				
MT/LT	10331	8456	82	
25. Maharashtra				
MT/LT	26937	21411	79	
26. Andhra Pradesh				
MT/LT	29109	22771	78	

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
27. Karnataka				
MT/LT	17982	14344	80	
28. Kerala				
MT/LT	12096	9707	80	
29. Pondicherry				
MT/LT	148	118	80	
30. Tamil Nadu				
ML/LT	17141	14238	83	
31. Lakshadweep				
MT/LT	7	7	100	
Total :	208122	173485	83	

STATEMENT - III

State-Wise Short Term (SAO) Loans Issued by Primary Agricultural Credit Societies During 1993-94 and The Share of Small Farmers Thereof.

Purpose ST(SAO) loans issued by PACS during the year 1993-94 for SF/MF, SC/ST and others

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl.	Name of the State Co-op. Bank	Total SAO loan issued from April 1993 to March, 94	Of which loans disbursed to SF/MF	Loans issued to Small Farmers as Percentage to the total Loans Issued
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.

1. Andhra Pradesh	63539.00	49085.26	77
2. Assam	54.00	48.34	89
3. Andaman & Nicobar	NA	8.75	-
4. Arunachal Pradesh	NA	25.67	-
5. Bihar	8687.00	3393.12	39
6. Goa	178.00	18.20	10
7. Gujarat	51254.00	16542.00	32
8. Himachal Pradesh	183.00	167.05	91
9. Haryana	75736.00	36045.43	48
10. Jammu & Kashmir	355.00	164.29	46

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
11. Karnataka	21619.00	8659.57	40	
12. Kerala	20498.00	16920.03	83	
13. Madhya Pradesh	43044.00	16037.92	37	
14. Maharashtra	91715.00	7067.00	8	
15. Manipur		NA	NA	-
16. Meghalaya		55.00	54.83	100
17. Mizoram		NA	NA	-
18. Nagaland		175.00	174.34	100
19. Orissa		7286.00	4930.33	68
20. Punjab		75449.00	44277.32	59
21. Pondicherry		542.00	-	-
22. Rajasthan		28344.00	8361.48	29
23. Tamil Nadu		44545.00	25723.87	58
24. Tripura		24.00	22.00	92
25. Uttar Pradesh		80030.00	41260.20	52
26. West Bengal		14335.00	13999.00	98
Total :	627647.00	292986.00	47	

SF/MF :- Small Farmers/Marginal Farmers

STATEMENT - IV

Direct finance to farmers-State-wise Percentage of amount disbursed (short term loans) through Scheduled commercial banks - as on last Friday of June, 1993 (In Percentage)

States/U.Ts	Marginal	Small	Big	Total
1. A.P.	34.5	36.6	28.9	100.0
2. Arunachal Pradesh	20.6	36.6	42.8	100.0
3. Assam	54.7	32.8	12.5	100.0
4. Bihar	36.6	36.9	26.5	100.0
5. Goa	72.5	9.9	17.6	100.0
6. Gujarat	9.7	23.8	66.6	100.0
7. Haryana	10.7	19.4	69.9	100.0
8. Himachal Pradesh	54.0	30.7	15.3	100.0
9. Jammu & Kashmir	4.9	41.0	54.1	100.0

State/U.T.	Marginal	Small	Big	Total
10. Karnataka	20.9	31.6	47.6	100.0
11. Kerala	80.2	14.4	5.4	100.0
12. Madhya Pradesh	16.5	25.5	58.0	100.0
13. Maharashtra	21.3	24.8	53.9	100.0
14. Manipur	50.0	50.0	0.0	100.0
15. Meghalaya	65.0	33.3	1.7	100.0
16. Nagaland	53.0	26.7	20.3	100.0
17. Orissa	37.5	29.8	32.7	100.0
18. Punjab	5.6	20.9	73.6	100.0
19. Rajasthan	13.6	19.1	67.4	100.0
20. Mizoram	-	-	-	-
21. Sikkim	24.5	41.7	33.7	100.0
22. Tamil Nadu	36.3	34.8	29.0	100.0
23. Tripura	70.8	21.4	7.9	100.0
24. Uttar Pradesh	25.1	34.5	40.4	100.0
25. West Bengal	44.9	34.8	20.3	100.0
26. Andamans	0.0	48.1	51.9	100.0
27. Chandigarh	34.4	19.7	46.0	100.0
28. D & N Haveli	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
29. Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-
30. Delhi	1.3	8.0	90.7	100.0
31. Lakshadweep	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
32. Pondicherry	51.9	24.9	23.2	100.0
ALL INDIA	36.3	29.9	33.8	100.0

STATEMENT - V

*Direct finance to farmers-State-wise Percentages of amount disbursed (term loans) through Scheduled commercial banks - as on last Friday of June, 1993
(In Percentage)*

State/U.T.	Marginal	Small	Big	Total
6. Gujarat	7.5	14.9	77.6	100.0
7. Haryana	2.7	4.6	92.7	100.0
8. Himachal Pradesh	27.8	33.1	39.1	100.0
9. Jammu & Kashmir	27.6	14.7	57.7	100.0
10. Karnataka	15.5	18.1	66.4	100.0
11. Kerala	51.0	17.8	31.2	100.0
12. Madhya Pradesh	14.5	24.8	60.7	100.0
13. Maharashtra	19.3	19.6	61.2	100.0
14. Manipur	14.6	27.0	58.4	100.0
15. Meghalaya	61.0	28.7	10.3	100.0
20. Mizoram	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
17. Nagaland	20.3	25.4	54.3	100.0
18. Orissa	27.9	34.0	38.1	100.0
19. Punjab	1.2	6.9	91.9	100.0
20. Rajasthan	8.4	9.7	82.0	100.0
21. Sikkim	44.7	32.6	22.7	100.0
22. Tamil Nadu	28.4	26.9	44.7	100.0
23. Tripura	85.6	11.7	2.7	100.0
24. Uttar Pradesh	12.9	13.9	73.2	100.0
25. West Bengal	22.7	23.5	53.8	100.0
26. Andamans	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
27. Chandigarh	1.2	0.1	98.7	100.0
28. D & N Haveli	12.8	57.6	29.6	100.0
29. Daman & Diu	54.4	0.0	45.6	100.0
30. Delhi	32.5	5.0	62.5	100.0
31. Lakshadweep	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
31. Pondicherry	56.5	15.3	28.2	100.0
ALL INDIA	16.2	17.2	66.6	100.0

Manuscripts Pages Missing

307. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

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

(a) whether two invaluable pages were missing from 'Astashastrika Pramaparamita', a thousand year old Nepali

manuscript kept at the library of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta.

(b) the endeavours made at various levels to know as to how these two pages were missing from the main manuscript possibly from 1978 and the reasons for not noticing it by the authorities earlier and investigations made to trace them so far; and

(c) the preventive measures proposed to be taken to safeguard precious manuscripts from this and other libraries and museums?

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

(b) The loss became known only when the Director, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, reported the acquisition of these two lost Pages. Due to administrative lapses, these could not be detected earlier. The Asiatic Society has already approached the Central Bureau of Investigation to investigate the theft.

(c) Elaborate security arrangements have been made by the Asiatic Society to prevent such losses in future. At present, the security arrangement in the Society includes a vigil by security guards round the clock outside the building. Besides this, there is a security check of each person who enters the building. All visitors to the Society have to enter their names in a register. Chief Security Officer, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India will be asked to recommend further measures for strengthening security.

As regards Libraries and Museums under this Ministry, adequate security arrangements exist in their respective administrative setup.

[Translation]

Substandard Food Grains

308. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases reported during the last three months regarding the distribution of substandard quality of wheat and rice to ration card holder by Fair Price Shops whereas the quota of wheat and rice supplied by the Government to Fair Price Shops was of good quality;

(b) whether the surprise checks are made on Fair Price Shops being run by Kendriya Bhandar from time to time;

(c) if so, the number of raids conducted during 1994-95;

(d) the number of persons found guilty of distributing substandard quality of goods so far; and

(e) the details and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (e) The public Distribution System (PDS) is the joint responsibility of the Central Government and State Government/UT administrations. The Central Government makes bulk allocation of foodgrains conforming to standards laid down in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) to State Government/UT Administration for PDS. Opportunity is given to the State Government or their nominees to inspect the foodgrains in the godowns of FCI before taking delivery of the same. However, in an operation of such a vast magnitude such as the PDS, involving more than four lakh Fair Price Shops throughout the country, some short comings here and there cannot be altogether ruled out. Operational responsibility for implementing the PDS rests with the State Governments/UT Administrations which includes ensuring distribution of quality foodgrains through PDS outlets within their jurisdiction. They have been delegated powers under the Essential Commodities Act to take action against persons violating the provisions of the Act and Control Orders made thereunder. State Governments/UT Administration have the powers and enforcement staff to conduct surprise raids on Fair Price Shops to check malpractices. Details of such raids are not maintained by the Central Government. The Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that during the last three months no cases were reported regarding distribution of substandard quality rice and wheat to ration card holders. They have reported that two raids were conducted on Fair Price Shops run by Kendriya Bhandar during 1994-95 and no one was found distributing goods or substandard quality in these raids.

Euro Bound

309. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways have decided to mobilize additional resources from the foreign market for their modernisation and development schemes;

(b) Whether the Railways Propose to issue Euro Bond in foreign market;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (d) A proposal to permit Indian Railway Finance Corporation, a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways, to explore the possibility of raising

funds through external borrowings through Euro Issue of US \$ 150 million during 1995-96, is under consideration of the Government.

Animal Husbandry

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

(a) the details of various Central and Central sponsored schemes for the development of animal husbandry. State-wise;

(b) whether the targets fixed for the year 1994-95 for each of the schemes have been achieved;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Animal Husbandry and Dairying is a State Subject. The Department of Animal and Dairying, is however assisting the States/UTs under the various Centrally sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes to augment their efforts for the development of Animal Husbandry. A list of these schemes is in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) these schemes aim at increasing the production of major livestock products viz milk, egg and wool, in the country. The target of these products for 1994-95 are given below, which are anticipated to be achieved.

Target for 1994-95

1. Milk Production (Million Tonnes)	63.5
2. Egg Production (Billion Nos.)	26.1
3. Wool Production (Million kgs.)	43.6

STATEMENT

List of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

A. Animal Husbandry

1. Extension of Frozen Semen Technology & Progeny Testing Programme.
2. Assistance to States for Feed & Fodder Development.
3. National Project on Rinderpest Eradication.
4. Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases.
5. Professional Efficiency Development.
6. Assistance to States for improvement of Abattoirs Establishment of carcass utilisation centres and primary Flying Units.

7. Integrated Sample Survey for Estimation of Major Livestock Production in the State/UT and Strengthening of animal husbandry statistics cell at headquarters.

8. National Bull Production Programme,

9. National Ram/Buck Production Programme and Programme for Rabbit Development.

10. Development of Pack Animals.

11. Assistance to States for Integrated Piggery Development.

B. Dairy Development

1. Swiss Aided Dairy Development Project in North Kerala.

List of Central Sector Schemes :

A. Animal Husbandry

1. Animal Husbandry Extension Programme.

B. Dairy Development

1. Integrated Dairy Development Project in Non - operation Flood, hilly and backward areas.

[English]

Coconut Prices

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

(a) whether the prices of Copra for 1995 season has been fixed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the price of Coconut has fallen very steeply;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to prevent the fall in price?

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

(b) The Government has announced the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) for milling Copra at Rs. 2500/- per quintal and that of FAQ variety of ball copra at Rs. 2725/-per quintal for 1995 season.

(c) and (d) The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for Copra during the last three months has fallen marginally as indicated below:

Months :	April, 95	May, 95	June, 95
WPI(Average)	235.1	234.3	231.6

(e) In order to arrest the decline in prices, the Government have designated NAFED as the nodal Agency, to undertake Price Support Operation as and when the price (MSP) level. Besides, the Government have taken steps to augment the demand for copra.

Education Development Bank of India

312. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is proposal to set up an education Development Bank of India(EDBI) for giving soft loans to institution for their establishment and development;

(b) whether the proposed Bank will also give scholarships to the needy students; and

(c) steps taken for the mobilisation of additional resources for unhindered development of Technical Education?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) A High powered Committee on Mobilisation of Resources for Technical Education was set up by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). The Committee submitted its report in May, 1994. One of the recommendations of the Committee is for setting up an Educational Development Bank of India(EDBI) for giving soft loans for establishment of institutions and to needy students for pursuing their studies. The other recommendations of the Committee include income tax rebate on donations and contributions; levying and Educational cess on industries for funding technical education and R&D activities; plan allocations for technical education to be based on outlays for industrial and service sectors and generation of resources by the technical institutions through appropriate measures. These recommendations involve actions by several agencies and require a thorough process of consultations.

Tobacco Crop

313. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Tobacco Research Institute has conducted any studies of the Tobacco Crop in Andhra Pradesh in the immediate past Tobacco Season:

(b) if so, the findings in regard to the per acre productivity of Tobacco in Andhra Pradesh:

(c) whether the per acre productivity has gone up in 1994-95 : and

(d) if not, the reasons for stagnation in the area of productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The per acre productivity has increased after releasing high yielding varieties like CM-12 (KA), Hema, Gowthami and VT-1158 to a level of 420-600 kg/acre.

(c) and (d) The per acre productivity is showing upward trend in Northern black and light Soils and Central black soils. Attempt are being made to improve the productivity of Southern black and light soils by transfer of technology. The productivity fluctuations depend upon weather conditions, however, the average productivity is reaching around 560 Kg/acre.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to Voluntary Organisations

314. SHRI LALL BABU RAI :

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

SHRI HARIKE VAL PRASAD :

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

(a) whether Government discontinues the financial assistance to those voluntary organisations engaged in educational activities if they fail to utilise it properly; and

(b) the number of such organisations against whom the action were taken by the Government during the last three years, State-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Schemes generally stipulate pre sanction scrutiny of Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs). There is provision of inspection by Central and State agencies and utilisation certificate for earlier grant is insisted upon before release of fresh grant wherever the performance of the NGOs is found not satisfactory, the financial assistance is discontinued.

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

Theft of Goods

315. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the value of goods booked with Railway Godowns during 1994-95, zone wise;

- (b) the goods stolen out of them and the value thereof;
- (c) the value of the goods recovered out of the goods stolen and the loss suffered by Railway on account of the theft; and
- (d) the remedial action taken by the Government to check such thefts from the Railway Godowns?

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

[English]

Ganga Work Project

316. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an amount of Rs.256.26 crores have been spent in excess than the amount allocated for Ganga Action Plan whereas 81 projects are still pending:

(b) if so, the reasons for the pendency; and

(c) the time which all the works are likely to be completed and cost involved therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No, Sir. Till date, a total amount of Rs. 404.41 crores has been released to the participating States for execution of works under the 1st phase of Ganga Action Plan (GAP) against the sanctioned cost of Rs. 445.29 crores. of the 261 schemes sanctioned under the 1st phase of GAP, 242 schemes have been completed so far.

(b) The implementation of the 1st phase of Ganga Action Plan got delayed on account of problems in land acquisition, poor response from tenders, court litigations and changes in the design and scope of work in certain schemes necessitated by experience gained.

(c) All the ongoing schemes are likely to be completed by 31.3.96 within the sanctioned cost of Rs. 445.29 crores.

[Translation]

Standard of Education

317. Dr. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the constant decline in the standard of education in Jammu and Kashmir;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the standart of education in the State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) It is the endeavour of the Government to maintain the quality and standard of education throughout the country including Jammu & Kashmir. In pursuance of the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986, several programmes have been launched by the State Government to upgrade the quality of education in the country. The Central Government have initiated in 1987-88, the scheme of Operation Blackboard to improve the facilities in primary schools ; the scheme has recently been extended to upper primary schools. A number of measures have also been taken to improve the content and process of education at all stages. Some of these are renewal of curricula, improvement of quality of text books, inservice training of teachers to improve their professional competence and utilisation of educational technology to bring about improvement in quality of education . In view of the special circumstances in the State, the Government has given special financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 8 Crores to the J&K Government for educational development.

[English]

Study Material to School Children

318. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Education Policy aims to provide cheap reading material to all school children in the country;

(b) whether National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) has printed expensive text books for Physics for Class XII students;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto and efforts made to bring down the prices of the Text Books?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 envisages making efforts to secure easy accessibility to books for all segments of people and for special attention to be paid to the production of quality books for children.

(b) to (d) The current edition of the Physics text book

Part I brought out by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has substantially greater number of pages than the earlier one and has been printed on better quality of paper to ensure reproduction of high fidelity illustrations.

According to the NCERT, the price of the text book has been fixed as per the approved pricing formula on no-profit-no-loss basis..

Price Monitoring Panel

319. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have set up a working group to go into the issue of interaction between consumers, industry and trade;
- (b) if so, the broad features of the various suggestions made by this group and the reaction of the Government and the Central Consumer Protection Council thereto particularly on the setting up of a Price Monitoring Commission;
- (c) the powers of the proposed price monitoring panel and how far will it go to check the manipulative pricing of goods and services by the private sector and administering of the prices as well; and
- (d) the modalities chalked out for setting up of this Commission and the other measures being taken to improve the existing consumer grievance machinery?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Working Group has made number of recommendations on Quality of Products, Self-Regulation, amalgamations and Mergers, Cartelisation, Eco-Friendly Products, and Advertising Code including that of setting up of a Price Monitoring commission.

(c) and (d) The government has set up a Steering Committee to ascertain the details of these recommendations and suggest ways to implement them.

Fire in Plastic Market

320. SHRI. K.G.SHIVAPPA :

SHRI. A. VENKATESH NAIK :

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

- (a) whether his Ministry has made a study on the impact

of recent fire accident in the plastic market in the capital on environment;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any efforts are being made to separate sites for such industries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Board had undertaken a scientific investigation of the recent fire accident in the plastic market at Jwalapuri, Delhi. According to the report, there had been an incident of fire at Jwalapuri PVC market on 6th June, 1995. The fire had engulfed the entire market of about 1 sq km area constituting about 2500 shops stacked with plastics, PVC and plastic scrap. The thick dense black smoke generated from the burning of plastic materials, spread over the neighbouring colonies and other parts of the capital in downwind direction. The presence of Carbon Monoxide, Chlorine and Vinyl Chloride have been reported in the generated emission from smouldering heaps of scrap at the site. These cases were present in excessive amount in the ambient air than the permissible levels. The generated smoke caused irritation to eyes, nose, throat and developed coughing among victims temporarily.

(c) and (d) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has constituted a Committee to find out the details of the fire incident and to examine the issue of relocating such markets to a properly identified site.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

New Building of Railway Stations

321. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating on any proposal for the construction of new buildings of Railway Stations in Maharashtra:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the name of those Railway Station where the modernisation work is to be started during the current financial year?

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

(b) Details in this regard are as under:

Station	Cost (Rupees in lakh)
Kalyan	242.00
Thane	278.00
Mumbra	23.86
Andheri	67.32
Borivli	69.30

(c) New modernisation works have been sanctioned, in 1995-96, at the following stations in the State of Maharashtra:

Parbhani, Badanapur, Hingoli, Nagarsol, Chikalthana, Sarwari, Usmanpur, Hmayatnagar, Dhanora, Gangakhed, Aurangabad, Aman Vadi, Kinwal, Dharmad, Selu, Manwat Road, Bhokar, Umri, Kolhapur, Kopargaon, Bombay V.T., Bhusaval, Daund, Nasik Road, Neral, Chalisgaon, Dadar, Malad, Virar, Nallasopara, Vasai Road, Vangaon, Bhayandar, Elphinstone Road, Grant Road, Santacruz, Vile Parle, Goregaon, Palghar, Dahanu Road, Saphale, Kelve Road, Kandivli, Jogeshwari, Vangon, Ghodbav, Khar Road, Dahisar, Mira Road, Naigaon, Marine Lines, Lower Parel, Matunga Road, Amgaon, Itwari and Tirora.

[English]

Higher studies Abroad

322. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN :

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA :

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

(a) whether the majority of the students under various programmes with scholarships and fellowships, who are sent abroad at Government expenses prefer to stay there rather than returning India and serve the country;

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

(c) the total number of students who are sent abroad by the Government for higher studies of technical education during the last three years, country-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the average expenditure incurred under the National Overseas Scheme approximately, per student, per year for studies abroad during the above period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) No, Sir. Most of the scholarships/fellowships operated by the Government are fully funded by the donor countries. The majority of the awardees are

employed before their departure and are absorbed in employment after their return. It is incumbent on the awardees to return to the country on completion of their studies.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A statement is attached

(d) The average expenditure incurred under the National Overseas Scheme administered by the Ministry of Welfare is about Rs. 7 lakhs per student per year.

STATEMENT

1. *Ministry of Human Resource Development Department of Education*

S. No.	Country/Programme	Number of student sent abroad		
		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
1.	Commonwealth Scholarships/Fellowships Plan			
	(a) United Kingdom	25	45	39
	(b) Canada	19	7	Nil
	(c) Newzealand	Nil	3	Nil
2.	Nehru Centenary British Fellowships/Scholarships (UK)	13	11	9
3.	Confederation of British Industry Overseas Scholarships (UK)	2	1	3
4.	Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Trust (UK) Scholarships		Nil	Nil
5.	Agatha Harrisson Memorial Nil Fellowship (UK)		1	Nil
6.	Australian Development Co-operation Scholarships	10	23	26
7.	German Academic Exchange Service Scholarships	7	11	10
8.	Japan Government Scholarships	14	14	15
9.	Norway (Norad)	8	6	8
	Scholarships offered under Cultural Exchange Programme			
1.	Egypt	1	Nil	2

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
2.	Austria	Nil	1	1
3.	China	9	7	10
4.	France	1	2	2
5.	Indonesia	Nil	Nil	1
6.	Ireland	2	3	4
7.	Israel	Nil	Nil	2
8.	Italy	11	3	2
9.	Korea (South)	Nil	1	1
10.	Mexico	Nil	Nil	1
11.	Poland	Nil	2	1
12.	Romania	Nil	1	Nil
13.	Spain	Nil	Nil	6
14.	Turkey	Nil	2	Nil

II. Ministry of Welfare

National Overseas Scholarships for SC/ST etc. Candidates

1.	U.S.A	79	13	
2.	U.K.	11	8	3
3.	Australia	Nil	Nil	3
4.	Canada	Nil	1	Nil
5.	Netherlands	1	Nil	1
6.	Switzerland	Nil	1	Nil

Admission in Professional Courses

323. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "on merit list with just four per cent marks", appearing in the newspaper 'patriot', dated June 30, 1995;

(b) if so, whether Government have evolved and laid down any basic minimum uniform standard of performance in qualifying examinations for candidates seeking admission to professional courses like medicine and engineering with a view to ensure, the uniform minimum standard of incumbants, seeking admission to such course; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUACTION AND DEAPRTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) The All India Council for Technical Education, a Statutory Body established for the proper maintenance of norms and standards in the technical edcuation system, has laid down guidelines for admission to engineering degree and diploma programmes.

The Medical Coucil of India has prescribed the requirements of qualification and age for admission to the medical courses in India.

Bio-Fertilizers

324. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual production of Bio-fertilizers together with the estinted annual requirement in the country;

(b) the details of the All India Co-ordinated Research Projects on biological Nitrogen Fixation location-wise;

(c) whether no much centres is located in Orissa;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which such centre is likely to be established in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The total estimated annual production and requirement of Bio-fertilizers are as under:-

(i) Production - 3900 tonnes

(ii) Requirement - 7.76 lakh tonnes

(b) The details of the All India Co-ordinated Research Projects on Biological Nitrogen Fixation together with the location are as under:-

(i) The objects are to generte basic information on Biological Nitrogen Fixation, isolation and screening of effective biological nitrogen fixers.

(ii) Location:

I.C.A.R. Institute Based:

(a) Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

(b) Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack.

Agriculture University Based:

a) Annamalai University, Annamalainagar-608002. .

b) Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar.

c) University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore.

d) Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa-Vidyalaya, Jabalpur.
 e) Bidhanachandra Krishi Vishwa-Vidyalaya, Mohanpur, Distt. Nadia, West Bengal.
 f) marathwada Agriculture University Parbhani.
 g) Tamil Nadu Agriculture University Coimbatore.

General Universities:

a) M.S. University, Baroda.
 b) Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

(c) to (e) There are two All India Co-ordinated Research Projects on Biological Nitrogen Fixation in Orissa, one is at Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttak and other one in Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology at Bhubaneswar.

[Translation]

Public Distribution System

325. SHRI N.K. BALIYAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) number of fair Price Shops proposed to be opened in Rural and Urban areas separately during 1995-96, State-wise; and

(b) the number of persons likely to be benefited therefrom in Rural and Urban areas separately?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Public Distribution (PDS) is the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments/UT Adminstration. While the Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage, transporation and bulk allocation of six selected essential commodities, the operational responsibility for the implementation of the Public Distribution System vests with the State Government/UT Administrations. State Governments/UT Administrations take operational decisions like opening of fair price shops based on their requirements. The Central Government has not set any target for opening of fair price shops in urban/rural areas by States/UTs during 1995-96.

[English]

Educational Standard in Kendriya Vidyalayas

326. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister is aware of the deterioration standard of Education in various Kendriya Vaidyalayas of

the country;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to maintain the good standard of education in these schools;

(c) whether admission are delayed and students suffer as result thereof; and

(d) if so, by what time 1st list for admission is sent by K.V.S. to Kendriya Vidyalayas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) The pass percentage of Kendriya Vidyalaya students in classes Xth and XIth of the Central Board of Secondary Education examination has been higher than the all-India average. However, in order to further improve the quality of education, continuous efforts are made by the Sangathan through Subject Committee meetings, regular inspections of Vidyalayas, in-service courses for teachers, co-curricular activities at various levels etc.

(c) and (d) Admissions are done at the vidyalaya level in Kendriya Vidyalayas and the last date of admission for the current year was 31st July, 1995, except in case of admission under special dispensation.

Translation

PROCUREMENT BY FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA

327. SHRI RAM NIHORD RAI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the procurement price of different varieties of wheat and rice fixed by FCI during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise;

(b) the yearly per tonne subsidy on wheat, rice and sugar provided to FCI during the above period;

(c) the per quintal handling charges paid by FCI on wheat, rice and sugar during the same period; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the increasing expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) The required information is given in the attached statement.

(b) While no subsidey was given on sugar, per tonne subsidy provided to the Food Corporation of India during the last three years on wheat and rice was as under:-

	(Rs. per tonnes)		
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Wheat	1391.10	2247.40	1761.50
Rice	1314.60	1428.70	1646.80

(c) Per quintal handling/distribution charges incurred by the Food Corporation of India on wheat, rice and levy sugar during the last three years were as under:-

	Rate/Rs. per quintal		
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Wheat	91.90	120.02	117.44
Rice	91.90	120.02	124.45
Levy Sugar	118.10	137.07	149.70

(d) Continuous efforts are made by the Food Corporation of India to reduce its handling costs through measures like optimum utilisation of storage capacity, resorting to open sale of wheat/rice to reduce increasing storage cost, strict supervision on movement of foodgrains, for controlling incidence of transit and storage losses reduction in man power by banning recruitment to entry level posts and not filling vacancies arising out of resignation, retirement etc., adopting a systematic policy of liquidating CAP storage, issuing old stocks, disposing of C&D category stocks and reducing demurrage charges etc.

STATEMENT

Procurement prices of Levy Rice and Paddy fixed by the government of India during Khari season for the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94.

I. Procurement Prices of Rice (Rate in Rs./Qtl)				
Name of State/U.T.		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
1. Punjab	-Common	396.40	463.10	533.40
	Fine	424.90	493.55	582.90
	Superfine	444.80	514.10	620.90
2. Haryana	-Common	396.65	463.45	529.20
	Fine	425.20	494.00	578.25
	Superfine	445.10	514.45	616.00
3. Uttar Pradesh	-Common	377.80	441.30	501.45
	Fine	393.00	456.50	531.75
	Superfine	417.45	482.35	574.75
4. Andhra Pradesh	-Common	387.55	454.15	518.90
	Fine	403.30	469.90	550.40
	Superfine	419.05	485.65	581.90
5. Madhya Pradesh	-Common	383.10	448.85	512.85
	Fine	398.65	464.40	543.95
	Superfine	414.20	479.95	575.10
6. Orissa	-Common	394.40	462.75	528.80
	Fine	411.00	478.80	560.90
	Superfine	427.05	494.90	593.05

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
7. Assam	-Common	384.45	450.50	514.70
	Fine	406.25	473.25	554.30
	Superfine	422.10	489.10	586.00
8. West Bengal	-Common	370.25	433.80	488.25
	Fine	389.15	453.33	530.90
	Superfine	404.30	468.50	561.20
9. Maharashtra	-Common	377.90	442.55	501.65
	Fine	393.15	457.75	531.90
	Superfine	408.45	473.15	562.20
10. Gujarat	-Common	358.55	419.95	484.45
	Fine	373.05	434.45	513.80
	Superfine	387.55	448.95	543.15
11. U.T. of Chandigarh	-Common	393.00	459.15	524.25
			Fine	421.25
			Superfine	441.00
572.90	610.25			
509.65				
12. U.T. of Pondicherry	-Common	356.70	425.30	489.05
			Fine	371.50
			Superfine	386.30
518.70				
454.75	548.30			
13. Delhi	-Common	396.65	463.45	529.20
	Fine	425.20	494.00	578.25
	Superfine	445.10	514.47	616.00
14. Bihar	-Common	373.70	437.85	500.20
	Fine	392.80	457.60	535.90
	Superfine	408.10	472.90	566.50
15. Karnataka	-Common	369.10	432.45	494.05
	Fine	384.05	447.45	524.00
	Superfine	399.05	462.40	553.95
16. Rajasthan	-Common	389.45	455.20	521.30
	Fine	414.50	481.55	565.35
	Superfine	437.15	505.25	606.75
17. Tamil Nadu	-Common	-	-	489.05
	Fine	-	-	518.70
	Superfine	-	-	548.30
II. Procurement prices of Paddy	-Common	230.00	270.00	310.00
	Fine	240.00	280.00	330.00
	Superfine	250.00	290.00	350.00
III. Procurement prices of Wheat		225.00	275.00*	330.00*

* Includes Bonus on Rs.25/- per quintal.

Production of Apples

328. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of Apples in Uttar Pradesh during the year 1993-94:

(b) whether the production and area under cultivation has declined in the State during the year 1993-94 as compared to previous year;

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

(d) whether the Government propose to provide any specific facility in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Chamoli District with a view to promote the production of Apple; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The total production of Apples in Uttar Pradesh during the year 1993-94 was 2.01 lakh tonnes.

(b) and (c) There is no decline in area under apple cultivation in U.P. during 1993-94 as compared to previous year. However, marginal reduction in yield has been recorded during 1993-94 due to high temperature during fruit set. The area and production of apple in U.P. during 1992-93 and 1993-94 were as follows:

Year	Area	Production (.000 Ha)
(.000 tonnes)		
1992-93	53.1	210.00
1993-94	53.9	201.00

(d) and (e) There is no specific scheme for the district of Chamoli in U.P. to promote the production of apples. However, the Govt. of India has launched a scheme for the integrated development of fruit crops including apple under which assistance is being provided for improving productivity of apple plantation, establishment of nurseries and demonstration plots and training of farmers besides State Govt. plan schemes. In addition, NHB is giving assistance for establishment of post harvest infrastructures while the Ministry of FOOD PROCESSING is providing assistance for the installation processing units in this regard.

[English]

Power Plants

329. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for setting up of power plants cleared/rejected by the Government during the last three years State-wise.

(b) the number of such proposals which are still pending for clearance: and

(c) the main reasons for their pendency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS: (SHRI KAMAL NATH) :

(a) Fifty power projects have been cleared and seventeen rejected from the environmental angle, during the last three years. The State-wise break up is given in the statement attached.

(b) and (c) As on 1st July, 1995 seventeen power projects are pending due to non-submission of requisite environmental data, necessary for appraisal of the project.

STATEMENT

State-wise number of cleared and rejected power projects in the last three years.

S.No.	State/U.T.	Cleared	Rejected
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	3	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	-
3.	Assam	1	-
4.	Andhra Pradesh	9	-
5.	Bihar	3	1
6.	Delhi	1	-
7.	Gujarat	3	2
8.	Haryana	1	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	1
11.	Karnataka	2	1
12.	Kerala	3	1
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3	1
14.	Manipur	1	-
15.	Maharashtra	3	1
16.	Nagaland	-	1
17.	Orissa	1	3
18.	Punjab	1	-
19.	Mizoram	1	-
20.	Rajasthan	4	1
21.	Sikkim	1	1
22.	Tamil Nadu	2	-
23.	Uttar Pradesh	2	1
24.	West Bengal	3	1
	Total	50	17

Consumer goods at Subsidised Rates

330. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified some blocks of backward/tribal areas in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra under the Prime Minister's scheme for providing the consumer goods at subsidised rates;

(b) if so, the details of the blocks identified and number of items to be provided at subsidised rates; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the supply of levy Sugar and other items to these States under Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central Government has identified 97, 122 and 114 Blocks in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra respectively to be covered under the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) in consultation with the State Government. Central Government allocates rice and wheat at Central Issue Prices (CIP) which are Rs.50/- per quintal less than the CIP for normal PDS areas, to States/UTs for distribution in the RPDS areas.

(c) Levy sugar allocations are generally made on a uniform norm of 425 grams per capita per month for the projected population as on 1.10.1986. Monthly allocation of other PDS items like rice, wheat and imported edible oil to States/UTs are made after taking into account the availability in the Central Pool, demands received from States/UTs, inter-se requirements of States/UTs and seasonal factors. In view of the comfortable stock position of foodgrains, reasonable requests for additional allocations of foodgrains have been allowed. Due to constraints of levy sugar production in the past, additional allocation of sugar was not possible to any State/UT. An adhoc increase of 5 per cent in the levy sugar allocation to States/UTs was made from August, 1991 till March 1994. Central Government has decided to restore this adhoc increase with effect from September, 1995. Allocations of Superior Kerosene Oil (SKD) for the PDS have a historical basis. Increases in the annual allocations with a view to bring all the States at par with the National average per capita allocation of SKD.

Translation]

FCI Godowns

331. SHRI HARKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state: (a) the details in respect of the storage capacity of its own godowns and of those

godowns which are taken on rent by FCI during each of the last three years; and

(b) the percentage of storage capacity of its own godowns and the hired godowns which have been utilised during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

Year	Cov-	Perce-	Cov-	Perce	Total	Perce-
	ered	ntage	ered	ntage	Cap-	ntage
	Cap-	Utilis-	Cap-	Utilis-	acity	Utilis-
	acity	ation	acity	ation	(CAP)	ation
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
1992-93						
Owned	121.74	57	11.05	8	132.79	53
Hired	58.44	83	3.36	45	61.80	81
Total	180.18	65	14.41	17	194.59	62
1993-94						
Owned	122.50	80	13.18	23	135.68	75
Hired	87.14	89	13.77	75	100.91	87
Total	209.64	84	26.95	49	236.59	80
1994-95						
Owned	122.96	73	14.96	40	137.92	70
Hired	103.83	87	32.21	71	136.04	83
Total	226.79	83	47.17	61	273.96	77

[English]

Suburban Traffic

332. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: (a) whether south Central Railway will have a separate Directorate to handle and develop suburban traffic;

(b) whether South Central Railway is unable to adequately deal with potential Suburban Traffic in Vijaywada-Guntur and Anakapalle Visakhapatnam sectors;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the South Central Railway to develop suburban Railway Traffic;

(d) whether Railways propose to upgrade the suburban train facilities in Anakapalle-Visakhapatnam sectors in 1996-97; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

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

(c) It is proposed to introduce DMU/Diesel push pull services on Guntur-Repale, Guntur-Macherla and Tenali-Vijayawada sections during 1995-96.

(d) and (e) Diesel push pull trains have already been introduced on Visakhapatnam-Annapalle-Tuni and Visakhapatnam-Annapalle-Kokinada section. Introduction of more such services on the section is a continuous process subject to operational feasibility and availability of resources.

Taj Mahal

333. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

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

(a) whether the Government have sought assistance of USA to save Taj Mahal from pollution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) :

(a) and (b) No specific assistance has been sought from USA to save Taj Mahal. However, a project was formulated by the Agra Development Authority and several research studies were carried out for the preservation of the monuments in Agra including the Taj Mahal. A study on the air quality in Agra was also carried out under this project.

Poaching of Tigers

334. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK :

Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that poaching of Tigers have increased in the country and as such the very existence of Tiger would be in danger by the end of this century; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) :

(a) There has been recent reports of some poaching of tigers to meet the demand of illegal international trade in tiger bones and other parts of its body. However, the

Government is seized of the situation and has taken adequate steps to meet the challenge and is committed to protect the tiger and its habitat.

(b) The steps taken by the Government are as under:

(i) A "Tiger Crisis Cell" has been set up in the Ministry;

(ii) The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling;

(iii) Steps have been initiated to set up "Special Strike Force" in the project Tiger areas;

(iv) Madhya Pradesh, which has been largest number of tigers in India, has been designated as "Tiger State" to focus attention on the conservation of tiger and its habitat.

(v) A Protocol has been signed with the Government of the Peoples' Republic of China to coordinate bilateral efforts to stop illegal activities of poaching of tigers, and to endeavour jointly to combat smuggling and the illegal trade of tiger bones and other parts of its body.

(vi) Steps have been initiated by the Government to establish the "Global Tiger Forum" for strengthening international cooperation to curb poaching of tiger and to coordinate efforts for the conservation of tiger and its habitat throughout the range countries.

Cultural Agreement

335. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cultural agreement was signed between India and Belize during the month of June, 1994;

(b) if so, the main provisions and period of the agreement; and

(c) to what extent cultural ties between the two countries have been improved?

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

(b) and (c) The Agreement provides for promotion of understanding between India and Belize in the fields of culture, education, science and technology, sports and the information media.

The agreement is valid for 5 years and renewable automatically for a further period of 5 years. For fulfilment of the objectives of the Agreement, action has already been initiated for formulating specific programmes for mutual exchanges in future.

[Translation]

Railway Bridge

336. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to demolish the old Railway Bridge on river Ganga at Phaphamau in Lucknow Division under Northern Railway after the construction of new Railway Bridge; and

(b) if so, the reasons for demolishing the old Bridge?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

District Primary Education Programme

337. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether NCERT has constituted a national resource group to provide academic support to the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP);

(b) if so , the number of Districts for which NCERT proposes to provide academic support; and

(c) the details thereof State-wise?

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

(b) and (c) The National Resource Group of NCERT has been set up to extend technical assistance to the District Primary Education Programme as a whole in the areas of pedagogy & technical training and is not limited to particular districts or States.

[Translation]

Railway Wagons

338. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :

SHRI R. SUNRENDER REDDY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position with regard to shortage of four wheeler Railway Wagons both on broad gauge and metre gauge, separately;

(b) the number of wagon targeted to be produced during the current year and whether the target is likely to be achieved;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the shortfall in the Railway Wagon is also likely to be adversely affect the volume of passenger traffic and the freight movement and consequently the budgetary resources of the Indian Railways;

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

(f) whether the Railways are unable to meet the demand of wagon from industries;

(g) whether the industries response to the Railways "own your wagon scheme" has been good and encouraging and, if so, the details thereof ; and

(h) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to overcome the shortage of wagons?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (g) A decision has been taken to phase out the BC four wheeler and induct only 8-wheeler air brake stock. On the MG system, there are sufficient four - wheeler wagons to meet the demands of traffic.

Keeping in view the buoyancy in the economy during the last few months, the wagon procurement programme has been reviewed and the Rolling Stock Programme has been enhanced from 12000 four-wheeler equivalent wagons to 19000 for 1995-96. In addition, another 1925 four wheeler equivalent wagons against earlier outstanding orders will also be delivered in 1995-96. Further, orders for about 4000 wagons under 'Own your own Wagon' Scheme has been placed for the current year.

These steps would provide adequate additional number of wagons to meet the freight loading targets

(h) Does not arise.

[English]

Science Laboratories

339. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government provide financial assistance to States for the upgradation of science laboratories of schools; and

(b) if so, the total amount of assistance provided to various States and Union Territories by the Union

Government for upgradation of science laboratories in Government and Government aided secondary/higher secondary schools during each of the last three years ?

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

(b) The total amount of assistance provided to various States and Union Territories by the Union Government for upgradation of Science Laboratories in Government and Government aided secondary/higher secondary schools during each of the last 3 years is as under :

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1992-93	13.37
1993-94	12.73
1993-95	16.27

Train Between Tirupathi and Bombay

340. SHRI UDAYISING RAO GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed new train between Tirupathi and Bombay has been introduced;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the accomodation in the train, class-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to link other religious places of the country with Bombay in near future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b) This train will be introduced during 95-96 and it is proposed to provide the following accommodation:-

2nd AC sleeper (ACCW)-1

Sleeper class (GSCN)-9

Unreserved 2nd class (GS)-3

Luggage-cum-2nd class unreserved (SLR)-2 coaches

(c) and (d) Introduction of new trains, including trains linking important places, is a continuous process on Indian Railways subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility and availability of resources.

Fake Universities

341. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY :

SHRI RAMACHANDRA GHANGARE :

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

(a) Whether the Government are aware that National University Nagpur award fake degrees and diplomas;

(b) whether there are other Universities/Institutions which award fake degrees and diplomas;

(c) if so, the names of such Universities

(d) the details of action taken against such Universities by the Government; and

(e) the reason for not filing criminal cases against such Universities/Institutions ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. National University Nagpur is a fake University. There are 20 such fake Universities which have come to the notice of the UGC. A list of such fake Universities is enclosed as statement - I. AIU have informed that 4 foreign Universities which are not accredited in their own country are also operating in India statement - II

(d) and (e) The University Grants Commission, the Association of Indian Universities and the MRTPC keep a watch on any fake university functioning in violation of the UGC Act, 1956. As soon as the existence of the fake university is brought to the notice of UGC by members of public, students, or their parents or any other agency, the relevant provisions of UGC Act are brought to the notice of the promoters/office bearers of such self styled/ fake universities. They are advised to desist from the use of expression "University" and also to stop awarding degree/ diplomas. The concerned Statement Governments are also requested to conduct enquiries regarding the functioning of such fake universities. In addition, the UGC gives wide publicity to the list of fake universities every year to caution the students and parents about such institution.

The MRTPC Commission has asked Director General (I&R) to carry out investigation in respect of alleged fake universities under MRTPC Act, 1969. Enquiry proceedings against Commercial University, are in progress before the Commission. The Commission has passed a 'Cease and Desist' order against Gandhi Hindi Vidyapeeth, Prayag. Director General (I&R) has also been directed to look into National University of Electro Complex, Homeopathy, a fresh in the light of writ petition filed and orders passed thereon.

Government has already introduced an amendment Bill to UGC Act 1956 in the Parliament on 2nd June, 1995. For Contravening the provisions of Sections 22 and 23 of the UGC Act, the amendment Bill provides imprisonment for a term of not less than 6 months which may extend to three years and fine of not less than Rupees one lakh but may extend up to rupees 10.00 lakhs. The proposed punitive provisions could also be applicable to any association or other body wilfully conniving in violating the provisions of the University Grants Commission on Act.

Central Government has also requested State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations to keep a strict vigil and to prosecute such institutions for violating UGC Act, 1956 and other Penal laws.

STATEMENT - I

1. Maithili University. Vishwavidyalaya, Darbhanga, Bihar.
2. Mahila Gram Vidyapith/Vishwavidyalaya, (Women's University), Prayag, Allahabad (U.P.)
3. Varanaseya Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi
4. Commercial University Ltd. Darya Ganj, Delhi
5. Indian Education Council of U.P., Lucknow (U.P.)
6. Gandhi Hindi Vidyapith, Prayag, Allahabad (U.P.)
7. National University of Electro Complex Homoeopathy Kanpur.
8. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose University (Open University), Achaltal, Aligarh
9. Shrimati Mahadevi Verma Open University, Mughal Sarai U.P.
10. D.D.B. Sanskrit University, Putur, Trichi, Tamil Nadu.
11. Bhartiya Siksha Parishad (U.P.) Open Vishwavidyalaya Lucknow (U.P.)
12. Arya University, Srinagar (J&K)
13. St. John's University, Kizhanattam, Kerala
14. National University, Nagpur
15. United Nations University, Delhi.
16. Vocational University, Delhi.
17. Uttar Pradesh Vishwavidyalaya, Kosi Kalan (Mathura)
18. Maharana Pratap Shiksha Niketan Vishwavidyalaya Pratapgarh, (U.P.)
19. Raja Arabic University, Nagpur.
20. Urdu University, Motia Park, Bhopal.

STATEMENT - II

1. International University of Missouri
2. University of East Georgia
3. New Port University.
4. Stanton University.

Forest Cover in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

342. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAM CHANDRAN : Will the minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total forest coverage in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands during 1985 and at present; and
- (b) the specific steps taken by the Government to conserve the tropical forests on the Islands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) on the basis of the State of Forest Reports published by the Forest survey of India in 1989-91 respectively, the actual forest cover in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands remained unchanged as 7624 sq. k.m.

(b) the steps taken by the Government to conserve the tropical forests of Andaman & Nicobar Islands are:

(i) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to prevent the diversion of forest lands for nonforestry purposes without prior approval of the Central Government.

(ii) Guidelines have also been issued to all the states/Union Territories Government to involve the village community in the protection and regeneration of forest through a mechanism of usufruct sharing and benefit distribution .

(iii) The quantum of timber extraction in Andaman & Nicobar Islands has been fixed by the Government as 1.15 lakhs cubic metre per annum.

(iv) All State/Union Territory Governments have been requested to implement the recommendations of the policy advisory groups on wood substitution and fuel conservation.

Museums

343. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the location of Museums of national importance which function directly under the Ministry;
- (b) whether the Central Government give any

assistance to the state Governments for maintenance of other important Museums under their control;

(c) the annual budget for the Museums under Central control and the annual grant-in-aid to State Government for State Museums during the last three years year-wise

(d) whether the Government have taken note of the fact that generally the Museums are not in a position to conserve, protect and display the art objects in their possession because of constraint of funds; and

(e) if so, whether any steps have been taken for improving the functioning of the Museums?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) The Museums under Central Government control are :-

- (i) National Museum, New Delhi
- (ii) Indian Museum, Calcutta.
- (iii) Salarjung Museum, Hyderabad
- (iv) Allahabad Museum, Allahabad.

(b) The museums under the State Government are maintained out of the State funds.

(c) The total annual budgets of the Museums under the control of Central Government for the last three years are:

		(In thousands of rupees)	
1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	
20.99.90	27.66.75	30,80,24	

(d) and (e) The Museums under the control of Central Government are carrying out conservation, protection and display of art objects as per guidelines of these museums. Funds are allocated to them within the overall budget of the Department of Culture. Museums and their functioning are being reviewed through expert committee periodically and their requirements are attended to. As part of the draft policy on culture, policy on museums is also being included to ensure effective functioning of these museums.

Harappan Culture

344. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news item captioned "Traces of Harappan Culture unearthed in Rajasthan", appearing in the "Business standard", dated May 10, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter stated therein as gathered by the Government;

(c) the results of the excavations made by the Archaeological Survey of India; and

(d) the light which these unearthed structures throw on the ancient cultural heritage pertaining to the Chalcolithic Age and Early Iron Age?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The excavation undertaken at Balathal, District Udaipur, Rajasthan jointly by the Deccan College, Postgraduate Research Institute, Pune and the Institute of Rajasthan Studies, Rajasthan Vidyapeeth, Udaipur has brought to light the Chalcolithic culture which has some affinity with Late Harappa culture of Gujarat in the form of a few pottery shapes and painted motifs on them; copper implements and the use of stone for the construction of houses. But the size of bricks found at Balathal do not correspond to Harappan measurements.

The statement given in the news item that some Harappan groups migrated to Balathal is yet to be studied though some affinity of Late Harappa culture is evident. However, mature Harappan elements are missing. Radiocarbon dates also confirm Late Harappan period of the Chalcolithic culture of Balathal as they fall in the time bracket of C. 2000 B.C. and 1000 B.C. Furthermore, the find of a fortification of Iron age is assignable to Early Historical period datable to C. 500 B.C. - 200 A.D.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The excavation at Balathal has thrown more light on Chalcolithic culture of Rajasthan which bear some traits of Late Harappan culture and adds more information to what has been collected earlier from the sites of Ahar and Gilund in Rajasthan. The site has revealed a fortification which belongs, not to the Early Iron Age, but to late Iron Age, which is called Early Historical Period in Indian Archaeology.

Construction of Stadium

345. SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of institutions utilised the matching grant offered by Government for construction of Stadia & Creation of more Sports facilities;

(b) whether the terms and conditions for extending grants to Sports Federations are stiff and discouraging construction of stadium & creation of more sports facilities in the country:

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to revise the present conditions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : (a) Central Government provides matching grant to Local Statutory Bodies and Registered Voluntary Organisations, active in the field of sports, games and physical culture, besides State Governments/ U.T. Administration for creation of Sports infrastructure. First instalment of grant is released to such Organisations etc. on receipt of progress Reports showing the progress of the sport projects undertaken by them and Second and final instalment on submission of Utilisation Certificate and Completion Certificate. During the year 1994-95, Central Govt. grant of Rs. 43,62,820/- had been utilised by 16 Registered Voluntary Organisations/Institutions and Rs.6,34,13,430/- by 21 state Govts. and U.T. Administration.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Train Between Alleppey and Mangalore

346. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a new express train between Alleppey and Mangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Railway Station

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

(a) the total amount spent on the development of Habibgunj Railway Station in Madhya Pradesh during 1993-94 and 1994-95 and the amount provided for the year 1995-96; and

(b) the number of new trains to be provided stoppage at

Habibgunj Railway Station during the year?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) The details are as under:

Total amount spent (Rs. in lakhs)	Outlay (Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94	1994-95
155.84	202.40

(b) There is no proposal at present to provide stoppage of additional trains at Habibgunj station.

Levy Sugar

348. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether levy Sugar is being released to States on the basis of projected population as on October 1, 1986,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the population has since increased in each State; and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to release the sugar on the basis of last census?

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

(b) In the year 1987 it was decided to release levy sugar to states on the basis of projected population as on October 1, 1986. In the later years as the sugar production was not sufficient therefore, it was kept on that level only. In August, 1991 an adhoc 5% increase was allowed which was continued upto April, 1994.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir Population has increased. However, as per present availability of levy sugar in the country the Government has decided to allow 5% adhoc increase in levy sugar quota effective from 01-09-1995

[English]

Ancient Monuments

349. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has started for the repairs work of Ancient Monuments in Vidisha and Raisen Districts of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) if so, the progress made and the expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

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

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

(b) and (c) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

S. No.	District	Name of Monuments where works of Special Repair have been started since 1992-93	Expenditure Incurred there on	Works likely to be completed
1.	Vidisha	Bijamandal Mosque Complex, Vidisha	Rs. 4,82,075.22	March, 1997
2.	do	Udaigiri Caves	Rs. 2,01,737.00	March, 1997
3.	Raisen	Buddhist monuments at Sanchi	Rs. 9,32,691.20	October, 96
4.	do	Budhist monuments at Satdhara	Rs. 1,57,577.70	October, 96
5.	do	Savite Temple, Bhojpur	Rs. 5,56,990.00	March, 1997
6.	do	Rock Shelters at Bhimbetka	Rs. 1,87,440.00	March, 1996

[Translation]

Super Bazar

350. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appeared in the Hindi 'Hindustan' dated 16th July, 1995 relating to Super Bazar wherein it has been stated that a question mark is being put on the

quality of products sold by the Super Bazar and the prices therefor charged from the consumers when compared with the Kendriya Bhandar:

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to inquire into these serious allegations and if not, the reason therefor; and

(c) whether the Government have received letters from the Members of Parliament and the suppliers regarding growing number of cases of frauds, corruption, mismanagement in the Super Bazar?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) No, Sir, The newspaper report is not entirely correct. Supr Bazar has a system of laboratory testing of grocery items for quality assurance. As there is a range of qualities in each grocery item, comparisons between prices of Super Bazar, Kendriya Bhandar and open market do not always reflect the correct picture. However, Government have advised the Super Bazar to further streamline their procedures for quality assurance and for evolving a system for monitoring of prices of various items in the open market. Kendriya Bhandar and Super Bazar.

(c) Government have not received any letter from the Suppliers to Super Bazar in this regard. However, letter from two Member of Parliament have been received in this regard.

[English]

UGC Schemes in Goa

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

(a) the schemes of University Grants Commission presently under implementation in Goa and details of progress made so far;

(b) the details of proposal sent by the Government of Goa for consideration of UGC and action taken thereon; and

(c) the grants received from UGC for higher education in Goa during the last four years, year wise and quota proposed for Goa for the current year ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) The UGC provides development grants to the eligible universities for a five year plan period and not on a year to year basis. According to the information furnished by the UGC, the Commission has allocated an outlay of Rs.75.00 lakhs to the Goa University for the 8th

Five Year Plan for purchase of books and journals and equipment as per the detail given below:-

Item	Amount Allocated (Rs. in lakhs)
1. Books & Journals	35.00
2. Equipment	40.00
Total:	75.00

The main thrust of the programmes of Goa University is on consolidation and strengthening of the library and the laboratories. This would help in raising the standard of teaching and research in University.

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

(c) Statement I indicating the grant paid to the University and Colleges in Goa during the year 1991-92 to 1994-95 is attached.

Another (Statement II) showing the grants approved for implementation of the vocational education programme in the colleges in Goa is attached.

STATEMENT - I

Grants paid to University and Colleges in Goa during the year 1991-92 to 1994-95

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.	Year	University	Colleges	Total	No.
1.	1991-92	55.04	4.80	59.84	
2.	1992-93	29.33	8.01	37.34	
3.	1993-94	37.69	1.80	39.49	
4.	1994-95	59.21	29.21	88.42	
	Total	181.27	43.82	225.09	

STATEMENT - II

Vocational Education Programme in Colleges in Goa

Sl. No.	Name of College	Name of Vocational Subject	Grants Approved (in lakhs of Rupees)	Approved	Rs.	N.R.	Total
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.		

1994-95

1. Murgaon Education Soc. College	1. Tax Procedures & Practices	1.00	12.00	3.00
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1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
of Arts & Commerce, Zuari Nagar.	2. Foreign Trade Practices & Procedures	1.00	2.00	3.00	
	3. Tourism & Travel Management	1.00	2.00	3.00	
	Total:	3.00	6.00	9.00	
2. Smt.P.C. Cultural Foundations College of Arts & Science, Margao.	1. Computer Applications	2.00	5.50	7.50	
	2. Electronic Equipment Maintenance	2.00	5.50	7.50	
	Total:	4.00	11.00	15.00	
1995-96					
3. St.Xaviers College Mapusa.	1. Computer Applications	2.00	7.00	9.00	
	2. Office Management & Secretarial Practice	1.00	2.00	3.00	
	Total	3.00	9.00	12.00	

N.B. :- The recurring grant will be provided annually for a period of five years from the year of implementation.

Agricultural Equipment

352. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA :

SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state (a) whether Union Government are providing agricultural equipment to the farmers at subsidised rates under various schemes;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes;

(c) the assistance provided for the purpose during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) the number of farmer benefited therefore during the above period;

(e) whether small farmers are also availing this facility; and

(f) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the various schemes, whereunder subsidy is provided to the farmers for the purchase of agricultural equipment, are given in the statement I attached.

(c) the assistance provided for the purchase of agricultural equipment, State-wise, during the years 92-93, 93-94 and 94-95 is given in the statement II attached.

STATEMENT - I

S. No.	Name of Scheme 2.	Type of Agricultural equipments subsidised 3.	Beneficiary 4.	Rate of subsidy per equipment 5.
1.	Integrated cereal Development Programme (RICE)	Bullock/ Power driven agricultural equipment	Small and marginal	Bullock driven 50% of the cost limited to Rs.1500/- per farmer. Power driven 25% of the cost limited to Rs.5000/- per farmer.
2.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme (WHEAT)	- do -	- do -	- do -
3.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme (COARSE CEREALS)	- do -	- do -	- do -
4.	Intensive Cotton development Programme (ICDP)	Manually/Power Operated Plant Protection equipment	-do-	Manually operated Plant Production equipment- 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 600/- Power operated Plant Protection equipment- 50% of cost limited to Rs.1500/- Tractor operated Plant Protection equipment- 25 % of cost limited to Rs.4000/-
5.	Special Jute Developement Programme (SJOP)	Seed drill & weeder Programme (SJOP)	- do -	Manually operated - 50 % of cost limited to Rs.250/- Bullock driven 50 % of the cost limited to Rs.1500/-
6.	National Pulses Development Project (NPCP)	Improved farm implements Plant Protection equipment (upto 93-94)	To all cate- gory of farmers including small farmers	50 % of the cost subject to maximum of Rs.1500/- for improved implements and 50 % of the cost limited to Rs. 600/- and Rs. 1500/ for manual, operational and power operated Plant Protection equipments, respectively.
7.	Oilseed Production programme (OPP)	- do -	- do -	- do -

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
8.	Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among Small Farmers	Small tractors below 13 power take off horse power (upto 93-94)	Farmers, individually or in groups, having perennially irrigated land holding between 6 and 8 acres, or equivalent.	30% of the cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 30,000/per tractor set.
9.	Development of spices	Plant Protection equipments	All farmers	50% of the cost or Rs.750/- whichever is less.
10.	Development of betelvine	- do -	- do -	50% of the cost or Rs.500/- whichever is less.
11.	Development of precanuts	- do -	- do -	Rs. 900/ per sprayer..

(d) As per the information received from the States/UTs, under the Scheme 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among small Farmers, so far, about 3546 farmers have been benefited. In addition, a large number of farmers have benefited under the crop-oriented programmes mentioned at statement I attached.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.

STATEMENT-II

Assistance Provided for the Purchase of Agricultural Equipment State-wise during last three years.

S. No.	States/UT	(Rs. in lakh)		
		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	487.550	621.603	240.370
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8.000	17.250	4.445
3.	Assam	53.860	211.914	57.700
4.	Bihar	164.420	561.856	474.405
5.	Goa	10.610	8.890	0.625
6.	Gujarat	311.428	404.090	209.425
7.	Haryana	97.860	130.972	46.440
8.	Himachal Pradesh	37.960	107.510	55.600
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	53.110	60.976	93.760

1.	2	3	4	5
10. Karnataka		328.064	369.364	242.380
11. Kerala		95.310	99.400	1.950
12. Madhya Pradesh		613.440	810.588	555.100
13. Maharashtra		668.370	724.558	422.570
14. Manipur		19.600	12.564	3.695
15. Meghalaya		2.880	8.436	2.466
16. Mizoram		18.000	14.700	2.700
17. Nagaland		33.000	24.200	6.200
18. Orissa		196.420	251.644	206.670
19. Punjab		177.440	338.029	380.315
20. Rajasthan		294.680	419.402	268.640
21. Sikkim		19.110	8.280	9.080
22. Tamil Nadu		520.400	580.988	255.775
23. Tripura		35.610	36.226	5.362
24. Uttar Pradesh		753.960	709.295	399.412
25. West Bengal		230.730	396.736	310.870
26. Andaman & Nicobar Islands		1.500	3.000	0.800
27. Chandigarh		1.500	3.000	-
28. Dadra, Nagar & Haveli		1.500	3.000	-
29. Daman & Diu		1.500	3.000	-

1.	2	3	4	5
30. Delhi		1.500	3.000	0.500
31. Lakshadweep		1.500	3.000	-
32. Pondicherry		7.870	8.400	-

[Translation]

Sugar Quota

353. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether consumers in Delhi are being supplied 800 gms of Sugar under Public Distribution System per unit whereas fair price shop dealers are supplied 700 gms. Sugar per unit; and

(b) if so, how this extra 100 gms of sugar is accounted for by P.D.S.?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Central Government is presently allocating 9921 tonnes of levy sugar to the Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi for the Public Distribution System (PDS). The Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that the number of sugar units registered with them, at present, is 14389210 and that the per capita availability of levy sugar unit in the NCT of Delhi works out to around 690 grams per month. The scales of entitlement of levy sugar is a matter under the administrative jurisdiction of State Government/UT Administrations. The Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that they have allowed consumer to draw levy sugar against their consumer cards at the rate of 800 grams per unit per months on a first come first served basis.

[English]

Rice-Production

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

(a) whether the State of Orissa is lagging behind several States in the production rice;

(b) if so, the special steps proposed to be taken to increase rice production in the state; and

(c) the detailed strategy adopted for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The per unit area production of rice in Orissa is low and the State is lagging behind several states.

(b) For increasing the rice production in Orissa steps taken/proposed to be taken include, the increase in area under location specific yielding varieties, propagation of improved crop production technology etc. To achieve these objectives, rice production programmes, namely: (1) Seed Minikit Programme of Rice including propagation of improved crop production technology and (2) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice) are being implemented in the State.

(c) The strategy adopted for increasing rice production includes.

(1) Organisation of field demonstrations and farmers trainings for the propagation of improved rice production technology.

(2) encouraging use of organics for improving nutrient use efficiency,

(3) encouraging use of soil ameliorants for improving soil health

(4) replacement of older varieties with newer varieties resistant tolerant to insect pests and diseases and propagation of improved germplasm,

(5) improving the resource base of the farmers for efficient water management and for timely and effective field operations,

(6) Promoting a sense of competition among farmers for maximising productivity, etc.

[Translation]

Sugar Stock

355. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the total stock and consumption of sugar during the years 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(b) the total quantity of sugar likely to be consumed during the year 1994-95; and

(c) the estimated total stock of sugar at the beginning of the next crushing year?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) The required information is as under:-

S.No Details	(Figures in lakh tonnes)	
	Sugar Season (Oct.-Sep.)	
	1992-93	1993-94
1. Stocks of sugar at the beginning of the season i.e. on 1st October	49.06	31.13
2. Internal consumption (Provisional)	120.05	11.29*

* Excluding consumption of sugar imported by private parties under O.G.L.

(b) The estimated requirement of sugar for internal consumption during the current 1994-95 sugar season would be around 121.45 lakh tonnes.

(c) The likely stocks of sugar at the beginning of the next crushing season 1995-96 would be around 48.25 lakh tonnes.

[English]

Cattle Feed

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

(a) the targets for per capita milk consumption by the year 2000 A.D.;

(b) the total cattle feed that is being produced at present; and

(c) the likely requirement of cattle feed by 2000 A.D. and the steps taken to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The targets for per capita milk consumption by the year 2000 A.D. have not yet been fixed.

(b) Separate information for total feed fed to cattle is not available. However, as per information from the compound Livestock Feed Manufacturer Association of India, total compounded cattle feed being produced in the country by the organized sector is 3 million tonnes. Further availability of concentrates which are fed as such or after mixing and also used as major ingredients for production of compounded feed for livestock including cattle, buffaloes poultry etc. in the country is 41.98 million tonnes, as per the draft report of the policy Advisory Group of Integrated Grazing Policy - Ministry of Environment and Forest 1993.

(c) Separate information for the likely requirement of cattle feed by 2000 A.D. is not available. As per the draft report of Ministry of Environment and Forest 1993, the likely requirement of concentrates by 2000 A.D. is 88.05 million tonnes.

The steps taken to increase the availability of cattle feed are given as under:-

i) Balanced cattle feed production of the feed mills has been increased in dairy cooperative sector during the last few years.

ii) Total installed capacity of feed mills under the dairy cooperative sector is proposed to be expanded.

iii) Efforts are being made to ensure that various ingredients required for preparation of cattle feed are available at reasonable price throughout the year.

Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation

357. PROF. SHRIMATI SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited is engaged in the manufacturing of Vanaspati, breakfast food items; refining and packing of edible oils for distribution under the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, whether it has opened any unit in the State of Kerala;

(c) if not, whether the Government have any proposal to open any unit in near future in any part of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There is no proposal to open any new unit in the country.

(d) Does not arise.

Super Bazar

358. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Super Bazar has been spending thousands of rupees of group contracts given to contractors when the same work could be performed at much less cost by the staff;

(b) if so, the reason thereof;

(c) whether such contracts are a major source of illicit earning for Super Bazar officials; and

(d) the measures the Government propose to take to put an end to such corrupt practices?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Deforestation

359. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that environment is being affected due to the indiscriminate and illegal deforestation; and

(b) if so, the concrete steps taken by the Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No reports of large scale indiscriminate and illegal deforestation from the states have been received in this Ministry. In fact, the trend of deforestation has been checked and rather reversed according to the assessment made by Forest Survey of India based on visual interpretation of satellite imageries.

(b) The following steps have been taken:

- Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Wildlife (protection) Act, 1972 are enforced to check forest and wildlife offences.

- Forest protection has been intensified and staff equipped with modern weapons, wireless communication sets and fast moving vehicles.

[English]

Investment in Agriculture

360. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstated Question No. 224 on March 14, 1995 and state:

(a) whether recent study has pointed out that the decline in agriculture investment is the Prime cause for stagnation in agriculture production;

(b) whether the Government has been urged by the Study Group to take steps to increase capital formation in this sector;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether according to the study the gross investment

in agriculture has declined from Rs. 4636 crores in 1980-81 to Rs. 4580 crores in 1991-92; and

(e) the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The available data do not indicate any trend towards stagnation in agriculture production, despite the decline in capital formation.

(b) to (e) The available information reveal that the Gross Capital formation in agriculture declined from Rs. 4636 crores in 1980-81 to Rs. 4581 crores in 1991-92. Various steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development include-

(i) Extension of financial assistance by NABARD for the promotion of leasing and hire finance companies engaged in farm equipment/machinery and other activities connected with agriculture and rural development.

(ii) Granting of refinance facilities to State Finance Corporations/State Industrial Development Corporations for their assistance to such companies.

(iii) The establishment of Rural Infrastructural Development Fund in NABARD to support completion of public investment in irrigation, soil conservation, watershed management.

(iv) Liberalisation of security norms for agricultural advance.

(v) Rationalisation of the interest rates on loans and refinance.

(vi) Enlargement of scope for financing of individuals by State Cooperative Banks and District Central Co-operative Banks.

(vii) Opening of specialized branches to attend exclusively for financing innovative and high technology projects in agriculture, floriculture, tissue culture etc.

(viii) Setting up of a small farmer's Agree Business Consortium (SFAC) as an autonomous corporate entity with the objective of imparting employment and income generation orientation to agriculture and allied activities by adopting improved technologies and developing a proper processing and marketing network.

Fire Fighting Equipments

361. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telecom facilities and fire fighting equipments are not being provided to all forest guards and there is no provision for training in fire-fighting systems;

(b) if so, the reason therefor?

(c) the reasons for not accepting UNDP/FAO offer of aircraft and helicopters for fire surveillance in forest areas of the hills; and

(d) the scheme evolved for fighting the forest fire menace along the Himalayan foot hills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) Under the on-going centrally sponsored scheme 'Modern Forests Fire Control Methods' there is provision for providing telecom facilities, fire fighting equipment and training in fire fighting system to the forest staff in the 11 states namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) The Ministry has accepted one aircraft and one helicopter from UNDP for fire surveillance in forest areas of hills and other parts of the country.

(d) A centrally Sponsored Scheme namely 'Modern Forests Fire Control Methods' is in operation since 1992-93. 100% Central financial assistance is provided to the states for procurement of hand tools, fire resistant clothing, wireless communication sets, fire finders, fire tenders, creation of fire lines, construction of watch tower, training and demonstration, research and publicity.

[Translation]

Dairy Products

362. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dairy Products are being imported in the country;

(b) if so, the products being imported and the details of the profit to be occurred therefrom;

(c) whether country is depending in the area of Dairy Products at present; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (d) As a result of increased domestic milk production, the country is not at present dependent on imports as regards dairy products. However small quantities of dairy products are being imported. The imports during 1994-95 included skimmed milk powder and butter oil. There is no single canalising agency for imports and the details of profits made by the different importers are not available.

Public Distribution System

363. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the Administrative cost incurred annually on the Public Distribution System; and

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to streamline this distribution system by reducing the number of the Government Agencies involved in public distribution resulting in more burden on consumers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Public Distribution System (PDS) is the joint responsibility of the Central Government and State Government/UT Administrations. The Central Government is responsible for making available rice, wheat, sugar, SKD, softcoke/oil cake & edible oil in bulk to States/UTs, whereas the operational responsibility of implementing the PDS is of the State Government/UT Administration. A number of official, cooperative, semi-govt and non-official agencies are involved in the operation of Public Distribution System at the State, District and village level. As such it is not possible to quantify the total administrative cost incurred annually on PDS. The streamlining of the PDS is a continuous process. By its very nature a number of agencies have to be involved in the delivery to the consumers of commodities distributed under the Public Distribution System. Matters relating to improving the functioning of the PDS are discussed with State Governments in the meetings of the Advisory Council on PDS. There has been no specific proposal from any State Government regarding reduction in the number of Government Agencies involved in the PDS.

Central Tobacco Research Institute.

364. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Lab-to-land activities of Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajamundry in 1994-95;

(b) the number of tobacco farmers benefited from CTRI in 1994-95;

(c) the financial outlay for CTRI during the corresponding period;

(d) whether an intensive programme for tobacco farmers was undertaken during 1994-95 by CTRI;

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. (SHRI K. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Now the Lab-to-Land

programme is not existing as an independent programme in the ICAR system. It has been integrated into Krishi Vigyan Kendras since 1992-93 as one of its activities. At CTRI, Rajamundri, 126 farmers were selected during 94-95 under Lab-to-Land programme. The beneficiaries were provided necessary critical inputs under Animal Science Production Programme, Horticulture, Coconut seeding, Fertilizer, Insecticides and Coir spinning equipments under Rural Craft activities.

(c) The total financial outlay during corresponding period under Lab-to-Land programme was Rs. 10,000/-.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir, CTRI has organised 73 training programme in tobacco production technology for 1656 farmers 30 courses for 388 rural youths and 13 courses for 411 extension workers.

Railway Projects

365. SHRI N J RATHVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the names of the States and the number of proposals submitted by them to the Union Govt. in regard to the Gauge conversion in their respective States, to restore withdrawn trains and reconstruction of damaged bridges during the last three years and during the current year so far?

THE MINISTER OF THE RAILWAYS (SHRI C K JAFFER SHARIEF): The names of the States and number of proposals submitted by them in regard to Gauge Conversion and reconstruction of damaged bridges during the last three years till date are given below. As regards restoration of trains, such information is not maintained statewise.

Name of the State	Number of proposals received
Gauge Conversion	Reconstruction of bridges
Bihar	5
Uttar Pradesh	1
Assam	1
Tripura	1
Rajasthan	2
Gujarat	13
Madhya Pradesh	3
Maharashtra	8
Karnataka	4
Tamil Nadu	3
West Bengal	-
	2

[English]

Public Distribution System

366. SHRI RAM KAPSE :

SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are having huge reserve stocks of foodgrains and if so, the quantity thereof at present, foodgrains-wise, state-wise; and

(b) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to utilise these stocks?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. A statement indicating State-wise quantities of wheat and rice held in the central pool on 01-07-1995 is enclosed.

(b) Apart from regular releases for public Distribution System the FCI is selling wheat and rice in the open market at prices below the FCI's Economic Cost. Besides, wheat is being allotted to modern Food Industries (I) Ltd. and its franchised units at a rate lower than the Central Issue Price for the Public Distribution System for manufacture and sale of bread at reduced rate and wheat and rice are also being allotted at rates lower than the central Issue Prices (i) to those hostel's in the country where more than two-thirds of the resident students below to SC/ST/OBC category and (ii) for employment generation programmes of Ministry of Rural Development, for manufacturing food products, such as bread, bun papad, etc. by below-poverty-line families. In addition, the Government have authorised Food Corporation of India to export/sell for the purpose of export both wheat and rice upto 25 lakh tonnes and 20 lakh tonnes respectively during 1995-96.

(Prepared on 21.07.1995) (In .000 Tonnes)

S. No.	States/UTs	Rice	Wheat	Grains	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1890.22	310.40	0.00	2200.62
2.	JM (PO) Vizag	28.64	0.00	0.00	28.64
3.	Assam	91.01	28.29	0.00	119.30
4.	Bihar	105.68	200.09	0.00	305.77
5.	Delhi	61.14	159.94	0.00	221.08
6.	Goa	6.24	0.78	0.00	7.02
7.	Gujarat	293.92	517.22	0.00	811.14
8.	JM (PO) Kandla	53.68	124.36	0.00	178.04
9.	Haryana	1291.06	3447.12	0.00	4738.18
10.	Himachal Pradesh	3.18	10.90	0.00	14.08
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	34.64	22.68	0.00	57.32

S. No.	States/UTs	Rice	Wheat	Grains	Total
12.	Karnataka	151.94	61.94	0.00	213.88
13.	Kerala	334.40	20.63	0.00	355.03
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1037.27	552.32	0.00	1589.59
15.	Maharashtra	790.52	547.10	0.00	1337.62
16.	Manipur	1.28	0.17	0.00	1.45
17.	Meghalaya	4.55	1.84	0.00	6.39
18.	Mizoram	6.84	0.66	0.00	7.50
19.	Nagaland	2.59	0.34	0.00	2.93
20.	Orissa	161.60	46.07	0.00	207.67
21.	Punjab	7478.37	9374.35	0.00	16852.72
22.	Rajasthan	440.51	1420.43	0.00	1860.94
23.	Tamil Nadu	380.13	33.85	0.00	413.98
24.	JM (PO) Madras	4.61	0.00	0.00	4.61
25.	Tripura	6.16	5.88	0.00	12.04
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1298.31	1966.14	Neg	3264.45
27.	West Bengal	121.56	109.60	0.00	231.16
28.	JM(PO) Calcutta	193.52	50.06	0.00	243.58
29.	Chandigarh	6.59	Neg	0.00	6.59
	Stocks in transit	163.05	160.55	0.00	323.60
	Grand Total (All India)	16443.21	19173.71	Neg	35616.92

(P) = Provisional

(Neg) = Below 50 Tonnes

Vegetables and Fruit Research Centres

367. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: (a) the names of research centres for vegetables and fruit, functioning at present in the country, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up some more fruit and vegetable research centres in some other parts of the country during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the locations identified for this purpose so far, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government of their early start?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-

CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Details of Research centres for vegetables and fruit which are functioning at present in the country under I.C.A.R. are given in Statement I & II.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT - I

Horticulture Division

Details of the Research Institutes/NTCs/PD for Vegetables & Fruit Functioning at Present in the Country under the I.C.A.R.

S.No.	Name of the Institutes/NRC/PD
I. Fruit	
1.	Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore (Karnataka).
2.	Central Institute of Sub-Tropical Horticulture, Lucknow (U.P.).
3.	Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture, Srinagar (J&K).
4.	ICAR Research Complex, Goa (Goa).
5.	National Research Centre for Arid Horticulture, Bikaner (Rajasthan),
6.	National Research Centre for Banana, Trichy (Tamil Nadu).
7.	National Research Centre for Citrus, Nagpur (Maharashtra).
8.	National Research Centre for Grapes, Pune (Maharashtra).
II. Vegetables	
1.	Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla (Himachal Pradesh).
2.	Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Trivandrum (Kerala).
3.	Project Directorate Vegetable Research, Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh).
4.	National Research Centre for Onion & Garlic, Nasik (Maharashtra).
5.	National Centre for Mushroom Research & Training, Solan, Himachal Pradesh.

STATEMENT-II**Horticulture Division**

Detailsof Research Centre of I.C.A.R. on Vegetables and Fruits Presently Functioning in the Country.

S. No.	Name of the Project	States		
		Andhra Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	Assam Pradesh

I. Fruits

1. Tropical Fruits	1. Kovur	-	1. Jorhat	
	2. Tirupati	-	2. Tinsukhia	

2. Sub-Tropical Fruits

1. Hyderabad	-	-		
	2. Sangareddy	-	-	

3. Arid Fruits

1. Anantapur	-	-		
	2. Hyderabad	-	-	

4. P.H.T.

1. Hyderabad	-	-		
	2. Basar	-	-	

5. Apple Scab

1. Hyderabad	-	-		
	2. Basar	-	-	

II. Vegetables

1. Vegetables	1. Hyderabad	-	Jorhat	
	2. Lam	-	-	

2. Potato	-	-	Jorhat	
3. Tuber Crops	Hyderabad	-	Jorhat	

4. Mushroom	-	-	-	
5. NSP	Lam	-	-	

	Tamil Nadu	Uttar Pradesh	West Bengal
	Pradesh		

I. Fruits

1. Tropical Fruits	1. Coimbatore	-	Pedong	
	2. Periyakulam	-	-	

2. Sub-Tropical Malda	Coimbatore	Pantnagar		
		Fruits		

3. Arid Fruits	Arruppukkottai	Faizabad-		

4. P.H.T.	Periyakulam	-	Kalyani	

5. Apple Scab	-	Ranichauri	-	

II-Vegetables

1. Vegetables	Coimbatore	1. Faizabad	Kalyani	
		2. Kanpur	-	

		3. Pantnagar		
		4. Varanasi		

	1.	2.	3.
2. Potato	Ooty (CRI)	1. Faizabad	Kalyani

3. Tuber Crops	Coimbatore	2. Pantnagar	
4. Mushroom	Coimbatore	1. Pantnagar	-

5. N.S.P.	Coimbatore	2. Kanpur	
		3. Varanasi	

	Punjab	Rajasthan	Sikkim

	I. Fruits		
1. Tropical Fruits	Ludhiana	-	-

2. Sub-Tropical Fruits	Ludhiana	Udaipur	-
3. Arid Fruits	Abohar	1. Bikaner	

4. P.H.T.	-	2. Bhojka	
		3. Jobner	

	II. Vegetables		
1. Vegetables	Ludhiana	Durgapur	

2. Potato	Jalandhar (CPRI)	Kota	-
3. Tuber Crops	-	-	-

4. Mushroom	Ludhiana	Udaipur	-
5. N.S.P.	Ludhiana	-	-

	Bihar	Delhi	Gujarat

	I. Fruits		
1. Tropical Fruits	Pusa	-	Gandevi

2. Sub-Tropical Fruits	1. Sabour	New Delhi	Paria
	2. Pusa	IARI	

3. Arid Fruits	-	-	1. Saradar Krishi Nagar
			2. Mandra

4. P.H.T.	Pusa	-	-
5. Apple Scab	-	-	-

	1.	2.	3.
II. Vegetables			
1. Vegetables	Sabour	New	Junagrah Delhi, IARI
2. Potato	1. Patna (CPRS) 2. Dholi	-	Deesa
3. Tuber Crops	1. Dholi 2. Ranchi	-	Navsari
4. Mushroom	-	-	-
5. N.S.P.	-	-	-
	Haryana	Himachal Pradesh	Jammu& Kashmir

	1.	2.	3.
5. Apple Scab			
II. Vegetables			
1. Vegetable	1. Hessara- ghatta	1. Vellanik- kara	1. Jabalpur
2. Potato	2. Dharwad	-	2. Raipur
3. Tuber Crops	1. Dharwad 2. Hassan	-	Chhindwara
4. Mushroom	-	-	Jagdalpur
5. N.S.P.	Hessaraghatta	-	1. Jabalpur
		-	2. Raipur
		Maharashtra	Meghalaya Orissa

I. Fruits	I. Fruits
1. Tropical Fruits	1. Akola 2. Pune (IARI) 3. Rahuri
2. Sub-Tropical Fruits	2. Sub-Tropical Fruits
3. Arid Fruits	1. Jalgaon 2. Rhuri 3. Vengural
4. P.H.T.	3. Arid Fruits
5. Apple Scab	1. Pune (MACS) 2. Rahuri
II. Vegetables	4. P.H.T.
1. Vegetables	1. Dapoli 2. Rahuri
2. Potato	5. Apple Scab
3. Tuber Crops	II. Vegetables
4. Mushroom	1. Vegetables
5. N.S.P.	1. Rahuri 2. Ambajogi
	2. Potato
	Rajgurunagar
	Shillong
	Bhubaneswar
	(CPRI)
	3. Tuber Crops
	Depoli
	Shillong -
	(ICARC)
I. Fruits	4. Mashroom
1. Tropical Fruits	Pune
2. Sub-Tropical Fruits	5. N.S.P.
3. Arid Fruits	Rahuri
4. P.H.T.	Bhubaneswar

Economic Reforms

368. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether economic reforms have not benefited the agriculture sector;

(b) whether the former commissioner of the Agriculture Price Commission in its report has pointed out distortion which had been adversely affecting the agricultural growth and development; and

(c) if so, to what extent Government have admitted that economic reforms have not helped the agricultural?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The economic reforms are likely to have benefited the agriculture sector also.

(b) The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices in its reports have indicated any distortion arising out of economic reforms which could have adversely affected the agricultural growth and development.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Tonned Milk in Polypack pouch

369. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the pasteurized tonned milk being supplied by Mother Dairy at the rate of Rs. 10/- per k.g. is not available in polypack pouch at any of its Booths located in New Delhi, whereas it is being much publicised and instead full-cream milk at the rate of Rs. 14/- per k.g. is being supplied;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make available pasteurized tonned milk at Rs. 10/- per k.g. in polypack pouches at each and every Booth of Mother Dairy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (c) Mother Dairy's booths supply toned milk through bulk vending system whereas toned milk in pouches is supplied through other shops where milk of Mother Dairy is not made available. There is no proposal to supply tonned milk in polypack pouches form Mother Dairy's milk booths also.

[English]

Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History

370. DR. P. VALLAL ERUMAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: (a) the total amount released to the Union Government to the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACONH), Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, for its various research projects during the last three years;

(b) the names of the research projects undertaken by the SACONH during said period; and

(c) the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) An amount of Rs. 29.13 lakhs has been released by the Union Government to Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACONH), Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu for its various research projects during the last three years.

(b) and (c) A statement is attached

STATEMENT

S. No.	Name of the Project	Progress made
1.	A study on the ecology, status and conservation perspectives of certain rare and endemic avifauna of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.	General Survey of avifauna of Andaman and Nicobar Island has been completed. The study will bring out a Conservation Programme of the Island avifauna.
2.	A rapid assessment of diversity in Mehalo Sanctuary (Nishni Hills, Arunachal Pradesh).	IRS. LISS II. Geocoded imageries have obtained from NRSA and visually interpreted. Field through Remote Sensing and GIS.
3.	Keoladeo National Park Eco-System: Modelling Simulation Studies.	An ecosystem dynamics model has been developed. The applicability of this model to predict ecological changes and management aspects are yet to be completed.
4.	Breeding strategies of bird in a most deciduous forests in Siruvani.	Studies are being conducted in 250 ha. moist deciduous in Siruvani. Study will provide ecological information required for the conservation of the species.
5.	Impact of human interference on plant and bird communities in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.	Bird populations both in degraded and relatively less disturbed areas has been carried out. The preliminary results indicate that birds do not breed in altered habitat.

1.	2.	3.	1.	2.	3.
6. Pesticide Contamination in the Nilgiris District with special reference to selected avifauna.	The equipment required for analysis of pesticides has been installed and the methodology for analysis of pesticides has been standardised. Samples are being collected from the selected sites during the first phase.		12. Habitat Monitoring of Bandipur National Park, Karnataka.		Fresh field data is being Collected from various disturbed and undisturbed vegetation types for comparison. Satellite imageries procured are being analysed. Permanent plots are being laid for future monitoring
7. A study of the management of fragmented rain forest Western Ghats for the conservation of fauna special emphasis on small mammals.	Rain forest fragments in Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary has been identified and surveyed for arboreal mammals. Studies have been initiated on the relative abundance of small carnivores in all the fragments.		13. Studies on the status and conservation perspectives of rare and endemic fishes of the Nilgiri Biosphere		Reconnaissance surveys have been conducted to identify fish habitats for intensive studies in the areas which have viable population of endemic and rare fish. Habitat inventory protocol has been created which would take into consideration factors such as stream order, substrate variables water quality and instream cover.
8. Ethnoecology and photochemistry of medicinal plants in Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.	Out of 162 plant species used by tribals, 26 species commercially exploited. Data on their habitat, ecology and regeneration have been collected.		14. Status of Feral elephants in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.		Studies show that elephant brought to the Interview Islands for timber operation in 1962 and left behind after the work have increased their population to 70. They are causing substantial damage to vegetation and crops. Periodic monitoring and electric fence in selected areas have been recommended.
9. Status of seagrass habitats of Andaman and Nicobar Coast.	Surveys have been undertaken to study the status of seagrass of Andaman and Nicobar Island. Final technical report is awaited.		15. Long-term monitoring of elephant habitat interaction in Mudumalai wild Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu.		Data has been collected on wet and dry seasons from permanent plots to assess mortality of trees caused by elephants. Preliminary studies show that the intensity of damage on trees caused by elephants in thorn forests has been low compared to that in other forest types.
10. A study on the Distribution Ecology and Conservation of the Small Carnivores in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.	Eight of the twelve representative forest types have been surveyed in regard to carnivores like civets, lesser cats, nilgiri marten etc. Radio telemetric studies are being initiated.		16. Status and Distribution of Western Tragopan		Presence of Western Tragopan has been confirmed in parts of Uttarkashi district in UP, bordering Shimla and Kanpur in H.P. Project had to be suspended for lack of funds
11. Status of Wildlife Corridors and their use by mammals with special reference to selected endangered mammals in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.	Preliminary results indicate that five out of twelve animal corridors identified show heavy cattle grazing and fuel- wood collection which has caused serious damage to the vegetation and consequently poor use by wild animals. Rest of the corridors are being studied.				

1.	2.	3.
17. Survey of Wetlands of Etawah and Mainpuri Districts of Uttar Pradesh.	Project was mainly taken upto evolve methodologies for making a National Survey and classification of wetlands. 16 types of wetlands were observed in Etawah and Mainpuri districts.	

Depredations in Sandal Forests

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the extent of depredations caused by the chandrappan gang and others in the Sandal forests in the South during the current year so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union and State Governments concerned to prevent the depredations to the forests and the wildlife?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRQNMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) There is no information available with the Central Government regarding the forests and wildlife:

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) The following steps have been taken by the Union and State Government concerned to prevent the depredation of the forests and wildlife:

- Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 are enforced to check forest and wildlife offences.
- Special courts have been set up in the states like Tamilnadu and Kerala to enable disposal of forest offence cases involving sandalwood and scheduled timber.
- The flying squads have been formed and equipped with modern communication sets, arms and vehicles to carry out effective patrolling in the vulnerable areas.
- Interior forest areas are connected with wireless network to improve communication.
- Forest check posts (fixed as well as mobile) have been created at strategic points.

[Translation]

Railway Station

372. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to beautify the Salempur Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh and its surroundings;

(b) if so, the schemes formulated and the financial allocations made for the said purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Salempur Railway Station building and its surroundings are being maintained in a satisfactory condition. However, as a measure of further development, a proposal has been formulated for improving the circulating area, developing apart, etc. at a cost of Rs. 1 lakh. Work in this regard will commence after completion of necessary formalities including removal of the shops in the area, and the work is targeted for completion during the current financial year.

[English]

Subsidy to Tobacco Farmers.

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

(a) whether Central Tobacco Research Institute has extended any subsidy to tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh to adopt new tobacco seedlings for their cultivation during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details of such extension schemes backed by financial incentives; and

(c) the incentives proposed by CTRI to encourage farmers to be receptive to their new seeds and new techniques of cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajmundry is not providing any subsidy directly to the tobacco farmers. However, Institute is supplying seedlings of new tobacco varieties free of cost to the tobacco growing farmers as incentive for conducting on-farm extension trials in their own fields to encourage the farming community to raise exportable types of tobacco in Andhra Pradesh. During the last two years, seven on-farm extension trials were conducted.

(c) High quality tobacco seeds is being supplied by the Institute to the farmers at reasonable cost through Tobacco Board every year.

Subsidised Food Schemes

374. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether after having rejected Andhra Pradesh's request to fund its Rs. 2/- per kg rice Scheme, the Centre itself is considering the idea of providing foodgrains at substantially low prices to those living below poverty line:

(b) if so, the salient features of the Scheme:

(c) whether the Centre plans to further extend the Revamped Public Distribution System areas and also to further subsidise the foodgrains supplies through the system;

(d) if so, whether any final decision in regard to subsidise food scheme has been finally agreed; and

(e) if so, by what time the scheme is likely to be introduced throughout the country?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Proposals to extends the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) to all the Blocks covered under the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and to reduce the Central Issue Prices of rice and wheat for RPDS areas are under consideration of the Central Government.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Various implications of these proposals are still under examination and, therefore, no specific time limit can be set for implementation of these proposals.

Brindavan Express

375. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend Brindavan Express upto Mysore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Free Rail Passes

376. SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether of Ex-Servicemen particularly the gallantry award winner like the winners of Ashoka Chakra, Paramaveera Chakra etc. are given only second class free passes;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to issue second A.C.. and first class free passes to them and also permit their spouses to travel with them using the free passes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Such Ex-Servicemen are not given free passes

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Environmental and Forestry projects in Rajasthan

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

(a) the details of projects introduced with the assistance of the Union Government and foreign agencies for the protection of environment and forests in Rajasthan during each of the last three years;

(b) the achievements made till date in each case;

(c) the financial assistance provided for each project and

(d) the details of proposed projects to be launched during 1995-1996

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) :

(a) to (c) The details of projects introduced with the assistance of Union Government and foreign agencies of the protection of environment and forests in Rajasthan during the last three years alongwith achievement both Financial and Physical are given in the statement.

(d) The projects are continuing in nature.

STATEMENT

Sl.NO	Name of the Scheme	Board Objective	Extent funding	Status	Achievement during the three years 92-92, 93-94 and 94-95				
					Financial	Physical			
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.			
1.	Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	To develop National Parks and Sanctuaries	100%	Ongoing	213.38	14 National Parks Covered			
2.	Eco-development around protected areas	To provide alternative sustenance to communities living on fringes of National Parks	100% NR 50% R	Ongoing	19.33	2 National Parks Covered			
3.	Project Tiger	To ensure viable population of tigers	100% NR 50% R	Ongoing	289.79	2 Tiger Reserves Covered			
4.	Eco-development around Tiger Reserves	To provide alternative Sustenance to communities living on fringes of Tiger Reserves	100% NR 50% R	Ongoing	85.48	2 Tiger Reserves covered			
5.	Paryavaran Vahini Scheme	Create environmental awareness through active participation of public	100%	Ongoing	3.88	6 Paryavaran Vahinis constituted			
6.	Minor Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants	Raising Minor Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants	100%	Ongoing	71.11	1450 ha. area covered			
7.	Integrated Afforestation and Eco-development project scheme	Promote afforestation and Eco-development	100%	Ongoing	1939.69	30030 ha. area covered			
8.	Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project Scheme	Augmenting supply of fuelwood and fodder in identified fuelwood deficit districts	50%	Ongoing	542.18	12400 ha. area covered			
9.	Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in regeneration of degraded forests on usufruct sharing basis	To associate Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in afforestation of degraded forest	100%	Ongoing	48.00	Targets fixed in terms of financial releases			
10.	National River conservation Plan (NRCP)	Pollution abatement of Chambal River	50%	River Chambal has been including in NRCP at an estimated cost of Rs. 13.94 crores. This will cover Kota and Keshoraipattan towns.					
Externally Aided									
1.	Integrated Wasteland Development Project, Dungarpur - a SIDA assisted project	To promote integrated land use.	This project is under implementation in close cooperation with NGOs. The aid component is SEK 80.00 million. An expenditure of Rs. 4.48 crores has been incurred and area of 4133 ha. covered upto March, 1995.						

1.	2.	3.	4.
2.	Afforestation and Pasture Development along Indira Gandhi Canal -OECAF, Japan assisted project	To protect canal, agricultural fields etc. from the desert sands, meet fuelwood fodder need and employment generation	The project was started in 1991 at a total project cost of Rs. 107 crores. An expenditure of Rs.39.87 crores has been incurred and an area of 28379 ha. covered upto March, 1995.
3.	Afforestation Project for the Aravalli Hills - a OECF, Japan assisted project	To check desertification and restore ecological status by reforestation	The implementaion of the project was started in April, 1992. Total aid component is yen 8095.00 million. An expenditure of Rs. 86.67 crores and an area of 65,500 ha. covered upto December, 1994.
4.	Rajasthan Forestry Development Project - a OECF, Japan assisted project	To develop human and institutional resources at the village and project level for proper implementaion of project activities relating to afforestation	The project has been started in the year 1995-96 at a total cost of Rs.140 crores.
5.	Industrial Pollution Control Project (Phase II) - a World Bank aided project	Institutional Development of State Pollution Control Board	Rajasthan Pollution Control Board is one of the State Pollution Control Boards which have been taken up under the Project. The total cost of the project is US\$ 330 million, out of which US\$ 168 million is from the World Bank.

[English]

Procreation by Endangered Species

378. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAM CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether procreation by the endangered species is further endangered by their confinement;

(b) if so, the details of endangered species giving birth in confinement in the Government owned Zoos during 1994-95.

(c) whether any special plan is proposed to help Zoo authorities in regard to procreation by endangered species; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) :

(a) No, Sir. Endangered species breed quite successfully in captivity with proper upkeep, health care and appropriate number of founders.

(b) Information on birth of endangered species in captivity in Government Zoos in 1994-95 is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Central Zoo Authority established by the Government has identified zoos for captive of selected endangered species. It has identified the species

coordinator and the zoos for breeding of such endangered species which is given in the Statement attached.

STATEMENT

List of the Species coordinators and participating zoos

S.No.	Name of the Species	Species Coordinator	Participating Zoo
1.	2.	3.	4.
1.	Rock Python (Python molurus)	CWLW Tamil Nadu Park, Madras Zoo, & Madras Crocodile Bank.	Madras snake
2.	Great Indian Hornbill (Buceros bicornis)	CWLW, W.B	Calcutta Zoo, Guwahati Zoo.
3.	Blyth's Tragopan (Tragopan blythii)	CWLW, Nagaland blythii	Gangtok Zoo, Darjeeling Zoo, Dimapur Zoo.
4.	Western Tragopan (Tragopan melanocephalus)	CWLW, H.P.	Kufri Zoo, Nainital Zoo, pheasantry Chail, Sirhan pheasantry and Manali pheasantry.

1.	2.	3.	4.
5.	Cheer pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>)	CWLW, H.P	- do -
6.	Monal pheasant (<i>lophophorus impejanus</i>)	CWLW H.P.	Darjeeling Zoo Kufri Zoo.
7.	White winged wood duck (<i>Cairina scutulata</i>)	Chief Wildlife Warden Arunachal Pradesh	Miao Aviary
8.	Flamingo (<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>)	Director, Ahmedabad Zoo	Ahmedabad Zoo Kanpur & Patna Zoos.
9.	Great Indian Bustard (<i>Choriotis nigriceps</i>)	CWLW, M.P.	Bhopal, Hyderabad & Ahmedabad Zoos.
10.	Lesser Florican (<i>Syphocetes indica</i>)	- do -	- do -
11.	Nicobar Pigeon (<i>Megapodius freycinet</i>)	CWLW, Gujarat	Ahmedabad Zoo
12.	Hollock Gibbon (<i>Hoolobates hoolock</i>)	CWLW, Assam	Guwahati zoo Calcutta Zoo
13.	Golden Langur (<i>Presbytis geei</i>)	- do -	- do -
14.	Nilgiri Langoor (<i>Presbytis Johni</i>)	CWLW, Tamil Nadu	Madras, Trivandrum & Hyderabad Zoos.
15.	Lion-Tailed Macaque (<i>Macaca silenus</i>)	CWLW, Karnataka	Madras, Mysore, Hyderabad, Trivandrum, Kanpur Nandankanan Zoos & National Zoological Park.
16.	Slow loris (<i>Nycticebus coucang</i>)	CWLW,	Guwahati Zoo.
17.	Asiatic Lion (<i>Panthera leo persica</i>)	CWLW, Gujarat	Junagarh, Ahmedabad Zoos & NZP, Delhi Bhopal Zoo, Chandigarh, Kanpur, Madras, Mysore, Calcutta & Nandankanan Zoo.

1.	2.	3.	4.
18.	Snow Leopard (<i>Panthera uncia</i>)	CWLW, W.B./ Director, PNHZP, Darjeeling	Darjeeling Zoo, Nainital Zoo & Kufri Zoo.
19.	Clouded Leopard (<i>Neofelis nebulosa</i>)	Chief Warden Govt. of W.B.	Patna Zoo, Calcutta Zoo & Guwahati Zoo.
20.	Fishing Cat (<i>Felis viverrina</i>)	CWLW, W.B.	Calcutta Zoo, Guwahati Zoo & Patna Zoo.
21.	Caracal (<i>Felis caracal</i>)	CWLW Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal, Ahmedabad & Junagarh Zoos.
22.	Rusty Spotted Cat (<i>Felis rubiginosa</i>)	CWLW, Gujarat & Director, Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad Zoo
23.	Red Panda (<i>Ailurus fulgens</i>)	CWLW, W.B.	Darjeeling Zoo
24.	Wild Dog (<i>Cuon alpinus</i>)	CWLW A.P.	Hyderabad, Madras & Hyderabad
25.	Asiatic Wolf (<i>Canis lupus pallipes</i>)	CWLW,	Vishakhapatnam Zoos.
26.	Swamp Deer (<i>Cervus duvauceli duvauceli</i>)	CWLW, U.P.	Lucknow, Kanpur Chandigarh Zoo & National Zoological Park, Delhi.
27.	Swamp Deer (<i>Cervus duvauceli brandari</i>)	Director, Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal	Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal
28.	Brow-Antlered (<i>Cervus eldi eldi</i>)	Director WII	Calcutta Zoo N.Z.P. Delhi & Manipur Zoo.
29.	Four horned antelope (<i>Tetraceros quadricornis</i>)	Director	Mysore Zoo, Hyderabad Zoo, Nandankanan Zoos.

1.	2.	3.	4.
30.	Mouse Deer (<i>Tragulus meminna</i>)	CWLW, A.P.	Ahmedabad, Vishakhapatnam, Hyderabad & Nandankanan Zoos.
31.	Chinkara (<i>Gazella gazella</i>)	CWLW, Rajasthan	Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Chandi- garh, Kanpur Zoos & N.Z.P., Delhi.
32.	Gaur (<i>Bos gaurus</i>)	Chief Wild- life Ward- en, Kama- taka, Bang- alore	Nandakanan, Mysore, Vandaulur, Hyderabad.
33.	Indian Wild Ass (<i>Equus hemionus</i> khur)	CWLW, Gujarat	Junagarh, Ahmedabad, Zoos & NZP, Delhi.
34.	Nilgiri Tahr (<i>Hemitragus hylocrius</i>)	CWLW Tamil Nadu Madras	Deer Park, Ooty
35.	Indian Rhinocerus (<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>)	Addl.IGF (WL)	Guwahati, Kanpur Calcutta & Patna

Diversion of Forest Land for Mining

379. SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale diversion of forest land for mining has taken place in different parts of the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Statewise;

(c) whether about 3000 hectares of forest land has been diverted for mining in Madhya Pradesh in Chhindwara, Sarguja, Bilaspur and Siddhi;

(d) whether this diversion is taking place with the concurrence of the Government; and

(e) if not, the action taken by the Government to arrest such diversion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Formal approvals are accorded under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in respect of mining proposals on forest land received from various State Governments. Such approvals have been accorded in conformity with the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 after careful examination of all relevant information, including likely adverse effect of such diversion of forest land on

environment including flora and fauna. Further, appropriate environmental safeguards including compensatory afforestation wherever applicable, have been stipulated to mitigate likely adverse effects of such diversion.

(c) to (e) Formal approvals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for mining purposes have been accorded over approx. 1407 ha., 1063 ha., 472 ha. and 2465 ha. of forest land in districts of Chhindwara, Sarguja, Bilaspur and Siddhi respectively, during the last fifteen years (since the enactment of the Act). The proposals approved mainly pertain to various public sector coal agencies such as South Eastern Coal Field Ltd., Western Coal Field Ltd. etc. and include area of underground mining also. Such approvals have been accorded after careful examination of all relevant aspects which are likely to have adverse impact on environment including flora and fauna. Further, appropriate environmental safeguards including compensatory afforestation, wherever applicable, have been stipulated to mitigate likely adverse effects of such diversion.

[Translation]

Assistance To Cultural Organisation

380. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposal for financial assistance received from cultural organisations of Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the number of proposal sanctioned and the number of them lying pending;

(c) whether the Government have since released the fund as demanded;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

[English]

Passenger Amenities

381. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of long distance Superfast/Mail/

Express passenger trains do not have pantry cars and uniform basic facilities;

(b) if so, the names of such trains which are running without pantry cars and other basic facilities and the reasons for the such discrimination;

(c) whether the Government have worked out a plan of action to provide uniform passenger amenities to passengers travelling by long distance Superfast/Mail/Express trains;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b) Catering requirement of travelling public are usually met from the static catering units enroute. Pantry cars are provided on certain selected long-distance, Mail/Express trains where due to schedule, timings, stoppages etc. catering service from static units is not feasible or facilities in the static units are inadequate. Pantry cars/Mobile catering services have been provided on 121 pairs of trains. The catering services on the remaining Mail/Express trains are adequately rendered from the static catering units enroute and there is no discrimination in this regard.

(c) to (e) Passengers amenities are provided on all passenger carrying coaches as per the recommendations of the Passengers Amenities Committee. Provision of amenity items are periodically reviewed by this Committee. Any modification to the facilities as advised by the Passengers Amenities Committee are introduced uniformly on all Zonal Railways.

[Translation]

Shatabdi Express Trains

382. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV :

SHRI PREM CHAND RAM :

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce new Shatabdi Express trains from New Delhi to Allahabad, Bhopal and Patna; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

National River Conservation Plan

383. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI :

SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI :

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised the National River Conservation Plan;

(b) if so, the date from which the action plan is proposed to be implemented;

(c) the rivers and the towns in different States where the Action plan is proposed to be implemented; and

(d) the fund earmarked therefor and the contribution of States therein State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Government have approved the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP).

(b) The implementation of works under the Action Plan will commence soon after the Detailed Project Reports and estimates of works are prepared and submitted by the State Government and sanctioned by the Central Government. The sanction of the detailed estimates for smaller schemes such as Low Cost Sanitation, Crematoria, River Front Development, Afforestation etc. will take about a month's time from the date of their receipt. However, preparation and sanction of detailed estimates for bigger schemes such as Interception, Diversion and Treatment works will take longer time.

(c) and (d) Under the NRCP, the pollution abatement works are to be taken up in 46 towns located on identified polluted stretches of 18 rivers in 10 States. The approved cost of the NRCP is about Rs. 772 crores. The capital cost of work is to be shared equally between the Central and the State Governments. A statement showing these details is annexed.

STATEMENT

Approved Cost of Schemes Under National River Conservation Plan [NRCP]

Sl.	Town	River	Scheme-wise Cost										Centages 14 % of (10)	Total Cost
			I&D	STP	CRE	RFD	LCS	MISC.	Sub- TOTAL (4) to (9)	Land Cost				
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)		
A) Andhra Pradesh														
1.	Mancharial	Godavari	227.46	84.00	10.00		10.00	49.00	380.46	45.00	53.26	479.00		
2.	Bhadrachalam	Godavari	164.82	60.00			15.00	15.50	255.32	17.05	35.63	308.00		
3.	Rajamundry	Godavari	937.60	877.00	42.40	34.00	164.00	65.00	2120.00	100.00	296.00	2516.00		
4.	Ramagundam	Godavari	590.00	1088.50			10.00	15.00	20.00	1723.50	97.50	255.00	2076.00	
			1919.86	2109.50	52.40	44.00	204.00	149.50	4479.28	259.55	639.89	5379.00		
B) Bihar														
5.	Ranchi	Subarna-rekha	154.8	355.00	54.50	44.70	28.00	250.60	887.60	203.20	124.26	1215.06		
6.	Jamshedpur	Subarna-rekha	112.79	1225.00	52.00	85.64	38.50	48.50	1562.43	18.00	218.74	1799.17		
7.	Ghatshila	Subarna-rekha	13.10	90.00	4.50	61.18	10.50	3.00	182.28		25.50	207.80		
			280.69	1670.00	111.00	191.52	77.00	302.10	2632.31	221.20	368.52	3222.03		
C) Gujarat														
8.	Ahemadabad	Sabarmati	4135.36	4273.00	40.00		10.00	24.00	8482.36	200.00	1187.53	9869.89		
D) Karnataka														
9.	Shimoga	Tunga-bhadra (Krishna)	187.99	324.45	2.40	6.00	120.00	4.00	644.84	12.50	90.28	747.62		
10.	Harihar	Tunga-bhadra (Krishna)	64.71	59.90	1.20	12.00	30.00	17.09	184.90	49.90	25.89	260.69		
11.	Bhadravathi	Bhadra (krishna)	81.32	63.05	1.20	6.00	225.00	12.03	388.60	39.80	54.40	482.80		
12.	Davanagere	Tungabhadra (Krishna)	176.54	204.38			69.00	28.39	478.31	127.90	66.96	673.17		
13.	K.R. Nagar	Cauvery	45.34	14.64		5.00	3.00	2.05	70.03	4.73	9.80	84.36		
14.	Kollegal	Cauvery	33.54	8.75	1.20	5.00	15.00	0.31	63.80	1.75	8.93	74.84		
15.	Nanjangud	Cauvery	72.35	37.60			30.00	5.63	145.58	18.00	20.38	183.96		
16.	Sri Rang patnam	Cauvery	95.68	19.55	1.20	10.00	30.00	5.80	162.23	8.77	21.71	192.71		
			757.47	732.32	7.20	44.00	522.00	75.30	2138.29	263.35	298.35	2699.79		

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
E) Madhya Pradesh												
17. Indore	Khan	584.60	2567.50	80.00	11.20	250.00	296.00	3789.30	120.00	530.46	4439.36	
18. Ujjain	Kashpra	704.22	1028.60	11.20	263.22	191.67	90.00	2288.91	20.00	320.45	2629.35	
19. Burhanpur	Tapti	151.75	180.00	6.00	50.00	50.00	38.30	476.05	10.00	66.65	552.70	
20. Mandideep	Betwa		90.00		15.00	34.00	14.00	153.00		21.42	174.42	
21. Bhopal	Betwa	60.00	60.00			32.00	37.60	189.60	30.00	26.54	246.12	
22. Vidisha	Betwa	225.00	110.40	4.00	24.00	30.70	33.90	428.00		59.92	487.92	
23. Jabalpur	Narmada	10.11	104.21	3.00	45.88	41.40	65.00	1270.49	8.64	177.86	1456.99	
24. Seoni	Wainganga	42.61	35.57	0.80	8.21	15.00	17.46	119.65		16.75	136.40	
25. Chapara	Wainganga	21.00	4.77	0.60	7.50	12.42	8.07	54.36		7.61	61.97	
26. Keolari	Wainganga	13.46	6.87	0.60	14.88	8.28	27.73	71.82		10.05	81.87	
27. Nagda	Chambal	220.15	66.00	2.50		10.00	32.00	330.65	15.00	46.29	391.94	
		3033.79	4253.92	108.70	439.89	675.47	660.06	9171.83	203.64	1284.00	10659.47	
F) Maharashtra												
28. Karad	Krishna	742.50	373.00	10.00		45.00		1170.50	66.50	163.87	1400.87	
29. Sangli	Krishna	318.84	960.96					1279.80	101.55	179.17	1560.52	
30. Nasik	Godavari	3109.33	2231.25	25.00	241.00	156.45	114.00	8877.03	542.00	822.78	7241.81	
31. Nanded	Godavari	828.68	505.40	6.00				1340.08	2.50	187.61	1530.19	
		4999.35	4070.61	41.00	241.00	201.45	114.00	9667.41	712.55	1353.43	11733.39	
G) Orissa												
32. Cuttak	Mahanadi			Cost breakup awaited				1300.00		169.00	1469.00	
33. Talcher	Brahmini	38.00	276.00	40.00	25.00	40.00	207.50	626.50		45.00	671.50	
34. Chambali	Brahmini	40.15		10.00	10.00	30.00		90.15		12.62	102.77	
35. Dharmshala	Brahmini	29.50		10.00	10.00	15.00	139.50	203.50		38.50	241.50	
		107.65	276.00	60.00	45.00	85.00	347.00	2220.15		264.62	2484.77	
H) Punjab												
36. Ludhiana	Satluj	31.50	78.61.45	59.20		720.00	171.64	11962.40	2785.00	1674.74	16422.14	
37. Jalandhar	Satluj	1366.39	2588.88	6.00		300.00	14.80	4276.07	810.00	598.65	5684.12	
38. Phagwara	Satluj	263.39	248.25	1.20		96.00	5.72	614.56	52.00	86.04	752.60	
39. Phillaur	Satluj	13.07	13.85	0.60		24.00	1.24	52.76	18.00	7.39	78.15	
		4792.96	10712.43	67.00		1140.00	193.40	16905.79	3665.00	2366.82	22937.61	
I) Rajasthan												
40. Kota	Chambal	153.47	846.00	3.00	20.00	88.00	35.00	1145.47	7.50	160.36	1313.33	

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
41.	Kishorai Pattan	Chambal	19.40	18.00	1.20	5.00	10.00	12.50	66.10	5.00	9.25	80.35
			172.87	864.00	4.20	25.00	98.00	17.50	1211.57	12.50	169.61	1393.68
J) Tamil Nadu												
42.	Kumarapalayam	Cauvery	134.80	343.00	1.00	12.00	19.50	10.75	521.05	30.00	72.95	624.00
43.	Bhawani	Cauvery	132.70	87.78	1.00	42.00	20.00	30.56	314.04	10.00	43.96	368.00
44.	Erode	Cauvery	818.18	491.16	1.00	12.00	20.00	19.94	13.62.28	16.00	190.72	1569.00
45.	Trichy	Cauvery	355.00	156.00	1.00	35.00	40.00	13.00	600.00	6.00	84.00	690.00
46.	Palli Palayam	Cauvery	128.45	307.00	1.00	12.00	18.00	10.82	478.07	24.00	66.93	569.00
			1569.13	1385.74	5.00	113.00	117.50	85.07	3275.44	86.00	458.56	3820.00
Over all total			21769.15	1530347.52	496.50	1143.41	1310.42	1997.93	60184.43	5623.79	8391.41	74199.63

I & D : Interception and Diversion

Add 5% towards expenditure on

STP : Sewage Treatment Plant

establishment Research & :- 3009.22

CRE : Crematoria

Development & Monitoring

RFD: River Front Development

LCS: Low Cost Sanitation

Total Estimated Cost

Misc: Afforestation, Solid Waste Management & Public
Participation etc.

(74199.63+3009.22) :- 77208.85

State Share on 50 : 50 basis :- 37099.82

Central Share :- 40109.03

[Translation]

(f) if so, the quantity likely to be imported?

Import of Sugar

384. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR :

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and
(b) The quantity of sugar imported by State Trading
Corporation of India Ltd. and Minerals and Metal Trading
Corporation of India Ltd. during the crushing season of
1994-95 as under:-

SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar imported during the crushing
session of 1994-95 and till date;(b) the details of the Sugar imported through each of
the public sector undertaking, separately;(c) whether the import of Sugar has helped in controlling
its prices in the country;

(d) if so, to what extent;

(e) whether the Government have any proposal to import
Sugar during 1995-96; and

(qty. in lakh ton.)

Agency	Season	Qty. Imported
S.T.C.	1994-95	2.55
M.M.T.C.	1994-95	2.62
	Total:	5.17

(c) and (d) Besides ensuring adequate availability of
Sugar in the internal market, the import of sugar had a
sobering effect on the prices.(e) and (f) In the early part of current sugar season,
when firm production trends were not available,
Government, with a view to ensure adequate availability of
sugar for public Distribution System in the event of sugar

production not coming upto the expected level, decided to enter into forward contracts. However, in view of the encouraging trends indicative of higher production level to be achieved during the current season, the Government have decided to dispose of as much of the contracted sugar as is possible in the international market at the best possible price.

[English]

Voluntary Organisations

385. PROF. SHRIMATI SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of voluntary organisations in Kerala State benefited by the organisational assistance;
- (b) the details of such organisations in 1994 and 1995 District-wise;
- (c) whether any applications are pending with the Ministry for approval;
- (d) if so, the details of such applications ; and
- (e) the reasons for the delay in the approval ?

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

Forest Fires

386. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

DR.LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA :

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL :

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

MAJ. GEN.(RETD) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI :

PROF. PREM DHUMAL:

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

(a) the details of unusual, simultaneous fires in the forests of the Hill Districts of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana during April to June, 1995 and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Goverment have conducted an inquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of damage caused to forests and wildlife estimated losses suffered thereby;

(d) whether the Government have received representations from elected representatives in this connection and if so, the action taken thereon ; and

(e) the measures adopted by Government to avoid such recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) As per reports received from the states of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab the forest area affected by fires is 931 Sq.Kms., 305 Sq.Kms., 2.15 Sq.Kms and 47.5 Sq.Kms. respectively. The fires have affected mainly the chir pine forests in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. The pine needles that fall on the floor of the forests are highly inflammable due to the resinous content in them. The local people set fire to the pine needles in order to get fresh crop of grass for their cattle. The fire may be caused by the villagers and tourists who throw burning cigarette/bidi butts. As per reports available with this Ministry the fires were limited only to the ground cover of the forests and there was no damage to wildlife. However, the detailed losses can be estimated only after the rains are over.

(b) to (e) The Goverment has appointed a two member team on 11.7.1995 comprising Sh.R.P.Khosla, IAS, Chief Secretary (Retd) and Shri S. Parameswarappa IFS, principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Retd) to enquire into the causes of the forest fires, the extent of damage to the forest wealth and formulate a strategy to prevent the occurrence of forest fires in future in the hills of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. The team has been asked to submit its report within a month. A representation from Sh. Manbendra Shah, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (LS) and a notice for special mention under Article 184/193 has been received in this regard.

Teaching Methodology

387. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge gap between the methodology of teaching adopted by schools and the abilities expected to be acquired by students for competitive examinations ;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any study in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the position for making studies fit for competitive examinations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) No, Sir. The methodology adopted for teaching in schools is determined by the objective of education as covered in the National Curricular Framework and is not designed for any particular competitive examination.

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

[Translation]

Computerised Reservation Facility

388. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY :

DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL :

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the total passenger reservations computerised;

(b) the details of the computerised reservations-cum-booking offices presently working in different parts of the country, their timings of functioning location-wise and division-wise;

(d) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(e) the details of the offices where return and onward journey reservation facility is available;

(f) the criteria adopted by the Government to select stations for computerised reservation;

(g) whether there is proposal to introduce Computerised Railway Reservation in all the stations in South Central Railway; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to provide Computerised Reservation Facility and efficient Railway Booking System to all passengers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) About 92%.

(b) and (c) A statement is attached.

(d) About Rs.270.88 lakhs.

(e) A statement is attached.

(f) Normally these facilities are provided at those

stations where the workload of reservation related transactions is 300 and above per day. Certain other factors have also been kept in view in a few selected cases such as the town being a state capital, renowned place of pilgrimage or tourist interest, major industrial area, etc.

(g) and (h) There is no such proposal.

STATEMENT

(b) *The details of computerised reservation-cum-booking offices presently working in different parts of the country, their timings of functioning location-wise and division-wise.*

Central Railway

Location	Division
Bhopal	Bhopal
Habibganj (SAT BPL)	
Bhusawal	Bhusawal
Nasik	
Nasik CBO (SAT NK)	
Jalgaon	
Khandwa	
Itarsi	
Akola	
Manmad	
Amravati	
Bombay VT	Bombay
Lonavala	
Pune	
Pune CBO (SAT)	
Kurla Terminus (SAT BB)	
Thane (SAT BB)	
Kalyan (SAT BB)	
Belapur (SAT BB)	
Jabalpur	Jabalpur
Katni	
Satna	
Jhansi	Jhansi
Gwalior	
Agra Cantt.	
Morena	
Mathura	
Faridabad	
Nagpur	Nagpur
Sholapur	Sholapur
Gulbarga	

Eastern Railway

Location	Division
Asansol	Asansol
Raniganj	
Durgapur	
Patna	Danapur
Mahendrughat (SAT PNBE)	
Danapur	
Dhanbad	Dhanbad
New Koilaghat	Howrah
Old Koilaghat (SAT HWH)	
Fairlie Place (SAT HWH)	
Howrah (SAT)	
Bally (SAT HWH)	
Bolpur	
Malda Town	Malda
Bhagalpur	
Jamalpur	
Mughalsarai	Mughalsaria
Gaya	
Sealdah (SAT)	Sealdah
Rabindrasadan (SAT HWH)	
Dum Dum (SAT HWH)	
Bidhan Nagar (SAT HWH)	
Majerhat (SAT HWH)	
Tollygunj (SAT HWH)	
Ballygunj (SAT HWH)	

North -Eastern Railway

Location	Division
Muzaffarpur	Sonepur
Barauni	
Samastipur	Samastipur
Gorakhpur	Gorakhpur
Kathgodam	Izatnagar
Basti	Lucknow
Gonda	
Badshahnagar	
Siwan	Varanasi
Mau	
Deoria Sadar	
Chhapra	

Northeast Frontier Railway

Location	Division
New Alipurduar	Alipurduar
New Coochbehar	
Siliguri	
Katihar	Katihar
Guwahati	Lumding
Silchar	
Dibrugarh	
Tinsukia	Tinsukia
Dimapur	

Northern Railway

Location	Division
Allahabad	Allahabad
Aligarh	
Ambala	Ambala
Chandigarh	
Kalka	
Shimla	
Bhatinda	
Saharanpur	
Bikaner	Bikaner
Delhi Cantt (SAT)	
Sriganganagar	
Bhiwani	
Hisar	
New Delhi Irca	Delhi
Delhi Main (SAT)	
Nizamuddin (SAT)	
Sarojini Nagar (SAT)	
Kirti Nagar (SAT)	
Shahdara (SAT)	
Karkardooma (SAT)	
New Azadpur (SAT NDLS)	
Parliament House (SAT)	
ITB (SAT NDLS)	
Meerut City	
Baroda House	
Ghaziabad (SAT NDLS)	
Okhla (SAT)	
Ferozepur	Ferozepur
Jammu Tawi	
Ludhiana	
Amritsar	
Jallandhar City	
Pathankot	
Srinagar	

Location	Division
Jodhpur	Jodhpur
Lucknow	Lucknow
Varanasi	
Kanpur	
Faizabad	
Rai Bareilly	
Moradabad	Moradabad
Haridwar	
Dehradun	
Bareilly	

South Central Railway	
Location	Division
Guntakal	Guntakal
Tirupathi	
Tirumala Hills (SAT IPTY)	
Raichur	
Hubli	Hubli
Madhaon	
Vasco-Da-Gama	
Miraj	
Sangli	
Kolhapur	
Bellary	
Nanded	Hyderabad
Aurangabad	
Jalna	
Parbhani	
Secunderabad	Secunderabad
Hyderabad(SAT SC)	
Kacheguda (SAT SC)	
Ameerpet(SAT SC)	
Dar Ul Shafa (SAT SC)	
Boiguda (SAT SC)	
Kukatpally(SAT SC)	
Dr. A. S. Rao Nagar (SAT SC)	
Saroornagar(SAT SC)	
Kazipet	
Khammam	
Warangal	
Vijaywada	Vijaywada
Kakindatown	
Guntur	
Tenali	
Eluru	
Nellore	
Narasapur	
Bhimavaram Town	
Ongole	
Rajahmundry	

South Eastern Railway	
Location	Division
Bokaro	Adra
Purulia	
Ranchi	
Bilaspur	Bilaspur
Durg	
Raipur	
Tatanagar	Chakradharpur
Rourkela	
Chakradharpur	
Kharagpur	Kharagpur
Bhubaneshwar	Khurda Road
Cuttack	
Puri	
Berhampur	
Sambhalpur	Sambhalpur
Waltair	Vishakapatnam

Southern Railway	
Location	Division
Bangalore City.	Bangalore
Bangalore Cantt.(SAT)	
Madras Moore Market	Madras
Egmore (SAT MAS)	
Mambalam (SAT MAS)	
Madras Beach (SAT MAS)	
Tambaran(SAT MAS)	
Avadi (SAT MAS)	
Chidambaram	
Katpadi/Vellore Town	
Madurai	Madurai
Tirunelveli/Tuticorin	
Dindigal	
Rameshwaram	
Virudunagar	
Mysore	Mysore
Palghat	Palghat
Mangalore	
Cannanore	
Calicut	
Quilon	
Coimbatore	
Coimbatore North (SAT)	
Salem	
Erode	

Location	Division
Tellicherry	
Tiruppur	
Trichy	Trichy
Pondicherry	
Kumbakonam,	
MayilanduturaiNagappatinam/Nagore	
Thanjavur	
Trivandrum	Trivandrum
Ernakulam	
Trichur	
Alwaye	
Kottayam	
Chennanur	

Western Railways

Location	Division
Ajmer	Ajmer
New Bhuj	
Gandhidham	
Abu Road	
Udaipur City	
Falna	
Rajkot	Rajkot
Jamnagar	
Bhavnagar	Bhavnagar
Churchgate(SAT BB)	Bombay
Bombay Central (SAT BB)	
Andheri (SAT BB)	
Borivili (SAT BB)	
Surat	
Jaipur	Jaipur
Alwar	
Kota	Kota
Agra Fort	
Ratlam	Ratlam
Ujjain	
Indore	
Vadodara	Vadodara
Padmavati BO (SAT BRC)	
Pratapnagar (SAT B RC)	
Ahmedabad	
Gandhinagar (SAT ADI)	
Maninagar(SAT ADI)	
Anand	

Normally the computerised reservation offices on Indian Railways are functioning from 8.00 A.M. to 8.00P.M. from Monday to Saturday, and 8.00A.M. to 2.00 P.M. on Sunday. At a few locations, however, the timings have been modified to suit the local conditions.

(c) The details of computerised reservation-cum-booking offices proposed to be opened during 1995-96 and 1996-97 location-wise and State-wise:

No proposal has been finalised for 1996-97. The details of computerised reservation offices which have been approved in the Annual Plan 1995-96 are enumerated below:

Central Railway

Location	State
Raja Ki Mandi PRS	Uttar Pradesh
Madan Mahal PRS (SAT)	Madhya Pradesh
Chinchwad PRS (SAT)	Maharashtra
Belafur PRS(SAT)	Maharashtra
PRS at Bombay Airport	Maharashtra

Eastern Railway

Location	State
PRS at calcutta Airport	West Bengal
PRS at 5 Satellite Locations in Calcutta (Sheoraphuli,Chowringhee, Jadavpur, Bag Bazar, Salt Lake)	
PRS Terminals at 2 NRH State Capital (Shillong, Port Blair)	Meghalaya Andaman & Nicobar

North Eastern Railway

Location	State
PRS at Manduaih	Uttar Pradesh

Northern Railway

Location	State
PRS at Patiala	Punjab
PRS at Mussoorie CBO	Uttar Pradesh
PRS at DLI Airport	Delhi
PRS at Srinagar	J & K

South Central Railway*

Location	State
PRS at CBO Thirumala Hills	Andhra Pradesh
PRS at One Addl. CBO	
PRS at CBO Kakinada	
Provision of PRS at Hyderabad Airport	

Southern Railway

Location	State
Provision of Terminal At Madras Airport	Tamil Nadu
Sat. Locations at Madras (3)	Tamil Nadu
Salem Town PRS (SAT)	Tamil Nadu
Provision of PRS at Guruvayur Kerala	
Cochin Harbour Terminus	Kerala
Sat. Locations at Bangalore (2) Karnataka	

* Some of these works are subject to review depending upon the feasibility and other related aspects.

(e) the details of the offices where return and onward journey reservation facility is available;

All locations connected to a particular computer system (out of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Secunderabad systems) have the facility of obtaining onward and return journey reservations from any station linked with the same reservation system. For providing return and onward journey reservations from other systems the following arrangements exists:

1) Locations where computerised return and onward journey reservation facility is available;

Location/System	The system from which facility is available at a few computer terminals
1.	2.
Madras Moore Market	Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Secunderabad
Bangalore City	— do —
Trivandrum	— do —
Ernakulam	Bombay
New Koilaghat	Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Secunderabad

1.	2.
Old Koilaghat	— do —
Fairlie Place	Delhi, Bombay
Patna	Madras, Delhi
Vishakapatnam	Madras, Secunderabad
Bhubaneshwar	Madras, Bombay, Delhi
Bombay Central	Delhi, Madras, Secunderabad
Churchgate	Delhi, Madras, Calcutta
Pune	Delhi, Madras, Secunderabad
Bombay, VT	Howrah, Delhi, Madras and Secunderabad
Ahmedabad	— do —
Guwahati	Bombay, Madras, Delhi
Secunderabad	Madras, Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta
Hyderabad	— do —
Kacheguda	Madras, Bombay
I.R.C.A.	Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Secunderab
Lucknow	— do —
Delhi Main	Bombay, Calcutta, Madras,
Sarojini Nagar	— do —
Varanasi	— do —
Allahabad	Bombay, Calcutta, Madras,
Gorakhpur	Bombay, Secunderab
Dehradun	Bombay
Jaipur	Bombay
Bhopal	Bombay
Surat	Madras
Baroda	Delhi
Indore	— do —
Thane	— do —
Borivali	— do —
Bhusawal	— do —
Kalyan	— do —
Jabalpur	Delhi, Madras, Calcutta,

1.	2.
Nagpur	Secunderabad, Bombay
Kolhapur	—do—
Vasco da Gama	—do—
Madgaon	—do—
Sangli	—do—
Miraj	—do—
Nanded	—do—
Aurangabad	—do—
Guntakal	—do—
Raichur	—do—
Tirupati	Madras
Vijayawada	Bombay, Madras, Calcutta
Hubli	Bombay, Madras

2.) Locations where the facility is provided through an online computerised data switching terminal and reservation status is recorded on blank paper tickets :

Madurai	Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Secunderabad on BPT
Tiruchirapalli	—do—
Calicut	—do—
Cannanore	—do—
Coimbatore	—do—
Mysore	—do—
Trichu	—do—

3.) List of Locations with Automex facility on Indian Railway

Palghat	Guntakal
Kazipet	Guntur
Miraj	Vasco de Gama
Asansol	Villupuram,
Ernakulam	Dhanbad
Mangalore	Danapur
Coimbatore	Sealdah
Trivandrum	Howrah
Kota	Ratlam
Mughalsarai	Khurda Road
Malda Town	Adra
Rajkot	Nagpur

1.	2.
Vijayawada	Chakradharpur
Hubli	Bilaspur
Vishakapatnam	Bhusawal
Rajahmundry	Jhansi
Nellore	Solapur
Ajmer	Manmad
Bharuch	Jabalpur
Aurangabad	Devlali
Porbander	Nasik
Jaipur	Bhavnagar
Godhra	Indore

Indore City And Kshipra River

389. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indore Environment Improvement project and Kshipra river pollution control scheme has been submitted by the state of Madhya Pradesh to the Government;

(b) if so, whether a final decision has been taken in the matter and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Proposals for Pollution Abatement of rivers Khan and Kshipra at Indore and Ujjain respectively were received from the state Govt. of Madhya Pradesh. After scrutiny, in consultation with the state Govt., these were included in the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). The NRCP has been approved by the Central Govt. on 3rd July'95. Another project, namely; 'Habitat Improvement Project' to provide basic civic infrastructural facilities in 183 slums in Indore and supported by Overseas Development Administration (ODA), UK is under implementation by the Indore Development Authority.

[English]

Forest Conservation in Andhra Pradesh

390. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are proposed to enhance forest cover in Andhra Pradesh in 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any specific target has been set for this purpose; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) Afforestation and tree planting activities are carried out annually under the scheme of the Central Government and the State Government. Efforts are being made to increase the afforestation and tree planting activities in the country, including in Andhra Pradesh. Keeping in view the overall availability of funds under the Central and State Plans.

These activites are undertaken under the various scheme of the State Forest Department and other concerned Departments as also under the schemes of the Central Government like the integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme, Fuelwood and fodder Projects Scheme, Non-Timber Forest Produce Scheme and Aerial seeding scheme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests; the Integrated Wastelands Development Projects scheme and Drought Prone Areas Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development ; Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture etc. Similarly, afforestation and tree planting activities are also carried out under the externally aided projects being implemented by the State Governments.

(c) and (d) In view of the above facts, the target under 20 point Programme are fixed annually depending on the funds made available every year under the Central and State Plans. The targets for the year 1995-96 of Andhra Pradesh are an area coverage of 45000 hectares and seeding distribution of 1100 lakh saplings. The targets for the year 1996-97 are yet to be finalised.

[Translation]

Food Corporation Of India Units

391. SHRI. N.J.RATHVA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the existing number of the units of the Food Corporation of India, State-wise and location-wise, particularly in the tribal areas of Gujarat;

(b) whether the condition of these units has been deteriorating;

(c) if so, the resaons therefor, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the condition of these units?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) The State-wise details of different types of godowns available with the Food Corporation of India owned and hired as on 1.6.95 are given in the statement attached. The location-wise details of FCI godowns in the tribal areas of Gujarat are as under:

S.No.	Location	Revenue District	No.of Godowns
1.	Bhomaiya	Panchmahal	1
2.	Godhra	Panchmahal	1
3.	Valsad	Valsad	1
4.	Suredera	Suredera	1
		Nagar(Wadwan) Nagar	
5.	Palanpur	Bansakantha	1
Total :			5

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Regular periodic inspections are carried out by the field engineering personnel of FCI to assess the condition of the godowns. The godowns are kept storage worthy by timely repairs and maintenance wherever necessary.

State-wise details of different types of godowns of the Food Corporation of India (including owned and hired)

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Total number of Godowns
1.	Bihar	66
2.	Orissa	46
3.	West Bengal	79
4.	Sikkim	3
5.	Assam	43
6.	Arunachal pradesh	3
7.	Tripura	7
8.	Manipur	3
9.	Nagaland	5
10.	Mizoram	5
11.	Meghalaya	6
12.	Delhi	10
13.	Haryana	142
14.	Himachal Pradesh	17
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	16

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Total number of Godowns
16.	Punjab	544
17.	Chandigarh	17
18.	Rajasthan	125
19.	Uttar Pradesh	292
20.	Andhra Pradesh	172
21.	Kerala	32
22.	Karnataka	40
23.	Tamil Nadu	32
24.	Pondicherry	3
25.	Gujarat	55
26.	Maharashtra	67
27.	Goa	1
28.	Madhya Pradesh	177
<hr/>		
Total		2008

[English]

Overbridge on National Highway-31

392. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Over-Bridge project on National Highway No.31 at Khagra,Kishanganj has made no progress so far;

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

(c) the latest estimated cost of the project and the proposed sharing of the cost between the Railway Central and the State Government;

(d) whether the project has been or is likely to be included in the programme of action for the current year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS(SHRI C.K.JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. On finalisation of General Arrangement , over estimate for the work of construction of a Road over bridge at Kishanganj, amounting to Rs.7.57 crores of which the Railway's share is Rs.3.78 crores , has been sent to the State Government in July,1995.

(d) and (e) After the pre-requisite formalities e.g.

acceptance of estimate, acquisition of land for the approaches etc. by the State Government are fulfilled, the work will be considered for inclusion in the Railway's Works Programme.

Reservation for SC/ST Candidates

393. SHRI D.VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not implemented the recommendations of a high Power Committee set up by the UGC to reserve jobs quotas for the SC/ST as being legally binding on Central Universities;

(b) if so, whether nine out of ten Central Universities have not properly implemented the recommendations;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the detail of the other recommendations made by the High Power Committee?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d) The report submitted by the High Powered Committee is under consideration of the Department of Education in the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

[Translation]

Export of Milk Powder

394. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether India export Milk Powder;

(b) if so, the quantity of Milk Powder exported during the last two years; and

(c) the foreign exchange earned as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to(c) A statement indicating the quantity of milk and cream in powder , granule or other solid form containing or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter exported during April, 1993 to January,1995 is given below.

Quantity in metric tonnes (Provisional)	Value in rupees (in crores)
8101	32.80

[English]

Five Year Tax Holiday Scheme

395. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Railways have sought application for the five-year tax holiday scheme as application to various transport sector projects like ports and highways; and

(b) if so, the precise decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K.JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b) Yes ,Sir. As per the Finance Bill, 1995, the five-year tax holiday scheme has been made applicable to investments in Railways also.

Freight And Passenger Traffic

396. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) The Contribution of freight and passenger traffic respectively to revenues of South-Central Railways during the last three years;

(b) whether constant review is being done of the need to attract freight traffic in South Central Railway;

(c) whether a separate directorate will be set up in South Central Railway based in Guntur for freight and cargo alone; and

(d) the step proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K.JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) The contribution of freight & passenger traffic to Revenue of S.C.Railway during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Passenger	(Rs.in crores)
		Freight Earnings
Earnings		
1992-93	402.07	1047.76
1993-94	438.43	1246.60
1994-95	488.31	1324.63

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is on hand . There is an Inland container Depot of Container Corporation of India , A public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Railways, functioning for many years at Guntur for multi-model freight traffic.

Super Bazar

397. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question Nos. 2357 and 2048, dated August 9, 1994 and December 20,1994 respectively regarding Super Bazar and state:

(a) whether Central Excise Authority have since given their views in the matter;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon by the Super Bazar; and

(d) if not , the reason therefor?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) On receipt of views from Central Excise Authority , appropriate action as required under the law shall be taken.

12:00 hrs.

RE: MEDICAL AID TO PRISONERS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER :I think we can take up the issues one after the other, Yesterday, Mr. Chennithala was on his legs. I would allow him now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karol Bagh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something about the Delhi Rent Control Bill.

[English]

Mr.Speaker: Let us do it one after the other.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam): Mr.Speaker, Sir, the Sudden death of Shri Rajan Pillai has sent shock waves all over the country .Shri Rajan Pillai was a young and promising business man in our country. He had not committed any crime in India. Even if he had committed any crime, it was not of a criminal nature but it was an economic offence and that too it was outside the country, that is, in Singapore. He came to India for seeking justice. He was suffering from liver cirrhosis and he was repeatedly requesting for proper medical treatment. I do not want to cast any aspersion on our Judiciary**.

** Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : that is not forming part of the record.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, every individual is entitled to get medical treatment and natural justice should be given to all the citizens of our country. But he was denied medical treatment and the treatment meted out to him in Tihar jail also was very inhuman . What is happening in Tihar jail? The Tihar Jail has become a jungle in the heart of India. Three prisoners had died there after the death of Shri Rajan Pillai. A woman who became pregnant has not seen her husband for the last one year. That also had happened in this Tihar jail only. The condition of Tihar jail is very pitiable and a lot of incidents are taking place there. The Tihar jail authorities are treating the prisoners very badly.

So, my humble submission to the Government is, firstly a statement must come from the Home Minister regarding the sudden death of Shri Rajan Pillai. Secondly, A sub-Committee of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs should visit Tihar jail to see the pitiable condition prevailing there and to assess the situation in which the prisoners are treated so that this type of incidents will not happen in a jail like the Tihar situated in the Capital City of India.

MR. SPEAKER : I think we would be able to take up a few issues. Let us take them up one after the other . I am allowing Mr. Kurien now.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am raising this matter with a lot of pain and agony in my heart. The Constitution of India guarantees certain fundamental rights to our citizens. The 'rights of life' is one such fundamental right and right to medical aid is, therefore, included in the fundamental right. Sir, denial of medical aid is denial of 'right to life' and therefore this is a violation of the fundamental right guaranteed in the Constitution. It is in this context that I am raising this matter.

Sir, late Shri Rajan Pillai's case was narrated by my hon. friend Shri Ramesh Chennithala and I do not want to take more time on that. Shri Rajan Pillai had not committed any crime in this country; he had committed not even a petty offence. He had committed certain offences in a foreign country, according to their law . He came here and they asked for his extradition.

We should do it. I agree with that. The extradition court we set up and he was tried there. I do not want to criticise the court and I will not do that . But I want to say that the court has the discretion either to extradite him or not do so**

MR.SPEAKER : This cannot go on. Otherwise , it will open the Pandora's box.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Sir,...**

MR. SPEAKER: All such matters which cannot go on record will be put off the record.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I agree with you. After hearing me if there is anything...

MR. SPEAKER : I am saying this after hearing you.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, you can remove whatever is unparliamentary. But please let me make my points. I am emphasising the point that even a court acts unlawfully in this case.

MR. SPEAKER : You can go and appeal against that.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : That is what I am doing. That is why , I am coming to the highest forum of the country.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not an appellate court.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Sir, this is the highest forum of the country where. I can put forth my grievances.

MR. SPEAKER : Please let us understand the consequences of it.

PROF. P.J.KURIEN : Sir, I do not want to indulge in arguments. Sir, let me complete my point. Here is a question of medical aid which was denied in spite of pleas by his advocate as well as by his wife and in spite of the records being shown to the court that the person is suffering from liver cirrhosis. In spite of all these the medical aid was denied which is unbelievable and unimaginable. I cannot understand what kind of insensitive action is this. That is why I am raising this matter.

Sir, the Tihar Jail authorities also acted in an utterly callous manner. They also did not bother for such a person who was dying with liver cirrhosis. In spite of so many requests by Rajan Pillai's wife and his counsel, the Tihar Jail authorities did not care to call the doctor for his check up. Is it not to be punished?

Sir, then the CBI has shown over enthusiasm to extradite him. We have so many hard-core terrorists in various countries. We are asking for their extradition. But we are not getting them. when Singapore asked for extradition, so much enthusiasm was shown to extradite him. Where from is this enthusiasm coming? I feel some vested interest was working behind and there is collusion between vested interests, maybe due to business rivalries; I do not know. It is for the Home Minister - who is sitting here to find out what is the vested interest and what is the reason for such a hasty and ugly action for extraditing him.

MR. SPEAKER : When too much publicity is given to such matters, some mistakes are committed. Let us understand this.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : It is not a question of publicity. It is agitating every Indian Citizen. I am coming from Kerala and everyone is agitated there over this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: You have not understood what I have said. You continue Your submission.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, do you want me to sit down?

MR. SPEAKER : No, I want you to conclude.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : All right, Sir I will do that. So I am only requesting the Government and the Home Minister. Through you, that action should be taken and exemplary punishment should be given to all those who have defaulted and who have acted in collusion in this case. I am also requesting that steps should be taken so that such incidents are not repeated.

MR. SPEAKER : You have already said all those things

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (LUCKNOW) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had no intention of speaking on this issue.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI) : Sir, there are some doubts in the minds of the public. Those doubts regarding Rajan Pillai's death have to be removed from the minds of the public.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : This whole unfortunate incident should not be given the colour of North or South. We do appreciate the feelings of the Members from Kerala and we join them in expressing our concern. The death of Shri Rajan Pillai has sent shock waves all over the country. The lacunae in our system seem to have come to light by his death. You also pointed out one lacunae that publicity by the media also has its adverse effects. The way the Members of Parliament take up and interpret an issue also leaves its effects. In the crowd of the lacunae, it is difficult to identify the person against whom there were allegation. He was not a convict. No crime was established against him. There were only allegations of economic nature because of which he could not get bail.... *(Interruptions)*. He was not given the proper medical treatment and on the other hand as a result of the lacunae, a person accused of a murder got bail from the court. Our country seems to bank upon two divergent standards and both should be a matter of concern for the entire house. We want to share the feelings of our friends from Kerala. We are of the large scale agitated public sentiments in Kerala on this issue. We should conduct a deep scrutinizing of the system to prevent the recurrence of such incidents. I can console myself about

the veracity of the decision taken if we take steps in this direction*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR) : I want to say something on this

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : I was trying to submit one thing. My humble submission is that the Government should not consider this as an ordinary issue.

MR. SPEAKER : This is your issue which is being supported by other party leaders. You should be happy about it. Please do not take pleasure in just saying ; you should take pleasure in getting the support.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what has happened has been a tragedy naturally, the death of a person for lack of treatment while he was under custody and there is no doubt about that. There is genuine feeling that he was not given proper medical treatment. It is something which has to be viewed with great seriousness because it is the duty of the Government to provide all necessary medical treatment to prisoners who are in custody; in his case because of extradition proceedings he was confined.

Sir, as Vajpayeeji has correctly said, in many cases, we know that the rich people are remaining in nursing homes whereas they should have been in the jail. Therefore, what is necessary or is essential is that some mechanism should be available to the Judges. In this case, I feel that the events have proved that a wrong order was passed, but because a wrong order was passed unless one can say that deliberately a wrong order was passed, we should not hold a judicial officer directly responsible for this. Obviously, the events have proved that it was a wrong order; he did not assess correctly the seriousness of his illness. Therefore, we feel atleast, I feel that there should be immediate availability of treatment for examination of a patient or a prisoner who asks for such a treatment. That should have been done to find out whether the certificates are genuine, whether there has been a proper recommendation by a good doctor, a specialist for immediate treatment in a hospital and things like that. But let us not try to say that it is very unfortunate, nobody can support it; we must condemn it whenever an application for treatment is made or is made for hospitalisation is made, he has to be put in because then many people will take undue advantage of it. Let us not say these things. After all, what is said in Parliament has some effect. But naturally, when such applications have been made, they have to be considered very seriously and there must be some mechanism for immediate examination of a prisoner so that there may not be any future occasion for such erroneous orders being

passed or a wrong assessment being made by the judge concerned. But let us not give a blank sort of a charter for anybody applying for medical treatment or hospitalisation; if you say it has to be done, then it will open a pandora's box.

Of course, we deeply value that feeling of our friends from Kerala. This is not a matter for Kerala alone. All of us are intensely concerned because it is a citizen who has died in this country under unfortunate circumstances, without getting proper treatment. Therefore, we sympathise with everybody, with the members of his family, with those young children whom he has left behind. He had not been found guilty of an offence. Prof. Kurien rightly said that he had not yet been found guilty of an offence. Therefore, he is still very much innocent, he deemed to be innocent and such a person has died in very tragic circumstances. But let us not also overreact which may be wrongly understood later.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : The points which have been raised by Hon. Members, barring the Judicial aspect of it, rest of administrative matters, certainly I will go through them and try to find out as to who is responsible for this kind of neglect which ultimately resulted in death. Whether he is under-trial or he is a convict, both are equally entitled for getting medical treatment. If it was not given, certainly I will look into it.

MR. SPEAKER: One very subtle point was made. In such cases, it is possible to commit errors on both sides in giving and not giving. Can we evolve a mechanism that such cases can be avoided? Is it possible for somebody to look into it?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I will have to consult my officers about it as to what kind of mechanism can be created which, in fact, should assist the judicial authority. But the assistance should be sought by the judicial authority. Without their asking, we cannot offer our services. Of course, the mechanism we can create and it will be available if the judicial authorities ask for it. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : As far as criminality aspect is concerned, the Hon. Minister has said that he is looking into it. As far as reformative aspect is concerned, he is going to consult his colleagues.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (JADAVPUR): Before this occasion, we have had other occasion when we have expressed our concern in this House regarding decisions which have been by the Government at international level without communicating such decisions to the Parliament or to the nation. I am raising one such issue today.

The World Trade Organisation has just concluded its negotiations on the liberalisation of trade in services. For a time, the negotiations were stalled because of the arbitrary

behaviour of the United States who had said that they were not satisfied with the offers that were being made, particularly by some of the developing countries to improve access, to provide added access, for foreign financial services and, therefore, they sought to withdraw from the multilateral discussions and they also said that they would henceforth negotiate such cases on a strictly bilateral basis. In spite of that, through the initiative of the European nations, some of the developing countries made some improved offers and on the basis of these improved offers, negotiations have recently been concluded. Now we have reason to think that these improved offers on the part of India may be detrimental to our national interest. For instance, one particular case is the opening up of computer software sector to foreign officials. This is something which has not been agreed to by any of the developed countries. Why then had India to come forward and make such offers in this area ? Moreover, the concluded negotiations are also loaded in favour of the developed countries in so far as they have made no commitment so far to change their immigrations regime and procedures relating to professional requirement which would allow easy movement of natural persons into these countries which means added access of our personnel to such developed countries would remain severely restricted.

Under the circumstances, it is my demand to the Government that the Government should come out with a clear cut statement on what exactly were the decisions taken at the negotiations on trade in services. They should make a statement in the House and they should let the nation know what are the conditions of these negotiations.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the Government will make a statement on this point to the Parliament. Government is not expected to consult, but Government is expected to make a statement to the Parliament.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY (KENDRAPADA) : Mr. Speaker, I am raising this issue here with your permission. I hope the whole Parliament will permit me to raise it because of behalf of the whole Parliament I would like to congratulate Shrimati Anug San Su, the Leader of Burma, who has been released from her detention for the time being. Her release is a matter of pleasure. She is the daughter of the Burmese President, Anag San and is still fighting for the cause of strengthening the Parliamentary democracy. I would like to compare her with Shri Nelson Mandela who fought against apartheid while following the path of Gandhi ji and got freed South Africa from apartheid. I would submit to the Government of India that though Anug San Su has been released, yet there is autocracy in Burma and the Parliament is looking forward to the day when the Government of India will put diplomatic pressure so that fundamental rights are made

available to the people of that country. The party Anug San Su belonged to turned victorious of the hustings but she was prevented from occupying the office of the Prime Minister. Alongwith congratulating her on her release from detention, I would also like the Government of India to apprise the House of the present situation prevailing in Burma and also tell us whether it is taking steps in the direction of making fundamental rights available to the common Burmese citizen and for strengthening the Parliamentary democracy there. Alongwith these words, through you, I would like to say, thank you.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (AZAMGARH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation of Jammu and Kashmir is deteriorating day by day. The activities of Pakistan from across the border above increased in that terrorism infested area during the past few days the situation is becoming very serious. Yesterday, 20 rockets were fired at three villages in Rajouri and Poonch area which left a child and many cattles dead. This is not the first incident of this kind but rockets are being fired for many months from across the border. The exercise is being undertaken in the background of Pakistan's attempt of acquiring nuclear missiles and rockets from other countries in order to increase its military power. Recently, as a result of an agreement with China, Pakistan has been able to acquire M-11 nuclear missiles and the way rockets are being fired in this area it seems that it is a part of Pakistan's military exercise. The situation in Rajouri, Poonch and Doda districts is grim today. Doda seems to be in the grip of Afghan mercenaries and the local people are awfully frightened with a sense of insecurity engulfing their minds. The situation becomes more serious when such incidents are being encouraged and abetted by Pakistan in particular. The deplorable part of it is that countries championing the cause of peace and tranquility in the world are determined to lift the ban on arming Pakistan imposed by America instead of mounting pressure on it. Its implication is that a situation of confrontation is raising its ugly head at Indo-Pak border, a deliberate impetus is being given to the arms race in the subcontinent and this kind of a situation can take a serious turn.

Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon. Home Minister whether he is going to fulfil his assurances given twice in this House that an all party Consultative Committee on Jammu and Kashmir will be constituted and work will be done in consultation with the local people after taking them into confidence. It is not the problem of a particular party but it is a national problem. The whole country is concerned about it and it has a bearing on the national security.

Yesterday, the President of the Panthers Party, Shri Bhim Singh was forced to sit on a dharna. He has a concern for improvement in the situation of Jammu and Kashmir. He

has drawn attention to the fact that the local administration is turning a blind eye to the feelings of the local people. The people's representatives are not involved in finding solutions to the problems. As a result, the situation is deterioration day by day. Announcements are made to the effect of holding elections there but words are not translated into action. It is being said in the international circles that we are not able to implement what we announce.

It loses our credibility I will request the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs to make a statement before the House about the situation emerged in the region after the rockets fired by Pakistan and person killed in this incident.

12.27 hrs

DELHI RENT CONTROL BILL

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS (KAROL BAGH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole Delhi has observed a 'Bund' today to protest against the Delhi Rent Control Bill. This Bill was introduced on 30th June, at that time I suggested that this Bill relates to Delhi and it will be proper to refer this to Delhi Legislative Assembly for discussion. But this bill was passed in a haste. Even Hon. Minister Shrimati Sheila Kaul could not make her comments on the people's views in the regard. Hon. President has not signed it yet. 90 per cent traders of, Delhi are tenants. The written clauses of this Act will create problems for tenants in Delhi and business in the city will come to a standstill. Today traders of Delhi proposed to march towards the Parliament but they are stopped on the way. They have staged a dharna at Jantar Mantar we are going there. I request you that before passing this Bill, it should be referred to Delhi Legislative Assembly, which has the elected representatives of the city, to get their opinion on this. Business in Delhi will vanish if it is not done. Several colleagues of mine including Shri Rupchand Pal and other have supported my point. My submission is that it will really be a great in justice to people of Delhi if this Bill is passed. The Business in Delhi will vanished and the higher number of litigations will affect the Delhites. I therefore request you that it should not be passed here unless it is passed in the Delhi Assembly.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (LUCKNOW) Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a proverb in English that

[English]

Legislate in haste, then repent at leisure.

[Translation]

Atleast it has happened in the case of Delhi Rent Control

Bill. We all are responsible for it. We have forced the Government to introduce Rent Control Bill. We have said that it will be passed without any comprehensive discussion. This matter was lying pending for years and the Bill was passed unanimously and now it is with the President for his assent. But it is also a fact that has created a widespread resentment among the people. Under the leadership of Shri Khurnaji representatives of all the political parties of Delhi, met the Hon. Prime Minister. Hon. Prime Minister has given assurance that he is looking into this matter that how it can be amended. I do not know how it can be amended but it should be done as per the demand of the people. The Bill has not included the provisions to protect the interest of tenants. It was essential to maintain balance. I would like to say that the Government as well as the opposition should think over the issue collectively to solve the problem. This matter does not relate to only one political party. Do not think that we have been trapped in Delhi and you are escaped. There are some crucial matter on which no political party, ruling for opposition could escape criticism. This Bill has been passed unanimously.

I would like to say that the Government should take some decision after consulting all the political parties to make some provision for amending this Bill.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (MADHEPURA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of tenants and landlord is quite prominent in Delhi. Perhaps you have not read the report submitted by Standing committee on this Bill. I do not know the complications involved therein. But the fact is that whenever we go to market. Shopkeepers stop us to discuss this matter. They do not leave us.... (*Interruptions*) They also say that Members, for whom we sacrifice our lives, do not discuss our problems. I am saying it because a group of traders came to my house. They do not consider as good persons because we are not aware of their problems. You are well acquainted with their problems. These political parties have won the seats in Delhi several times. These both are linked with them so this problem also relates to them. I am speaking on this issue because people are coming to me for this problem. I told them that you do not vote for us. They told us that our elected representatives do not care for us. I told them that their problems will be solved if they elect members from our party.

Tenants are supposed to be under the landlords and we belong to poor community. Landlords, who have built big houses in high handed manner. I hesitate and stopped speaking, when saw Shri Chandra Shekhar's angry face as if I have said something wrong. It will be better if you correct me. We are in a dilemma. The markets in Delhi have been closed for the last four days. All the political parties unanimously opposed it. I and several other people also approached in this regard. I have also been a tenant

and well acquainted with the excesses committed by landlords. It seems that they earn money without work simply by building house. This situation would not have arisen if you had taken seriously the report submitted by the standing committee set up for this Bill and would have consulted Legislative Assembly of Delhi. You should make amendments in this Bill in manner that it should not affect anyone in any way.

The Bill provides that in case of death of a tenant whose son is a minor or his widow is unable to pay the rent, the premises has to be vacated. It would have been better if you have given some time to them and the premises is get vacated when the son becomes adult. You should have provided something like this. A person who is running his shop or self-employed and has no other earning member in his family, then his widow should be given the right of tenancy. I do not have much knowledge about it and do not want to go into details. As per my knowledge and whatever heard from them through you, and I would like to submit that this Bill was passed in haste for paucity of time therefore it should be given serious thought. Our BJP colleagues supposed to be alert on this issue but they were not. It is not right, that people who sacrifice their lives for them.

SHRI KALKA DAS : We expressed our opinion but not attention was paid to it.

SHRI RAM NAIK : We expressed our views in Rajya Sabha also.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (MADHEPURA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have forgotten, he must have expressed his views. I am sorry, I was saying that this Bill has been sent to the President for his assent. The Government can withhold it if desires. The views of Shri Chandra Shekhar can also be included. Nothing will happen if the Government withhold this Bill for one or two more days.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (GANDHINAGAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not in the List of Business.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : It is alright I stop it if Advani ji says so. But I would like to say that tenants are supposed to be poor than the landlords and they are facing great difficulties. This Rent Control Bill...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Sharadji, You have made your point.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is only this that the Bill should be given a second thought and a comprehensive Bill should be brought in place of it so that no one face any problem.

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA (NAGPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the manner in which this question is being raised by BJP and Mr. Sharad Yadav is totally wrong. The country will be totally ruined and this will become a practice if any party is permitted to hold strike for stopping the Hon. President from signing a Bill which has already been unanimously passed by the Parliament. It should not be allowed at all. It must have sent of the Hon. President. I would like to say that.

[English]

Mr. Sharad has not understood the point .

[Translation]

Delhi has a rural base. Villages have their properties in Delhi and are facing hardship since long. Their houses and property are taken on rent and these tenants create problems and do not increase the rent at all. Thus this law was enacted. It is right and proper law. The tenants who have taken houses or shops on rent do not pay a single paise and intend to extract money from landlords . . . (Interruptions)**

SHRI KALKA DAS : The owners of shops in Karol Bagh and Chandni Chowk are not villagers. Perhaps he does not know it.

MR. SPEAKER : What have been said just now will not go on record.

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA : You have interrupted me six times. (Interruptions)**.... They will hold strike.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: No allegations. This is not going on record.

[Translation]

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA : What will not go on record? I have not made any unparliamentary remark. I have said that

(interruptions)....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Allegations against each other.

[Translation]

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: I was saying that . . . (Interruptions)**

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR) : No, you are wrong.

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA : I would not go by what you are saying. My submission is that the law has since been enacted. There is no question of reopening or referring it to the Delhi Legislative Assembly. This is a good law that has been enacted after putting mounting pressure on the Parliament. The people are happy with it. Some people with them vested interests are annoyed and are resorting to strikes. Let them to do. In keeping with the Parliamentary practice, this law should not be revoked. It is very unfortunate that the Bill has been pending for the Presidential assent for so many days. The President should give his assent to it and give it the shape of a law.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (BALLIA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not have spoken on this issue and Sharadji not spoken on it. I would like to tell Sharadji that it is the new landlords who are minting money from the rent. There is no check on people who construct new houses and charge exorbitant rent, in the earlier Rent Control Law as well. The rent of the big old houses constructed in good old times varies between a mere Rs. 50-150 though I do not say that they all belong to the farmers. The landlord fetches a paltry sum of Rs. 150 or Rs. 200 per month whereas the shopkeepers earn. Rs. 1.5 to 2 lakh. There are number of such examples in Connaught place, Delhi, the landlord goes to collect his rent on a bicycle and the Manager of the shop refuses to see him. He has to wait for two to three hours to receive his rent of Rs. 150. This is total exploitation. This bill was not passed all of a sudden here in this House. There was this agony for many years and this bill was brought after feeling the pinch of that agony. I have no knowledge of the articles of law as to what has been passed but basically, it was a step forward and fight against exploitation. Suggestions with regard to removing the anomalies or lacunae in the Bill are welcome but it is not proper to talk of withdrawing the entire Bill. I am not agreeable to Mirdhaji's language but it is like nourishing the vested interest for which the Parliament cannot change its ideology.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is nothing wrong in Mirdhaji's using the term 'Khopari' in this speech.

MR. SPEAKER : You are repeating the remark that I have expunged.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : "Khopari" means head in rural dialect. It is not a bad word. Secondly, I do not have thorough knowledge of this Bill and this problem and Chandra Shekharji also said that everything people told him was not true. My only submission is that a comprehensive and judicious Bill should be brought in view of all this. This rural people might have some problem as revealed by Mirdhaji. I am not in touch with the rural folk. Therefore, I did not do only in-depth study about what I have said. I had requested you also that it should be a comprehensive Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not good to create such confusions in the House at this point of time.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is no doubt that this is rather usual for us. After having passed the Bill, now we requested for its reconsideration. But because of the sentiments that have been raised on both sides – I mean by both sides not only in this House but outside also – some are supporting and some are objecting to certain provisions of the Bill. And what is being submitted is, since it has not yet become a law, what is being requested is that some of the provisions which are creating misunderstanding as to the correct interpretation may be looked into because so many people are involved. Many of the people are middle class people, working class people. They are coming to us and they have made certain representations. We know, we have already passed this Bill. We are aware of this situation. Therefore, our request is that some of the provisions may be looked into a little more depth. All parties can sit together and Government can take an initiative. Certainly, all different points of view can always be considered. Nobody should stand here on a prestige issue because everybody says that it was really done without that much study with which it should have been done. I am not exonerating myself also. We should have been a little more careful. We should have been a little more alert. Though we should not do this, since the people of Delhi are agitated over it, why do you not arrange for a meeting? It can be done within a very short time. Now, people have made their study. We can make our submissions and a decision can be taken with regard to some of the provisions. The Hon. Rashtrapati can send it to back to us for its reconsideration.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (AZAMGARH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is wrong to say that all the Delhites are very agitated due to the passage of the Delhi Rent Control Bill which has become an Act now. A delegation of Shopkeepers met Sharadji. As he is seated close to BJP benches, there might have been some effect on him. Farmers representative who visited me from the villages urged that no amendment should be made in this Act. The reason is that when the farmers came to Delhi 50 to 100 years ago and constructed small houses and shops, they were removed and they settled in remote villages. They are being evicted for their lands there and given a rent of Rs. 5, 10 or 25. Chandra Shekharji has rightly said that other earn Rs. 50,000 Rs. to one lakh from these people sell out their shops to others at a 'Pagari' of Rs. 5 to 10 lakh. The farmers do not get even a single paisa from that money. They get a fixed paltry rent. A 10,000 strong contingent of

farmers staged a demonstration in front of the residence of the Minister of Urban Affairs and Employment demanding that no amendment should be made in the Act and their interest should be safeguarded.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government not to make any change in it under pressure or in hurry. The farmers who are the landlords are not a affluent lot. One who constructs a house gives it on rent because others cannot construct a house. Letting out one's house on rent is not an offence. All are not making a lot of money out of that. The Government should fix the rent in the Rent Control Act but making amendments in it would tantamount to exploitation for the farmers.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (GANDHI NAGAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have only one point to make. As such Vajpayeeji and Somnathji have stated that this Bill should be reconsidered and there should be objection to that. The significant part of it is that the parliament legislated on matters when there was no legislative Assembly in Delhi but when the latter has come into being, I would urge upon the Government that much of attention cannot be paid to a legislation in the Parliament with regard to a matter concerning Delhi as can be done by the representatives of the people of Delhi in the Legislative Assembly.

What Shri Chandra Shekharji said has inspired the people there to seek amendments in the Delhi Rent Control Act. In earlier situation in tenant earns lakhs of rupees from the accommodation acquired some 50 years back on rent fixed at say Rs. 50 per month at that time. That is not proper. However, while amending that it has been provided that in case the owner of commercial house constructed some 50 years back dies it cannot be transferred in the name of his wife or son after his death. There are some anomalies which have created problems. Therefore, a second look has become very necessary in this matter.

My second submission to the Government is that a matter related to Delhi should be taken up in the legislative Assembly first so that the people's representatives can consider it there (*Interruptions*).

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : Sir, on the issue of Delhi Rent Control Bill, a deputation led by the Chief Minister of Delhi had gone to the Prime Minister; and the Prime Minister has passed on that case to me. I am supposed to look into the matter and try to find out as to how we can bring about any kind of change which in fact will serve the interest of both. A number of deputation had also come to me. Some Hon. Members from BJP had also come to me. An all party delegation was

also there. There was another deputation which represented the land holders. They had also come to me and they had pleaded with the saying that the Bill had been passed and there should not be any change in the Bill. These are the contradictory views we have in this matter.

I do not know whether it will be a good precedent to ask the President not to sign the Bill which has been unanimously passed by this House. I will have to consult the Law Ministry to find out as to what can be done if at all any change is to be brought about and if, in fact, agreed to by both the sections. I cannot possibly agree specially with the point made by Shri Advani that on all matters, Delhi Administration needs to be consulted. I cannot possibly agree to this point of view to all. We will go by the Delhi Capital Region Act. We are strictly following whatever provisions are there in it and we are giving more concessions to Delhi Administration but I certainly cannot agree when you say that we will have to go to the Delhi Assembly on every aspect which touches Delhi. But on this Rent Bill, I will again discuss with some of the people and try to find out as to how best the interests of both the parties can be incorporated and in what shape and form can it be done. This is a point on which the Government will have to apply its mind and find out a solution.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA (PATNA) : Mr. Speaker. Sir, late Mr. Mohammad Rafi Sahib was famous and great singer of India, who sang more than 46,000 songs. Many of his songs are based on classical music and have got devotional appeal and some bhajans (devotional songs) have also been sung by him. Most of his songs will be remembered for ever in India. Similarly, late Mukesh Sahib has sung thousands of songs. Evergreen voices of both the singers are still alive in India but unfortunately they were not suitably awarded. I request through you to the Government of India to release postal stamps in commemoration of both the aforesaid singers - Late Shri Mohammad Rafi and Late Shri Mukesh.

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (FAIZABAD) : Mr. Speaker. Sir, our senior member Shri Chandra Jeet Ji has raised a very burning issue with regard to Jammu and Kashmir and I, too, had given one notice with regard to this issue only. Yesterday also, this subject was discussed. The situation in Jammu and Kashmir in war seeing day by day and proper war is being waged there. I do not want to reiterate what Mr. Chandarjeet Ji has said here but the way terrorism getting momentum there, not only minority Hindu but also majority community, i.e. Muslim, is also badly affected due to it. The entire Kashmir and people thereof are badly affected due to terrorism there.

The State Government earns good revenue from the Pilgrimage to Vaishno Devi Sharine and Amarnath Yatra. Perhaps, it would not be improper to mention that the entire Jammu and Kashmir Government's expenditure and expenditure on its employees two months salary is met from the revenue earned from pilgrimage to Vaishno Devi and the Government of India must be having report to this effect. But today, due to terrorism the situation in Doda has worsened. People from there are being driven out and being killed in an indiscriminate way. In view of this, proper law and order arrangement should be made. It seems that the Government of India is not serious about this, yesterday when Hon. Minister was saying that he would give all the facilities to Haj pilgrims and they will not be stopped, at that time I was expecting that the Hon. Home Minister would give similar assurance to all the Pilgrims going for Amarnath Yatra assuring that he would make similar kind of security arrangement for them as well, but nothing to that effect was said by Hon. Minister.

Today, I received a phone call in the morning from Jammu and got the information that the shops usually opened during Amarnath Yatra every year are not being allowed this year. Para-military forces have been deployed there; due to which no eating arrangement would be made. You know that very old persons go on this pilgrimage but there is no medical facility for them and no boarding and lodging facility will be provided. No facility is being given on behalf of the Government of India.

I would like to request him through you that the Hon. Minister must give his assurance to this effect and the pilgrims must get special facility and proper security arrangements should be made for them.

[English]

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN : Sir, we have made all the arrangements which are necessary for giving the kind of protection to all those yatris who would like to go to Amarnath. Everything has been arranged for them if there has been anything which, in fact, is falling short of the expectation of the yatris who were going there, please bring it to my notice and I will immediately look into it. But it is the Jammu & Kashmir Government which is supposed to execute the plan which we have agreed.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

12.56 hrs.**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE****Vohra Committee Report**

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Vohra Committee Report (*English version only*). [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7925/95]

Notifications under Essential Commodities Act, 1955

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act 1955:-

(1) The Fertiliser (Control) (Second Amendment) Order, 1995 published in Notification No. S.O. 459 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 1995.

(2) S.O. 502 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th June 1995 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 326 (E) dated the 6th April, 1995.

(3) S.O. 503 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th June, 1995 making certain amendments to the Notification No. S.O. 977 (E) dated the 9th November, 1987.

(4) S.O. 572 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1995 appointing officers in states to exercise the functions of Controller.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7926/95]

Copy Right (Amendment) Rules, 1995 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : Sir, on behalf of Kumari Selja I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Copyright (Amendment) Rules, 1995 (Hindi and English Version) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 383 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th may, 1995, under sub-section (3) of Section 78 of the Copyright Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library See. No. L.T. 7927/95]

(2) Statement (Hindi and English Versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Annual Report of the Central Tibetan School Administration, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.

[Placed in Library See. No. L.T. 7928/95]

ASSENT TO BILLS**[English]**

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table the following six Bills passed by the House of Parliament during the last session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 25th April, 1995:-

1. The Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 1995.
2. The Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 1995
3. The Finance Bill, 1995
4. The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 1995
5. The Indian Penal code (Amendment) Bill, 1995
6. The Assam University (Amendment) Bill, 1995

(ii) I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha, of the following six Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Thirteenth Session of Tenth Lok Sabha and assented to by the President:-

1. The Cable Television Networks (Regulations) Bill, 1995
2. The Salary Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 1995.
3. The Cotton Transport Repeal Bill, 1995
4. The National Highway (Amendment) Bill, 1995
5. The National Environment Tribunal Bill, 1995
6. The constitution (Seventy-seventh Amendment) Bill, 1995.

12.57 hrs.**[English]****BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE****Fifty Second Report**

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : I beg to present the Fifty-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS**Fifteenth Report and Minutes****12.57 hrs.****[Translation]**

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I beg to lay on

the table on the house Fifteenth Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways regarding electrification of Rail lines and minutes of the meetings of the committee.

12.57½ hrs.

[English]

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**

Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth Reports

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (UDUPI) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests:-

(1) Twenty-seventh Report on the Annual Report (1993-94) of the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research with reference to its R & D programmes in the area of Chemicals; and

(2) Twenty - eighth Report on the Annual Report (1993-94) of the Department of Electronics with reference to Software Technology Parks; Electronics Hardware Technology Parks (EHTPS); Electronics for weaker sections including women; Employment potential of Electronics; and support of the Department of Electronics for Research and Development particularly with regard to Technology Development Council, National Radar council and Industrial Promotion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary Demands for Grants, Shri Chandrashekha Murthy.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): Sir, I have given notice for that...

MR. SPEAKER: I do not appreciate this kind of a thing. You have given me the notice for presentation of the Budget to the House and you give me the notice for not presenting the Budget and that too when I am sitting here.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Sir very important allocations have left out and I will see that you do not get an occasion to react like this.

MR. SPEAKER: You should have informed me before hand yesterday, then we would not have included it here. But in a matter like budget, if you are asking my permission to present it to the House and you are not presenting; and for not presenting it is if you have given the letter when I am sitting here, I am not in a position to apply my mind to take this. Please do not do it again.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Yes, Sir.

12.58 Hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Now the House stands adjourned for lunch till 2.00 P.M.

The lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.09 Hrs.

[English]

The Lok Sabha Re-assembled after Lunch at nine Minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock (Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

DEMAND FOR EXCESS GRANTS (GENERAL) 1992-93

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now the House will take up Item No.10 Demands for Excess Grants (General). Shri M.V. Chandra Shekha Murthy

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English version) - Showing the Demands for Excess Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1992-93

14.11 Hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

[English]

**(i) Need to Improve Air Services in the North
Eastern Region**

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE (JORHAT) : There is total chaos and confusion in Indian Airlines services in the North-Eastern region during last two year causing great dislocation in this not-so-easily-accessible region. Of late the situation has become worse since the number of flights has been reduced. There are only two airports at Guwahati and Dibrugarh in Assam where alongwith Indian Airlines, private airlines also operate on limited days in Imphal and Agartala.

But important airports like Jorhat and Tezpur are the airports not only for Assam but for Eastern part of Nagaland and western part of Arunachal Pradesh. Twice a week these two airports are linked to Calcutta Airport though there are frequent cancellation of flights. Unless these two airports, and as a matter of fact, all the airports are airlinked to Guwahati, the air travelling public is being put to great inconvenience.

Travelling public of Assam, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh is not opposed to the operation of the private airlines provided the flights are regular and fares are not enhanced. As a matter of fact, smaller aircraft will be an effective carriers for linking the airports of the region to

Guwahati. The travelling public in this land-locked region if facing a lot of problems .

I request the Central Government to address this problem with seriousness.

(ii) Need to review the policy of rural electrification, especially in U.P. and also to provide adequate funds for this purpose.

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN MISRA(SITAPUR) : Besides many other problems, the rural people are facing serious problem of electricity. There are several villages in the country where there is no electricity. It is bulb light is seen at any tube-well far from the village, that village is considered as electrified, while the whole village remains in deep darkness. Due to these rules of the Government, the rural people are facing the problem of rural electrification. If some village has taken the advantage of electrification after keeping aside the rules, then electricity is not supplied there and the people have to work in darkness. Even if all these things are neglected then the work of rural electrification is going on at such a mail pace that it is certain that the rural people will have to wait for long for electricity. The department employees say that due to the shortage of funds the work of electrification is lying stand still. In this way on one hand the rural people various parts of the country specially in Uttar Pradesh have to face a lot of problem due to the scarcity of electricity and on the other hand the State Government of Uttar Pradesh is unable to gear up the electrification work due to the paucity of funds.

Therefore, the Hon. Power Minister is requested to provide necessary funds to Uttar Pradesh for the electrification of the rural areas so that rural people could get full advantage of it.

(iii) Need for according early approval to coastal zone management plans of Maharashtra.

SHRI RAM NAIK (BOMBAY-NORTH) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Union Ministry of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST had directed all the Coastal State vide its notification of 19th February, 1991 to prepare Coastal Zone Management. Now more than four years have passed but the Ministry has not approved any Coastal Zone Management Plan of any State as a result of which several local bodies like, municipal corporations district planning and development committees, district, taluka and gram panchayats, are facing a lot of problems in carrying out developmental works in their respective areas. Therefore, it is necessary that the Coastal Zone Management Plan should be accorded early approval.

So far as Maharashtra is concerned it has submitted its Coastal Zone Management Plan in three parts, i.e. for

(1) For Bombay City and New Bombay Municipal Corporation on 17th January 1995.

(2) For Sindhudurg district, Ratnagiri district, Northern part of Thane district and Dahanu Municipal Council on 3rd March, 1995; and

(3) The State Government has sent a reminder to the Central Government for immediate clearance of Coastal Zone Management Plan for Vasai-Vihar sub-area, Meera-Bhayander Municipal Council, Thane Municipal Corporation, Kalyan Municipal Corporation, the Northern part of the Greater Bombay area and Raigarh district on 12th May, 1995, but no positive reply has been received so far.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to accord early approval to the Coastal Zone Management Plan of Maharashtra and other States.

(iv) Need for creation of a separate Uttarakhand State

SHRI MANJAY LAL (SAMASTIPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people of Uttarakhand region of Uttar Pradesh are spear heading their agitation under the auspices of Uttarakhand Sanyukt Sangharsh Samiti for a separate State of Uttarakhand. They have been sending letters to the Hon. Members written with their blood. In view of the backwardness of the area and to gear up the administration for the development of Uttarakhand, the State Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh has passed resolution twice and sent them to the Central Government for creating a separate State for Uttarakhand.

Therefore, the Central Government is requested that the Bill for creating a separate State for Uttarakhand should be passed in the present session of the Parliament itself.

[English]

(v) Need to Sanction Adequate Funds for Protecting Tamil Nadu Coastline

SHRI P. KUMARASAMY (PALANI) : I wish to draw the attention of the Central Government towards the urgent need to give Rs. 12 Crore financial assistance to Tamil Nadu for protecting Tamil Nadu against infiltration.

Tamil Nadu coastline is a sensitive area vulnerable to infiltration by militants, terrorists and other enemies. The Government of Tamil Nadu has taken commendable steps to protect the coastline of Tamil Nadu in the larger interest of the nation.

Since the resources of the State Government are limited, the Government of Tamil Nadu had sought Rs. 12 crore financial assistance from the Centre to protect the 1000 kms. long coastline of the State against infiltration. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been taking adequate steps to protect the coastline within its resources. But the Centre should realise the vulnerability of Tamil Nadu Coastline in order to have foolproof security arrangements. The Central Government should take serious note of the reported movements of vessels and boats of militants in the sea so that our border is as safe as now.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to provide Rs. 12 crore assistance to Tamil Nadu for protecting the coastline

(vi) Need for doubling of Railway line between Mangalore and Shornur

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (CONNANORE) : Manglore-Madras Railway line is one of oldest railway tracks in India. Tremendous progress has been recorded in the development of railways elsewhere in the country during the 45 years after Independence. However, no improvement whatsoever has been made on the track between Shornur and Mangalore on the Mangalore-Madras route.

This stagnation has added very much to the backwardness of Malabar area consisting of six major districts of Kerala. The people of Malabar are deeply agitated over this issue. Time and again, people's representatives as also several organizations representing trade and commerce, socio-cultural organizations, local bodies, students, etc. have represented the sentiments of the people of this area before the successive Governments for doubling of the line between Mangalore and Shornur.

Consequent on persistent protests and agitations, about two years ago, the Railway administration had allocated a paltry sum for this project. But to date this amount remains unutilised for this purpose. The people understandably fear that this year also the amount will be diverted to other areas and other projects.

The proposal of the Chairman, Konkan Railway Authority, came as a ray of hope to the people of Malabar. He has offered to double the line within a year, even without financial support from the Railway administration, if he is permitted to undertake the project. However, for reasons best known to them, the Railway authorities have not given clearance to this proposal.

I earnestly request the Hon. Minister of the Railways to intervene in this matter and direct the Konkan Railway Authority to take up the doubling of Mangalore-Shornur line. Then alone, Southern States will fully get the benefit from the Konkan project.

(vii) Need to Start ICDS Projects in Earthquake Hit Satara and Sangli Districts of Maharashtra.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN (KARAD) : Sir, the Koyana and Warna regions of Western Maharashtra are facing repeated earthquakes. There was a major earthquake in this region in 1967. Another series of four major earthquakes shattered the area between August 1993 and February 1994 rendering over 10,000 people homeless. This has driven away potential investment in industries. This area being part of the Western Ghats, is hilly one. Although it receives substantial rainfall, due to lack of storage tanks, there is no water for irrigation. There is even shortage of drinking water in summer. As a result there is

no year round work in agriculture. People have to go to Bombay in search of manual work. The worst sufferers are children.

I, therefore, request that the ICDS project be taken up in the Patan, Jawali and Mahabaleswar tahsils of Satara district and Shirala taluk of Sangli district in Maharashtra. Although these blocks do not meet the SC/ST population criteria or the number of people living below the poverty line criteria, I request the Government to sanction these projects as a special case considering the hardship faced by the people of these hilly regions on account of repeated earthquakes.

I request the Ministry of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT to start the ICDS project in the above four blocks as a special case at the earliest.

[English]

UNION DUTIES OF EXCISE (DISTRIBUTION) AMENDMENT BILL

AND

ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF EXCISE (GOODS OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE)

AMENDMENT BILL – CONTD.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now Item Nos. 12 and 13 will be taken up together for discussion. The time allotted was two hours; and we have consumed one hour and fifty five minutes. Five minutes time is left out.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it pertains to the rights of States. Therefore, the time for discussion should be extended by two hours.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Well, let us confine to the time provided.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : The Bill appears to be a small one but in the federal system of the country, the Central Government is not providing resources to the States. It is related with the States therefore, the time should be extended.

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : Sir, I am prepared to accept what Mr. Mohan Singh has said. There are some other Members from our side also who would like to participate. But, keeping in view that there are many more Bills which we have to take up for consideration and the Business of the House, I think we should try to restrict as far as possible and at the same time to accommodate the hon. Members who want to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Treasury Benches are very, very liberal indeed.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your view is totally accepted by the Treasury Benches.

..... (Interruption)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, every one should be given an opportunity to speak because it is an important matter. (interruptions). It depends on your capability as to how quickly you can dispose it off. [English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Prabhu Dayal, your suggestion will always be accepted. All right. I shall call Shri Ramesh Chenithala.

Shri Ramesh Chenithala

14.26 hours

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (KOTTAYAM) : I rise to support the two Bills which were introduced by the Minister of State for FINANCE. The first Bill is the Union Duties of Excise (Distribution) Amendment Bill and the second is the Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special importance) Amendment Bill.

The Indian Constitution empowers the Parliament to heavy excise duties. Article 272, Seventh Schedule also provides for a sharing of these duties with the States, if Parliament by law so provides on the basis of the recommendations of the Finance Commission.

The Finance Commission is also a child of the Constitution. The Tenth Finance Commission has submitted its report. I was of the view that that report of the Finance Commission should be discussed in Parliament. Unfortunately we will not find time to discuss it in Parliament. The Report of only the Eighth Finance Commission was presented to this august House and discussed threadbare and the Members of Parliament could ventilate their views on the various issues pertaining to the States and the Centre. But unfortunately we could not get an opportunity to speak on the Report of the Tenth Finance Commission this august House.

The Ninth Finance Commission has recommended in its Second Report that 45 per cent of the annual net proceeds of the Union Duties of Excise including the Cess levied under the special Acts and earmarked for State purposes be paid to the States and distributed among the States as recommended by the Ninth Finance Commission. The Tenth Finance Commission also recommended that the share of the States in the Union Excise Duties may be increased to 47.5 per cent. The only increase is by 2.5 per cent the commission decided to keep apart 7.5 per cent out of the 47.5 per cent, to be distributed among the States assessed as deficient by the Commission.

How are we assessing? There are two main criteria adopted by the Finance Commission. One is the population

and the second is the backwardness of the State. In this regard, I wanted to pose a question as to how we are going to assess the backwardness of a State. That is the most important thing there are lot of controversies in Centre-State relationship. If the States are powerful, then only the Centre will be strong. So the States should be given more allocations and more financial freedom and looking into the financial crunch and the miserable position of the States, the Central Government should be more considerate in this regard.

On the other day, a lot of colleagues also raised this point about the assessment of the backwardness of a State. So, a method should be found in such a way that there is a realistic effort to assess the backwardness of a particular State. For example, States like Kerala, Orissa, Bihar and so many other States which are industrially undeveloped are very backward. So, these States should be taken care of. I do not know how these States could be taken care of. Forty per cent will be distributed among all the States and 7.5 per cent among the deficit States. So, 7.5 per cent is distributed as earlier mentioned, on the basis of the deficit.

In certain cases it is very evident that certain developed States are also projecting themselves as deficit States. This is causing a lot of problems to the other States which are really in deficit.

The second Bill consists of additional duties of excise on certain specially mentioned goods of mass consumption. In 1956, the National Development Council came to an agreement to levy additional duties of excise on sugar, tobacco, cotton fabrics, woollen fabrics and all man made fabrics by the Centre and the States refrained from exercising this power to levy sales tax on these commodities. This was the agreement reached in 1956 by the Centre and the States. By this agreement the Centre is levying and collecting excise duties on the goods of mass consumption and distributing them among the States in accordance with the principles laid down by the Finance Commission from time to time.

The Second Finance Commission which was the first to examine the matter, adopted a consensus figure alongwith the population. A lot of discussions had taken place on this point. The Ninth Finance Commission recommended that the share of the States should be corresponding to their share in the consumption of these commodities. But, unfortunately, the relevant and direct information of the State-wise consumption of these commodities was not available to the Commission, so, the Finance Commission laid upon the proxies like State Domestic Product and the population of the State etc. These two aspects were given weightage by the Ninth Finance Commission and they used 1991 census for this. But the Tenth Finance Commission had discussed this matter threadbare and commodities of mass consumption and population have been given substantial weightage in this formula. Apart from commodities, we are looking on one

aspect of the mass consumption of these commodities. The Tenth Finance commission has categorically mentioned that the population should be given weightage in formulating the principle. As per the Tenth Finance Commission, 50 per cent weightage is to be given to population, 40 per cent to the average of the State product for the three latest years and 10 per cent weightage is to be given to the average collection of States' sales tax for the three years. The Tenth Finance Commission had taken 1991 census as the basis. As per the recommendations of the Finance Commission, the Government has come forward with these two Bills. Definitely, this is a welcome step.

A lot of discussions were held earlier regarding the Centre State relationship. On the basis of the report of the Tenth Finance Commission these two Bills were introduced. I welcome the step taken by the Government. But something more should be done in this regard. I do not know whether this will solve the endless debate between the States and the Centre on what should be the purpose of the divisive pool. I think this will not serve any purpose. This debate will continue because certain very important measures were suggested by the Tenth Finance Commission, but the Central Government is not making any comment regarding certain very important points put forward by the Tenth Finance Commission.

The Present arrangement of certain percentage from the income tax and excise duties has failed to satisfy the States. The Centre has optional methods for collecting more taxes, methods of taxation which are not part of the pool. But States have no power to do that. Now, what is happening? In every State resource mobilisation is a big problem.

It is because every State Government has now reached a saturation point and they cannot curtail their welfare measures also. They are not in a position to tax more. Most of the States have reached a point of saturation. This aspect should be considered and it should not be taken very lightly by the Central Government. The grievances of the States should not be taken lightly.

The Tenth Finance Commission, in this report, has very well mentioned about the two-fold debt relief scheme. Everybody welcomed that. The States were happy. But the Centre is silent on this issue. It is a two fold debt relief scheme for all States. Secondly it is for a State under heavy burden of debts. Unfortunately the Centre is silent on this suggestion of the Tenth Finance Commission about five per cent debt relief for special category States like Orissa, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh where the debts are very high.

I want to know from the Hon. Minister what the stand of the Central Government is for putting corporation and service taxes and excise duties in the divisive pool of resources. In this case also there was a lot of discussion. Even the State Governments have represented this matter before the Finance Commission. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister about the Stand of the Central

Government regarding putting corporation and service tax and customs duties in the divisive pool.

Sir, I want to mention about my State, Kerla. The Tenth Finance Commission's recommendations regarding Kerala are totally worrying the State. The State will lose Rs. 25 crore during the first year of the fund devolution. Finally, after five years also, no positive gains will come for a revenue deficit State like Kerala. Kerala is such a State where we are taking a lot of social welfare measures even before other States have implemented or even taken up those schemes. Kerala is the State to have implemented all these schemes. But the position of the State Government is precarious. We are not in a position to collect more taxes or impose more taxes on the people. The State's financial machinery has reached such a stage that we cannot levy more taxes on the people. The state's financial machinery has reached such a stage that we cannot levy more taxes on the people of the State. The internal generation of resources in the State is very difficult and as I say we are not in a position to curtail or stop the welfare measures which were initiated by the earlier Government. So the Central Government should view a State like Kerala and give special consideration. Kerala is a backward State as far as industry is concerned. No industrial development is taking place. No major industries are coming to our State. The unemployment problem is at its peak. The problem of more educated unemployed persons is very serious and our State is facing this problem.

In the memorandum which was submitted to the Tenth Finance Commission it is mentioned that the percentage of the share due to the backward State should not be less than its population ratio. That was a suggestion made in the memorandum submitted by the Government to the Finance Commission. The most important thing is that the additional weightage to the backwardness along with the population ratio should be given. The backwardness and the population ratio should be taken into consideration for fixing the ratio. Even though the Finance Commission is sought to help economically weaker and backward States, Kerala has not received the share corresponding to its population ratio. The Finance Commission has recommended certain assistance to certain States which are backward in nature. But unfortunately in this category also my State, Kerala, is not there.

Sir, both the Ninth and the Tenth Finance Commissions have been unkind to the State of Kerala. Kerala is entitled to Rs. 7,722 crore on the basis of the Share of devolved funds which includes Rs. 219 crore for the famine relief expenditure and Rs. 204 crore for the local bodies. But it got only Rs. 52 crore under the head: 'Special problem'.

Sir, Non-Plan revenue deficit grant has been allowed to 15 States. Kerala, with poor industrial and agricultural production figures has been bracketed with States like Maharashtra and Gujarat which are the industrial giants in our country. So, our State has been totally neglected and I think that more consideration should be given to the State

of Kerala which is very backward in respect of industrial and agricultural production. In recent years, in Kerala, we are witnessing a series of floods and other natural calamities which have virtually wiped out the infrastructure which had been meticulously built up during the last so many years. So, Kerala needs more financial assistance from the Centre. As I mentioned earlier, if the two aspects of population and backwardness are considered, Kerala should be given more assistance.

I do not want to take much time. But I want to stress one more point. There is a general belief that the Centre is always saying that it is giving more resources to the States, but it is not doing so. The States are not in a position to mop up enough resources to meet the urgent needs of the people. We are in a federal system and if the federal system is to be more effective, the States should be strengthened more and also the Centre should be strong. The regional imbalances, backwardness and so many other factors have to be taken into consideration when the resources are allocated to the States. I would like to know whether the Government is going to implement the suggestions of the Tenth Finance Commission and whether the Government is going to have an overall look on the distribution of resources to the States. I would also like to know whether the Government would be more considerate towards the industrially backward States where the people are suffering from unemployment and other problems.

Sir, in a way, these two Bills are definitely a welcome measure. I consider this measure as a beginning for sharing the resources with the States. But in future the Centre should have a sympathetic view towards the States which are very backward both on the industrial front as well as on other fronts.

SIR HARI KISHORE SINGH (SHEOHAR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to warn this Government that, in its scheme of things, there is a growing feeling in this country that the States are being neglected and the Centre is assuming more resources by controlling the finances of the country and through that it wants to control the States. It is an imperial legacy. The system of sharing the financial resources is a legacy of the past, the imperial legacy. At that time, the system of Government was highly centralised and both expenditure and income of the States were controlled by the Centre. This is what we had inherited. Now there is a growing grievance and agitations are going on all over the country demanding that more financial powers would be devolved on the States and the States should have ample resources to augment their income so that developmental works do not suffer.

Sir, no decentralised polity can function in a system which is being obtained in our country and therefore, this issue has been agitating the minds of the people right from the beginning. The Finance Commission periodically suggests certain ways and methods of sharing the resources between the States and the Centre.

But that is not adequate. I agree with our friend from Kerala, Shri Chennithala that the income of the country should be shared on the basis of population, unless this is done the States which are not fully developed will continue to suffer.

Sir, there is a growing apprehension after the introduction of the new industrial policy and the so-called globalisation of our economy and privatisation of our industries and other resources. Now, there is a feeling that the regional imbalance will grow because when we look at the pattern of development or the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the foreign firms and various State Governments, we find that the large areas of the country are being totally neglected. The North East States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and others are totally neglected. There is hardly any inflow of capital in this area therefore, the already unbalanced economy of the region will be aggravated and social tension will grow. Therefore, Sir, I would plead with the Government that a more workable formula, a more reasonable formula and a more rational formula should be evolved so that proper devolution of financial powers and resources can be achieved at.

Sir, in this context, I would also recommend that there is a need for a fresh look at the corporation tax. Now there is no share of States in the corporate tax. When the Scheme of things was devised, there was not much income from corporation tax. But gradually this has increased and now there is need for amending Article 287 of the Constitution. The Sarkaria Commission had also recommended that this should be done. Actually, the Eighth Finance Commission itself had recommended that States should receive proper share in Corporation Tax and that the Constitution should be suitable amended for this purpose. This was followed up by the Sarkaria Commission and it has clearly stated that we recommend (page 274, vol. II)

"that by an appropriate amendment of the Constitution the net proceeds of the corporation tax may be made permissively sharable with the States if and as Parliament may by law so provide. This would have the advantage of enlarging the base of devolution so that in the revenues of the States there would be greater stability and predictability in future. Further, being a static resource the States would also benefit from its growth"

Sir, I recommend that this recommendation of the Sarkaria Commission should be considered seriously because we have seen how there is unrest in North-East, how there is unrest in Jammu and Kashmir. Apart from other problems, the problems of economic growth, unemployment and the problem arising out of regional imbalance have aggravated the secessionist tendency in that area. It is also there in North East and we hope that this would not spread in the country as a whole.

Now there are States who suffer from natural calamities

like flood. My State of Bihar is affected by flood from Nepal every year.

When there is a heavy rain in the Himalayas in Nepal, There is flood in North Bihar and it washes away not only the resources, by it affects the crops, it destroys the houses, roads and other infrastructural things. We have no control on it. Unless there is a cordial relationship between the two countries and certain positive measures are taken at the highest level between the two countries, the flood situation in North Bihar or Eastern U.P. cannot be controlled because the water comes from Nepal, from across the international border. Now, how would a poor State meet the expenditure, the losses suffered by the farmers, the repairs of the roads and other infrastructural things? Therefore, in order to help the people of this area and in order to safeguard their economic interests, there should be a positive arrangement, a definite arrangement, a substantial arrangement, a financial arrangement so that these States can meet the flood situation or drought situation as and when they arise.

In sixteen districts of Bihar, the problem of extremism has taken place; it is a continuous process; hundreds of people have died: they have been killed; there is social unrest and development is down at heels. Therefore, the Centre should make permanent continuous arrangements to share resources so that these States do not suffer.

Now, Sir, in regard to the regional imbalances or the under development of these areas, I would like to strike one word of caution, that is, whatever the industrially developed States like Maharashtra, Gujarat and other States may produce, the markets are in these areas; the markets are in U.P, the markets are in these underdeveloped areas. If the people of these areas are not enabled financially, economically, they may not be in a position to buy these things and there will be recession in the country. Therefore, in order to ensure a balanced growth of our economy, in order to ensure continuous peace in the countryside, I would recommend that 73 per cent of the resources from the Excise Duty Should be shared by the States and only 25 per cent should be kept at the Centre. I would also recommend that steps should be taken to amend Article 287 so that the States do receive a substantial share from the Corporation Tax as well.

With these words, I do support this Bill. It is a good beginning: it is a small beginning. I would expect the Government to take all aspects of the development of the country into consideration and be generous to the States. The States should not be at the receiving end. They should be considered as real partners, equal partners in the progress of the country.

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY (HOWRAH) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, the two Bills – Union Duties of Excise (Distribution) Amendment Bill and Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance) Amendment Bill-arise out of the

recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission. Like the previous nine Finance Commissions, the Tenth Finance commission also looked into the problems and prospects of the federal finance which concerns the division of power between the Union and the State in respect of raising and disbursing of public funds: the provision for proceeds of certain taxes namely, Union Income Tax Central Excise etc., between the Union Government and the State Governments and grants to States in need of assistance. Besides this, there are other sources of finance like the discretionary transfers and transfers by the Planning Commission.

Now, Sir in the Tenth Finance Commission, the States share of Income Tax has come down from 80 per cent to 77.5 per cent. But the Finance Commission told that with the share of the Union Excise Duty going up from 45 per cent to 47.5 per cent, the States would be better off than before.

But the fact is that the decision to reduce the States share of Income tax will affect particularly States like West Bengal. Already the facts in this regard have been brought before the Central Ministry by the State Government of West Bengal.

Secondly, along with States, West Bengal's share of union excise revenue has been reduced from 45 to 40 per cent. West Bengal will also stop receiving plan deficit grant, a concept which was introduced by the Ninth Finance Commission. While West Bengal has been deprived, some other States will continue to receive the benefit.

Thirdly, about the benefit of additional excise duties, some States specially the States belonging to Eastern India will be deprived. But the percentage share of States like Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and West Bengal will be reduced while the share of some of the States which are not in deficit, which are not weak, will increase. This is the discrimination which I oppose.

There are general complaints by the States that the Tenth Finance Commission devolutions to the States are not based on transparent criterion as it has adopted a gap filling approach. There is no holistic approach. Besides the Tenth Finance Commission recommendations lack horizontal and vertical balances.

Fourthly, the needs of the States have been assessed unilaterally by the Central Government. Even the Parliament was not taken into consideration and the opinion of the States was not also sought and the case was not taken up in the meeting of the National Development Council. Even though the National Development Council comes out concerned with the suggestions and unanimous recommendations, that also is not reflected in the recommendations of the Finance Commission. That is the history of the Finance Commission, That is also the fact in regard to the 10th Finance Commission. The case of the backward States has not received due consideration.

As regards the form and content of the terms of reference, they are already set by the Central Government.

So far as the form is concerned, dictation of guidelines by the Centre in the terms of reference is against Clause (4) of Article 280 of the Constitution of India which states that:

"The Commission shall determine its own procedure".

But in this case, guidelines have become a directive. This pre-emptive directive based centralisation is then followed by a tendency on the part of the Government of India to centralise economic powers.

Then there has been a declaration of adoption of a normative approach in assessing the expenditure and receipts of the States. But declaration has not been followed up by any precise communication with the States as to what these norms should be. This is again set up by the Central Government unilaterally.

By all this I mean to say that this growing centralism is not going to benefit our country in any way and because of this growing centralism, there is a protest from the States and a sense of alienation is being developed. The Government should take care of these things. I would request the Hon. Minister to take care of it.

Further, there has been in the terms of reference an adoption of double standard. While, in assessing the expenditure of the Centre, the committed expenditure of the Centre and its liabilities have been taken care of while those of the States have been ignored.

15.00 Hrs.

This sort of double standard should not continue. In this context, may I ask why there is delay by the Central Government to take necessary action to implement the Consignment Tax although a unanimous decision of the Chief Minister in this regard has been talked about nine years back followed by constitutional amendment and also safeguard considerations to protect the interests of the States not so industrially developed.

Yet another instance of lingering fiscal injustice to the State relates to the exclusion of Corporation Tax and such other Income Tax from the purview of the divisible pool of Income Tax. Again, in this case also, there is a unanimous recommendation of the NDC. Again, this Commission, like the previous ones, remains unjustifiably silent over the unfairness involved in the recent practice of the Central Government of raising additional revenue through administered price hikes while the States cannot.

15.01 Hrs.

[PROF. RITA VERMA in the Chair]

The Centre, of its own, through the administered price mechanism, can raise its revenue but the States are being deprived of that. This is to be seen in the background of the fact that certain fiscal burden, certain fiscal responsibility have been fixed upon the States. The States' responsibilities are growing, gradually expanding and again the taxes that are imposed by the States are not so much elastic. You cannot think of raising revenue from land because of the

composition of the land, because of the composition of the farmers in our country. So, the States cannot depend upon these things while on the one hand you deprive the States of their revenue, you concentrate power in your hands through the recommendations of the Finance Commission and you do not look to the needs of the State. It is in this background that I would like to give certain suggestions. Partly because of the existence of the Planning Commission and partly due to the practice of the Finance Commissions themselves, the scope of the Finance Commission gets restricted to merely assessing and covering the non-Plan revenue gap of each State. What I want is first, to enlarge the scope of the Finance Commission so that it can take into account both the capital and revenue Budget separately and together. This will, no doubt, require some delineation of the functions of and coordination between the Planning Commission and the Finance Commission. But this holistic approach is needed.

My second suggestion is the entire inter-gross tax revenue of the Centre be constituted as divisible pool. Thirdly, we have to re-arrange the weightage of the different components of the criteria. For example, while the Finance Commissions estimate the total requirements of States on the basis of revenue gaps, the distribution of shared taxes among the States is not done on this basis. Thirdly, you have to provide more for maintaining regional balance. Fourthly, you have to compensate for price rise because the States are not responsible for this price rise. It is because of your economic policy that the prices of essential commodities are rising gradually. So, the States cannot cope with it. But there are demands for increase in Dearness Allowance; There are demands for increase in salaries and wages. So, the States should be compensated. Next, progressivity in the distributive formula is to be taken up. Implied in this is the idea that development profile can be so arranged that growth and reduction in the regional disparities can take place simultaneously.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (SURAT) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to express my views on the Amendment Bill, brought in the House to change the structure of the present excise duty and additional excise duty, keeping in view the recommendations of the 10th Finance Commission. Though these Bills are very simple but very important also because all the States have been demanding that for the development of the States. They need more financial resources and the Central Government should give more financial aid to them. Not only this, many States have been demanding for economic sovereignty also. The Government has done a good thing by bringing this Bill to implement the recommendations of the Finance Commission because the share of the States will go up to some extent and provision to this effect have been made in this Bill.

As just now my friend has said that many major points have been mentioned in the report of the Finance Commission, I will not be able to mention all those points in such a short time but if all those points are discussed in the

House then it will not only be in the interest of the Central Government but it will definitely be proved good for the progress and development of the nation. I hope that the Government will think in this direction. The Finance Commission has fixed some norms for the share to be given to the States, whether these are based on the population or on the backwardness of the State. Besides it we will have to think in a different manner to give more share to the States. The reason is that the revenue collected as excise duty or additional excise duty have to be utilised for the welfare of the nation. Gradually economic centralisation is taking place. The States are not able to implement their development schemes properly because of the present tax structure. It directly affect the trade and industries of the States. The Central Government imposes excise duty or additional excise duty on those resources from where the State Government can amass money by exploiting the resources for its development. Therefore, my submission is that the share given to the States is not sufficient and efforts should be made to increase it otherwise the States will ask for economic Sovereignty. Therefore, it will be better if keeping in view the backwardness of the States, their share is increased sufficiently.

Besides it, I would like to submit that the way we collect the resources in the Centre, through excise duty or through other means, it seems many a times that by levelling excise duty, we do not merely do injustice with the States but also run the industries and employment there. We do not bother whether the business or industry will flourish with it or not.

I belong to Gujarat. I have expressed my concerns several time to the Government over the way the additional excise duty and excise duty are recovered. It adversely affects the business and sometimes leads to the closure of factories. In this way, the Central Government imposes heavy additional excise duty on the small cottage and home industries to generate its resources.

I would like to submit one more thing that a concession was given in excise duty in the budget. This concession was given on the yarn and it was said by the Government that the benefits of this concession must reach the weavers but it has not been passed on to them till date. Later on also the Government warned that if the benefits of concession are not passed on to the weavers, it would be withdrawn, or revoked but till now it has not been revoked. This concession has benefited big spinners only the Government has not been able to do anything for the benefit of the smaller weavers.

Madam, on one hand we talk about giving resources to the States and on the other hand we impose additional excise duty on small and village industries. When much hue and cry was raised, the Government issued a fresh notification in this regard but that also could not benefit the small weavers. Only the big spinners got the benefit of it. Today the States are demanding economic sovereignty. If

concession in excise duty will be given to the big industries then it will lead to regional imbalance and in future it will create some other complicated problems.

Madam, when I am saying so, being a Gujarati, I would like to say something about my State also. It is there in the mind of the Government that Gujarat and Maharashtra are giant industrial States, but I would like to submit that only 1/5th part of Gujarat is developed and rest is undeveloped area. Therefore, the Government should not keep this thing in mind that these being the developed States, should not be given their due share. It should not be done and the backward population should also be kept in mind.

Madam, my submission is that whenever we setup Finance Commission and fix the terms and references, we should make it clear on which industries the excise duty is to be imposed. It is not good to recover money through modvat or through any other means from the small industries. We must recover taxes according to the capacity of a particular industry. It is good that through this Bill, the States are likely to get more shares. We appreciate it but in addition to it I would like to submit that more money should be given to the States. We will have to ponder over the say we recover the excise duty so that it may not put any additional burden on the States and take away the economic resources of the States. The Government should ponder over seriously on whatever has happened in this regard till date.

Madam, my submission is that stern action should be taken if the budget concessions do not reach the persons from whom it was given. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Union Duties of Excise (Distribution) Amendment Bill and the Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of special importance) Amendment Bill, 1995 brought before the House because the Tenth Finance Commission vide its recommendations have recognised the internal resources of the states as the basis. The allocation will be made on the basis of additional duty imposed on internal resources by the Central Government after abolishing the state sales tax on sugar, tobacco, woollen fabrics, man-made fabrics etc. under the Act of 1957. The backward states and the people living below the poverty line will suffer a lot on account to the allocation fixed by the Centre under this Bill. It is being fixed on the basis of internal resources rather than on the basis of need, population, poverty, backwardness etc. States like Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh will not be benefited by this Bill at all. This will increase the regional imbalance which is fraught with the danger of disintegration of the country. The agitations going on in the borders areas of the country against regional imbalance today – be it Uttrakhand or Jharkhand – are a set back to national integrity. The biggest problem confronting the country today is that of regional

imbalance I am afraid that this Bill will further deepen the crisis. I Therefore oppose it.

The landscape of Bihar with a population of 10 crore has a network of rivers. The rivers flowing from Nepal damage the whole infrastructure. The states of Assam, Orissa and West Bengal remain inundated in flood waters for six months a year. Such areas have not been taken care of in this Bill. The abominable situation of traffic in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and electricity in Bihar prompt the labour class to migrate to other states.

There are no employment opportunities in Bihar. Floods cause devastation to crops and as such, there is no scope of reaping the harvest. Therefore, the farm labourers are migrating from Bihar to other states like Punjab, Haryana, Delhi etc., there is also exploitation of Labour in Bihar and the local labourers and those of eastern Uttar Pradesh are subjected to this exploitation on a large scale. Therefore, migration has become a national problem. More than 11 lakh labourers have since migrated. It puts an adverse affect on agriculture as well. That is why I talked of backwardness. The banking system prevalent in Bihar can be assessed by glancing through the C.D. ratio. The Reserve Bank of India guidelines are not being followed. The revenues mobilised in Bihar are spent in other states and big cities. How much of the deposits is being invested in the State. Forty per cent funds earmarked for Agriculture sector should positively be utilized. It is not being done. This will make the backward states further backward. Therefore, I oppose it. This Bill is not going to ameliorate the lot of backward states. Besides C.D. ratio, one can also assess the situation of mineral wealth. Bihar alone produces 40 per cent of coal in the country but despite being rich in mineral wealth, Bihar is an impecunious state. Hence, I said that the backward states are not going to benefit from this Bill and it will be very harmful to make allocations on the basis of internal resources as recommended by the 10th Finance Commission. It should be on Physical basis like the states where people live below poverty line. This Bill is not going to benefit the states like Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. This will give further impetus to regional imbalance. In my opinion the country cannot become strong without the development of Bihar. There cannot be strong centre in the absence of developed and progressive eastern Uttar Pradesh and backward states. Therefore in order to build a strong Centre the all round development of these backward states should be duly considered. I oppose it because the rising regional imbalances will further deepen the national crises and national problems. There should be no regional imbalance and backwardness of a state rather than internal resources as enumerated in the 10th Finance Commission Report should form the basis of allocation. That is the basic question. These states cannot make progress unless this basis is changed altogether. This Bill does not safeguard the interests of states like Bihar, U.P. M.P. Orissa and Rajasthan where the internal

resources are meagre. Therefore, I vehemently oppose it. The Government should ring forward a comprehensive Bill in its place keeping in mind the wholesome interests of Bihar, U.P. M.P. Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal. This Bill will draw a line and create a gulf of regional imbalance and further impoverish the poor states. Therefore, I oppose this Bill.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (JAHANABAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my views on the two Bills being debated in the House.

The first and foremost thing is that with the passage of these two Bills the Centre will collect revenues. Then 40 per cent of the collections will be allocated to the states. India is a federation and there are many backward states from economic, social and educational points of view. There is a strong undercurrent of discontentment among the very backward states and the centre is bearing the repercussions thereof. The Government is spending a large amount of money in the name of security and maintenance of law and order but it is turning a blind eye to the states development. Had the requisite development of the state taken place so far there would have been no need of spending money on security and law and order. The Centre is resorting to a step motherly treatment. There has been more development in some states and less in others. As a result of this, we have to witness such a situation.

So far as Bihar is concerned, I would like to say that despite being a mineral rich state, it is a backward state. Why is it so? The separatist tendencies are fast gaining ground in this state. The newspaper reports reveal that murders are taking place regularly and private armies are being raised. What are the reasons of this discontentment? Recently the union Welfare Minister visited a village and distributed Rs. 25-50 lakh. Disbursement of Rs. 50 lakh is not going to solve the problem. We shall have to go into the root cause of the problem. The Government should have considered the diverse socio-politico-economic situation of every state. Had it done so, there would have been no need of constituting the Jharkhand Council Like Jharkhand, some areas of Uttar Pradesh are also demanding the formation of a separate state not because a particular person has occupied the office of a Minister or the Chief Minister but because these are very backward areas, so much so that the local women go the work with their 4-6 months old infants having them tied to their backs. Their demand for a separate state is the direct fall out of their backwardness. There should be equitable allocation of revenues on the basis of backwardness, population percentage of literacy etc. of the states rather than equal allocation of 40 per cent to each and every state. Equal allocation of 40 per cent will help the states which are already sound economically to strengthen their position but what will be the situation of other states? Here, I would like to submit that the Centre exploits all the sources of

revenues to collect money but the states with their limited resources are not able to fulfil their ever-increasing obligations and responsibilities of undertaking developmental works and cannot progress in the absence of funds which are lying in the Centre's custody. Therefore, I say that Bihar is a backward state the whole resources whereof are being exploited by the centre without paying any royalty to the state and the Centre does not give its due share. In such a situation this Bill providing for equal distribution will give no benefit to Bihar. Therefore, I emphasize that the Government should carefully go through the recommendations of the 10th Finance Commission which ask for giving due consideration to the backward states running in losses while allocating funds.

The census data of 1971-72 and 1990-91 are available with the Government on the basis of which it should provide assistance and give more funds to the backward states so that they can improve their situation and eliminate separatism and militancy for good. Therefore, I would reiterate my suggestion that more and more efforts should be made to improve the lot of economically and educationally backward states so that separatist and insurgent tendencies are checked effectively. With this, I Conclude.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the debate on this Bill. I associated myself with the feelings expressed by my friend, Devendra Yadav ji just now because backwardness of the states is the greatest challenge to the country's unity. The Government of India pays little attention to the prevalent imbalance among states which has given rise to regionalism that poses a challenge to the national unity. In keeping with the recommendations of the Finance Commission. This Bill has come before the House with the support of all the parties. In this regard, I have to say that in order to augment the financial resources of the states the whole share of the excise duty collected by the Central Government should be given to the States after deducting the administrative expenses incurred for the purpose. The Bill provides for grants of 47.5 per cent to the states. The Finance Commission has made suggestions for revenue collection and to allocate 47.5 per cent of excise duty to the state – 40 per cent share directly and 7.5 per cent to the backward states. One more dimension has been added to it. There was a loud drumbeat of formation of local bodies after making the Constitutional provision for them. There is paucity of funds in local bodies today and these are given step-motherly treatment by the State Governments. The Government has given Constitutional status to the local bodies but it should also provide funds for their development maintenance and for maintaining their independent status.

Then, the state Government is entitled to 80 per cent share of the Income tax but if the head quarter of that

institution is situated in Delhi, Bombay or Calcutta and the balance sheet is prepared there, then the share of the income tax or excise duty will go to the state in which the balance sheet is prepared rather than to the state where the industry is located. In this regard, a clear-cut provision should be made to the effect that the share of income tax and excise duty will go to the state where that industry has been set up no matter whether the head office is situated in a metropolitan city.

I would also like to mention one more thing that sales tax is the main source of income for states. But Central Government has taken a major part of sales tax in its account through excise duty by enacting a law in 1957. The rate of sales tax is different in various States which encourages smuggling in States. It has been a long pending demand that there should be balance in rate of sales tax in various States. Sales tax should be determined on national level but you are unable to do that. Therefore several States have launched an agitation to remove sales tax. In 1977 the election manifesto of Janta Party revealed that provision of sales tax should be replaced by excise duty. I suggest you to abolish sales tax and levy excise duty on all goods and the amount of total excise duty after deducting the administrative expenditure should be given to States.

New Financial policy including so called new policies have been introduced in the country and many goods have been exempted from excise duty. As a result this provision encouraged cheating whereas its objectives was to develop small scale industries. Several medium scale industries are declaring them small scale industries. It has developed a new practice of excise duty evasion in various States. Central Government should pay attention towards it.

I would also like to say that there is need to adopt stringent measures to bring financial discipline in States. State Government are continuously incurring deficit and financial mismanagement is going on there. The main reason for it is that financial mismanagement is going on in Central Government also. There is no financial discipline in Centre. A large amount is being spent on security arrangements for political leaders and on treatment of Ministers Today it seems that Cabinet has become the nursing home of politicians. Whenever a political leader from Congress falls ill, Hon. Narsimha Rao Ji includes him in the Cabinet. I have not found anywhere in the world that one person is appointed Minister just for availing the facility of medical treatment without holding any portfolio for any department for the last 2 years.

I think that it is really difficult to hope from such a Government that it will introduce financial discipline in the country. Most of the Ministers in this Government are either heart patient and those who are healthy.... (*Interruption*)** Besides those no other person are in the Government. So

** Not recorded.

it is really difficult to expect from the Government to maintain financial discipline in the country. I would like to make a suggestion that Government of India should maintain financial discipline itself and in State Governments so that resources can be mobilized to take up developmental work in the States. With this suggestion I Conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The remark about Naina should be expunged from the proceedings.

SHRIMATI SANTOSH CHOWDHARY (PHILLAUR) : The ramark made by the Member just now should be expunged from the proceedings.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It has been expunged.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : Hon. Madam Chairman, through you I partially support the Union Duties of Excise (Distribution) Amendment Bill and Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of special Importance) Amendment Bill, 1995 moved by the Government because something is better than nothing "Akamatamared Karmam Shreyah". It shows that the Government has taken some steps to implement the recommendations made by the Finance Commission. I Therefore support this Bill partially. But Sir through you I would like to say that today Central Government as considers itself as a donor and takes State Government as a beggar. Therefore the Chief Minister and Finance Minister of States have to consult Planning Commission or the Prime Minister every now the then for financial matters. Sometimes they behave in high handedness and arbitrary manner especially in financial matters. Madam, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the historical period when the king used to collect the taxes as the sun collects water from the earth through its rays in form of clouds but as we all know that through rains these clouds return the water in manifolds to nourish the earth. In the same way the Government should levy excise duty and other taxes but this fund should not be kept with themselves. It has been said that "Mukhia Mukh so Chahiye, Khan Paan Ko Ek" Pale Pose Sakal Aang which means that ruling class should function like a mouth. Here 'Khan Paan' does not mean corruption, brokership, or banks scams. A person has only one mouth to eat but mouth does not nourish only stomach but the whole body. It is the duty of Central Government to levy taxes, excise tax etc. but it should distribute the justified share of States so that they could make all round development. What the States have been forced to demand self reliance in financial matters. Why such situation has been created in the country. The only reason for it is that Central Government has kept ignoring the recommendations made by the Finance Commission and dominated all the sources of income and kept on curtailing the financial rights of State Governments.

These days Congress Party is enumerating its achievements of last four years through advertisements in

newspapers that they brought 73rd and 74th amendments, provided representation to women. It is a good thing and we all supported it .

Madam, in the name of financial rights a problem has arisen before the State Governments regarding distribution of financial rights among 'Gram Panchayat' ' Panchayat Committees' Municipal Corporation and Municipal Council. States have constituted Finance Commission because the Bill had provision that every State will constitute its separate Finance Commission and 'Panchayats' , 'Zilaparishads' 'Panchayat Committees' and Municipal Councils will have its share in that. But how much share out of it will be given to Centre and States? Chanakya had said that an administration which imposes heavy and several kinds of taxes is not a good administration. This Government has imposed excise duty on almost all goods but it has not cared that its benefit reaches to public. Minister of State in the Ministry of FINANCE is sitting here, Madam through you I would like to remind the Government that during the speech on the Union Budget, several annoucements were made regarding reduction in excise duty on several goods but whether the Government has made any efforts to check that its benefits have reached to consumers. In the market printed prices are being charged from the consumers which were printed earlier. Crores of rupees of excise duty are deposited with the Government. I would like to know that now, how the funds collected through excise duty are being utilised. . . (Interruption) Madam. I Seek you protection. Please ring the bell slowly. I would like to make 2-3 more points.

The Criteria adopted by the the Finance Commission to declare a State backward is not clear. The recommendation made by the Ninth Finance Commission and decision of distributing 47.5 per cent is just as a drop in the ocean. Whenever a meeting of National Developmental Council or meeting of chief Ministers of various States is convened by Planning Commission discussions on big projects, schemes and their comprehensive drafts are held but when the issue regarding allocation of funds is discussed, Finance Minister go on a foreign trip on pretext of economic liberalisation. Today we are in a debt trap. There should be an open debate on the recommendations made by Finance Commission so that elected representatives of public could put up the real situation of States before the public Finance Commission is a constitutional institution. The Government is bound to implement its recommendations what does the criteria of backwardness denotes social, economic , industrial educational or natural backwardness. Criteria of backwardness should be clear. Sometimes census of 1971 and sometimes census of 1991 is considered a base for it. The population of the country is increasing continuously. Production is increasing with a speed of 1-2-3-4-5-6-7 whereas the population of the country is increasing as per

2-4-8-16-32-64-128. It is creating imbalance Backwardness in the states should be removed on the basis of present census.

I would like to cite an example of Rajasthan. It has Aravali range and Thar desert and on the other side it experiences famine and floods and it affects the budget of States. When Chief Minister of States request Central Government for sending a survey team to conduct survey Centre reply that it has no extra money as share of the States have already been given. Therefore the government should stop the decentralisation system in financial matters and Sarkaria Commission has already recommended that States should be given maximum autonomy. On this basis Finance Commission has made recommendation that from 1995-96 to 1999-2000 the Government should distribute Rs. 19986 crore to be collected as excise duty. Now from 1995-96 to 1999-2000 the additional excise duty Rs. 19986 crore and Rs. 1,21,692 crore of union duties of excise should be distributed according to this formula. Sir, there should not be hard and fast rule for it that one should create a concrete wall which cannot be crossed. There should be some flexibility because no one know about the natural calamities like attack by Locust which destroy the whole crop, heavy rain and famine in various States. Since the budget of India depends upon monsoon therefore flexibility and sensitivity should be adopted while distributing union excise duty.

Madam, chairman, Rajasthan is the second biggest State in the Country. And it has strange geographical conditions. In some States developmental work have been undertaken during the British regime but Rajasthan was a Princely State and there was dual administration so it was not developed as desired. After merger of princely States, developmental work are being undertaken there Centre can provide resources for this developmental work. Therefore Centre is requested to provide funds in accordance with the formula of equal distribution. Proper criteria should be adopted for assessment backwardness.

Madam, Chairman, Rajasthan is a mineral producing State it should be given its share in royalty. Bihar should also be given its share as it produces coal. Gujarat produces oil and gas, so it should be given its share likewise Maharashtra should also get its share. It should be considered keeping in view the aforesaid facts. I would like to submit through you Madam that this arrangement should not be like a drop in the ocean or back to square one. There should be some revolutionary changes. It will strengthen Centre as well as States. The country will become prosper and demands of the people will be fulfilled if States are given economic and democratic autonomy. I hope the Government will pay attention on my suggestions.

(English)

SHRI BRIJ KISHORE TRIPATHY (PURI) : Madam, Chairperson, I rise to oppose both the Bills. It is because

the intention of these Bills is to enlarge the regional imbalances. The recommendation of the Tenth Finance Commission in regard to the distribution of both Union Duties and Additional Duties of Excise are not met judiciously. The devolution formula for distribution of Excise Duty is very much defective and backwardness is also not correctly defined or assessed. The definition of backwards as has been defined by the Finance Commission is not at all helpful for the backward States. So, it should be redefined and the Government should take a correct decision as to how the backwardness should be assessed and how the backwardness should be defined.

Madam, this has also been resulted in enlargement of regional imbalances in the country. The backward State like Orissa had not only been deprived of its due share from the Centre but it had also suffered with injustice in the hands of the Tenth Finance Commission, in comparison to Ninth Finance Commission. Although most of the industrial houses of Orissa are using raw materials of the State. They are opening their Corporate Offices in different metropolitan cities. Because of this, the State is losing a considerable amount of Central revenue. This should have been taken into account by the Finance Commission. The Government of India should also make an enactment in this regard as to how the backward States having their industries in their own States and their Corporate Offices in the metropolitan cities should be benefited by this enactment. The Government should think in this way also.

Madam, I would also like to draw the attention of the Hon. Finance Minister to some of the other aspects of the Central revenue which are not coming under the purview of this Bill. The States like Orissa is losing considerable amount of money. This is regarding the royalty on minerals. The Planning Commission and the Finance Commission are chastising the underdeveloped States like Orissa because of their inability to raise adequate resources for their needs. But the Centre on the other hand is ushering into the areas of revenue of the States where it does not have the right to enter. One of such areas of revenue of the underdeveloped States is royalty on minerals where the Central Government not only intruded into the proprietary rights of the States concerned on their respective mineral bearing land but is also in the habit of dragging its feet in respect to timely and judicious assessment of royalty.

This should not have happened because as far as our Constitution is concerned, land belongs to the States but the mineral that is under the land belongs to the Central Government. This is done definitely just to exploit the underdeveloped States. This enactment has been done by the Central Government with an intention to exploit the backward States. So far our Constitution is concerned if the land belongs to the Central Government? so, this enactment is depriving the underdeveloped States to use their minerals and to get their due share, so far as the Central revenue is concerned.

So far as the investment by the nationalised banks are concerned, it is seen that investment are done in developed States and the backward States are deprived of the benefit of using the resources of the nationalised banks. The Government should take the initiative and the guidelines of the RBI should be strictly observed with regard to the investments of the nationalised banks in the backward States. Madam, I am giving you another example regarding calamity relief fund. Under the Ninth Finance Commission's recommendations, our State i.e. Orissa was getting about Rs. 47 crore, whereas under the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission we are not getting the due share in comparison to other States. Although this does not come under the purview of this Bill, I would request the Hon. Finance Minister to consider all these aspects so that the backward States like Orissa which remained backward since Independence, though they are rich in mineral resources get sufficient financial assistance from the Central Government in order to remove their backwardness. These backward States like Orissa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and North-Eastern States should be treated as Special Category States so that they will be able to get better financial assistance from the Central Government in order to maintain parity by which the entire country will feel that they are getting due share and due justice from the Central Government.

With these words I again oppose this Bill and I hope the Government of India will consider the demands of Orissa and other States. The last Assembly of the Orissa State was also very much agitated on this issue. The Hon. Minister should accept these demands of the state because the same party is in power in Orissa. The Orissa Government is also agitated because the Tenth Finance Commission has not taken into consideration all these aspects and the recommendation of the Tenth Finance Commission have deprived the due share of the State. So, I hope the Hon. Minister and the Government of India would reconsider these things taking into account all these facts.

16.00 hrs

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (BOMBAY SOUTH CENTRAL): Madam Chairperson, the Tenth Finance Commission has also treated Maharashtra as the Ninth Finance Commission treated it in regard to allocation of funds. The revenue of several thousands of crores of rupees is earned in Maharashtra state. Several problems are there due to increase in population but the Finance Commission has not given due consideration to them and allotted more funds to other states comparatively. The budget allocation in respect of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh has been increased by 1.29%, 1.833% and 1.066% respectively. But in case of Maharashtra budget allocation has been increased by 0.941 per cent only which is less

than even one per cent whereas the Government of Maharashtra earns the maximum revenue in the Country. so I request the govt. that this amount should be increased to 15 percent. Is the govt of Maharashtra being considered as a inilching cow which should not be given anything to eat? But the Government should understand the fact that if a cow stops giving milk, we can not get milk by torturing her.

Madam Chair person, I would like to state that once I asked a question and the reply was given that revenue of rupees 17,944 crores per year is earned in Bombay city alone. But only 9 crore rupees were allotted to Bombay city two years back. The population of Bombay is increasing rapidly. One thousand people are coming every day in this city due to which problems of water shortage, slums and housing are arising. Drainage system has deteriorated. So I request the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, who is sitting here that due consideration should also be given to Bombay city alongwith the state of Maharashtra. The state from which you are getting huge amount of revenue, should be provided maximum facilities.

Madam Chair person, I live in a Chal which can collapse at any time. There are so many buildings in Bombay city which are called chals and they can collapse at any time. These chals are very old. Arrangements should be made for their repair and renovation. In the end, I would like to request that the allotment of funds to Maharashtra and Bombay city may be enhanced.

16.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (PUNE) : Respected Madam, instead of talking generally on these two Bills, I have already discussed some points with the Minister and how the total share of Maharashtra has been reduced by due to the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission, than what it would have been, if the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission could have been taken.

Madam, in income-tax, the Ninth Finance Commission has suggested a total percentage of 8.181 for Maharashtra while the Tenth Finance Commission has recommended a percentage of 6.126.

Because of this, the allotment of income-tax of Maharashtra will be reduced by Rs. 1,296.1 crore for the five-year period, that is, 1995-2000.

16.05 hrs.

(SHRIMATI SANTOSH CHOWDHARY *in the chair*) In the case of railway compensation this reduction is by Rs.96.646 crore and, therefore, though the Plans are there as my friend Shri Rawale has said, more and more expectations are there from the Finance Ministry. So, we have suggested to the Tenth Finance Commission that they may reduce to 77.5 per cent. We are ready to accept less than that but then we should be given 20 per cent from the

not been accepted.

The total revenue by way of income-tax which the Central Government is getting from Maharashtra and Bombay is nearly 27 per cent of the total income-tax that is collected. But we are getting only three per cent of that. Therefore, the burden of collection, the burden of payment and the burden of responsibilities, that is more on Maharashtra, especially on Bombay.

As he has said, now Bombay does not belong to Maharashtra from the point of view of the persons who are coming daily to Maharashtra and especially to Bombay. They are from various parts of the country or various provinces, from various walks of life and all of them work in the local Government. We have to provide for their primary services and, therefore, for that from where should we bring the money? At least the Central Government should have given whatever it has given for the last five years. Generally, every year there is an increase in the income everywhere. So, accordingly, our share also should be increased. It is not important how you calculate it. Somewhere it is less. Somewhere it is reduced and somewhere else it is increased. It is all right. But what should be the total effect?

The Tenth Finance Commission or the Government should have thought over it that at least they should make such recommendations by which at least the amount which we were getting for the past period of five years from 1990 to 1995 is not reduced. So, when the allotment is going on first the Government should decide the total share of a particular province. I am seeking this help for every province whether it is Bihar, Uttar Pradesh or Madhya Pradesh, or any province. Whatever they are getting that must be increased. At least it should not be reduced.

Here, in the case of Maharashtra the income has increased. But on the contrary, the Government has reduced our share by Rs.4000 crore and therefore, I once again appeal that looking at the requirements of Maharashtra, especially of Bombay and the responsibilities the nation showered on this big city, the share should be increased. At least the difference between the two should be reduced; whatever we were getting for the last five years, that should be given to us. But it should not be reduced so drastically. That will harm all our on-going projects of development and for that matter if that is the percentage given, our development will be stopped. Therefore, I appeal to the Hon. Minister for that.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : Madam, I thank all the Hon. Members who have participated in the discussion. They have given very valuable suggestion also.

I wish to inform the Hon. Member that the Tenth Finance Commission is a constitutional and high powered body. While laying the principles of distribution in both the Union Excise Duties and Additional Excise Duties, they have laid down some principles. The main criterion for that is the population and backwardness of the State. While deciding the shares to the State, the Tenth Finance Commission has taken into account their backwardness, population, infrastructure and per capita income in the State. Accordingly, they have decided these shares to the States.

Many Hon. Members have suggested that a discussion should be allowed on the Tenth Finance Commission's Report. I wish to inform that Article 281 of the Constitution stipulates that the recommendation of the Tenth Finance Commission along with an explanatory memorandum as to the action taken thereon by the Government are to be laid on the Table of the Parliament.

Many Hon. Members, who have participated in the debate, are worried about the Calamity Relief Fund. They wanted some criterion to be decided about the distribution of Calamity Relief Fund to the State. The Tenth Finance Commission has taken into account the average of the aggregate of ceilings of expenditure for the calamity for the years 1983-84 to 1989-90 and the calamity Relief Fund for the years 1990-91 and 1992-93. This is the criterion and the formula they have adopted in fixing the Calamity Relief Fund.

Many Hon. Members have said that the share to their particular States have come down. The Ninth Finance Commission has recommended for devolution of 37.5 per cent of the excise duty for all the State whereas the Tenth Finance Commission has recommended devolution of 40 per cent to all the State and the balance is for revenue deficit States which was 7.25 per cent as given by the Ninth Finance Commission and now it is 7.5 per cent as given by the Tenth Finance Commission. I wish to inform the Hon. Members that there has been an overall increase in the share of the States in the Tenth Finance Commission over the Ninth Finance Commission.

Many Hon. Members who have participated in the debate, have raised the point regarding devolution of corporation tax. This was discussed in various forums. Even the Finance Commission has recommended an alternate share of devolution for the States. I wish to inform the Hon. Members that this will be considered by the Government of India.

Some Hon. Members wanted to know whether there was any scope for changing or redefining the functions of the Finance Commission. I wish to inform the Hon. Members that at present there is no such proposal.

I appeal to all the Members to support the Bill. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (CUTTACK) : Madam Chairperson, the Hon. Minister has not clarified the position about the definition of 'backwardness'. The definition of 'backwardness' is the main criteria on which the devolution is taking place. If you elaborate the definition, then we can know whether the right kind of criteria have been adopted or not. The Tenth Finance Commission's recommendation is based on the population and the backwardness of a State. What does backwardness mean? Even when the per capita income of a State is the lowest, irrigation facilities are the lowest, National Highways are the lowest, infrastructure is the lowest, that State does not occupy the position which it should have automatically occupied. Therefore, we are asking the moot question as to what is the definition of 'backwardness'.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Madam, I also wish to seek a clarification and then the Hon. Minister can finally answer....*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : It is not the question of Orissa alone. If, unfortunately, Orissa is not occupying that position, then I shall explain why it should occupy that position*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI REMESH CHENNITHALA : I agree with your point, Mr. Jena, I am making another point.

Madam, there is a recommendation made by the Tenth Finance Commission for a two-fold debt relief scheme. One is for all the State and the other is for those States which are under heavy burden of debt. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government is contemplating to accept the recommendation of the Tenth Finance Commission for a two-fold relief scheme.

SHRI M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Madam, I wish to clarify the point raised by the Hon. Member, Shri Srikanta Jena. He wants to know the criteria for the backwardness. The criteria for the backwardness was discussed and agreed to by the Finance Commission, depending on the reports. They have taken into

consideration the population, the infrastructure and the per capita income of a particular State. This is the basis on which they have come to an understanding and have taken the decision. They have decided the share of the State, taking all these criteria into consideration.

SHRI SRIKANTRA JENA : If that is so, then the point is very simple, Madam. There is a serious aberration in this respect. Orissa's population of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes is forty per cent and that of Other Backward Classes, it is fifty-three per cent. So, out of hundred per cent, ninety-three per cent belongs to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and OBCs. So, Orissa is automatically a backward State. As regards the per capita income, even the Tenth Finance Commission has said the Orissa's per capita income is the lowest in the country, its infrastructure is the lowest in the country and even the Railway infrastructure is less than that of Assam. But if you see the devolution, Orissa is not getting that position. That is my point.

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : I think that appropriate reply has been given to all. It is not possible to give reply to each member separately.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune) : We do not want replies to be given separately but no one has expressed his views on Corporate Tax.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : The question of state share is very important.....*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

(SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : Madam, about the distribution of excise duty they have already laid down certain criteria and I have already said about it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : What are they?

SHRI M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : They are as follows; 20 per cent is on the basis of population of 1971; 60 per cent on the basis of distance per capita income; 5 per cent on the basis of the area adjusted; 5 per cent on the basis of index of infrastructure and 10 per cent on the basis of tax effort. These are the criteria laid down by the Finance commission which they have adopted and have given report. We only implemented it*(interruption)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. If I allow one person I have to allow all.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Madam, you have promised to give time to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is difficult. anyway I will allow you.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI : The Government of Maharashtra suggested that there is no objection for reducing the proceeds from income-tax from 85 per cent to 75 per cent provided simultaneously 20 per cent of the proceeds of the corporate tax should also be shared with the State. I want to know what happened to that request. I want to know whether the Tenth Finance Commission has considered it or not.

Secondly I have raised a very basic question that the allotment should be such that at least it should not reduce the share which they are presently getting. What happened to that point? Our share has been reduced by Rs. 400 crore(Interruption).

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Madam Chairperson, I would like to know whether the factors of population development, per capita income and backwardness which are referred by the Hon. Minister can not be reconsidered? The will of the House in this regard should be considered. The Hon. Members who have participated in this debate and expressed their views on this Bill, have emphasised on increasing regional imbalances. Can poverty not be treated as a base for this? Is this not backwardness? What is the percentage of the people living below poverty line in the states? If this has not been considered so far, this House gives them right to consider it now, on the recommendations of Finance Commission. If there is no such proposal, it should be brought immediately keeping in view our sentiments....(Interruptions).

SHRI HARCHAND SINGH (Ropar) : All the Harijans in the country are poor. What are you doing for them? All Harijans have been voting for Congress for the last 40 to 50 years.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sardar ji, our is the same question.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat) : We are also talking of poverty.

CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister you may please reply.

(Interruption)

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : The reply has not also been given to that point which I asked in my speech.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The reply to your question has also been covered under this. He has covered of all questions in his statement. Let him reply.

(Interruption)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Thousands of crores of rupees are being received from Maharashtra(Interruption).

CHAIRMAN : Your question is the same. This reply will cover your question also.

PROF.RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Madam Chairman Hon. Minister has not even mentioned those points which we have asked. He has made very brief statement.

CHAIRMAN : I feel that all the members sitting in this House are carrying out their responsibility but you cannot get reply to your questions if you become so boisterous. I am giving you time but even then you are wasting so much time.

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karol Bagh) : Sardar ji has raised the question on the plight of poor people, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who are living below the poverty line. The Government has not done anything for them during the last 47 years. This is a very important question. This is not the case of regional imbalance but this relates to the entire country. This is the question of national importance.(Interruption).

CHARIMAN : Sit down please. Why are you wasting time? You have asked your question, so please let him reply.

SHRI HARCHAND SINGH : These poor people have been voting for them for the last 50 years and they have become ministers on account of their support only...(Interruptions)

(English)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Madam, we are trying to help the hon. Minister *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARCHAND SINGH : The Tenth Finance Commission has made two recommendations about the devolution. The first one is about the population and the second one is about the backwardness. If the backward population is more in a particular State, what steps will the Government of India take to consider that State for putting it in a separate basket? The exact definition of backwardness has not been categorically stated by the Hon. Minister. We have been perpetually suffering because of this kind of attitude. Due to the new economic policy, the backward State will remain more backward and the forward State will go further forward.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Nearly one crore people are living in Bombay. Out of which 60 lakh people are living in Jhuggis. The Government earn 17944 crore rupees from Bombay but you are allotting only 50 crore rupees for Bombay. Is this amount sufficient for the development of the 60 lakh people living in jhuggis? So, my suggestion is that you should allocate 10 percent of this amount for Bombay city.

MR CHAIRMAN : Now you please listen peacefully.

(English)

SHRI M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Madam, this principle of distribution was laid down by the Finance ..

Commission. Today, we are discussing and devolving funds as per the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission. So far, the Government has accepted the reports of all the Finance Commission in to and whatever the Finance Commission has suggested in devolving of shares to the State, we are doing it. We are just implementing the report of the Finance Commission. They have laid down certain criteria for the definition of backwardness. They have taken population into consideration, infrastructure and the per capita income of the State.

I wish to inform the Hon. Members that under the Ninth Finance Commission, the State of Maharashtra was getting only Rs. 6,201 crore. Now, under the Tenth Finance Commission they are getting Rs. 13,709 crore. The State of Orissa was getting Rs. 5,523 crore earlier and under the Tenth Finance Commission they are getting Rs. 9,706.55 crore. Shri Ramesh Chennithala has raised a point about the recommendation regarding the debt position. This recommendation has been accepted by the Government of India including the debt relief scheme. So, I appeal to Hon. Members to support and pass this Bill.

MR CHAIRMAN: The question is: "That the Bill further to amend the Union Duties of Excise (Distribution) Act, 1979, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will 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.

New Clause 5 Repeal and Saving.

Amendment made:

Page 3.—

after line 28, insert—

repeal and saving " 5. (1) The Union Duties of Excise (Distribution) Amendment Ordinance 1995 is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the principal Act as amended by the said Ordinance shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the principal Act as amended by this Act."

SHRI M.V.CHANDRASHEKHR MURTHY : MR. CHAIRMAN The question is

"That new Clause 5 be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clauses 5 was added to the Bill.

MR.CHAIMAN : The question is:

"That Clause" the Enacting Formula and the long Title stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

(SHRI M.V.CHANDRA SHEKHARA MURTHY): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR.CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended , be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We shall now take up the disposal of the motion for consideration regarding Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance)Amendment Bill, 1995.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Additional Duties of Excise(Goods of Special Importance) Act, 1957, 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 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

New Clause 4 - Repeal and Saving

Amendment made:

Page 2,

after line 44, insert.

Repeal and Saving. "4.(1) The Additional duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance) Amendment Ordinance 1995 is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal , anything done or any action taken under the principal Act as amended by the said Ordinance shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the principal Act as amended by this Act."

(SHRI.M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): Mr. Chairman the question is

"That new Clause 4 be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause "The Enacting Formula and the long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bills , as amended , be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.35 hrs.

**WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL
As passed by Rajya Sabha.**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we will take up the next item. Shri P.A. Sangma to move that the Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act,1923, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.

16.35 hours.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A.SANGMA): Madam, I beg to move:

" That the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill 1995 further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 as passed by the Rajya Sabha be taken into considerationdes"

As the Hon. Member are aware, the Workmen's Compensation Act,1923 provides for payment of compensation to workmen and their families in case of employment injury including certain occupational diseases resulting in disablement or death . The Act at present applies to certain categories of railway employees and to persons employed in hazardous employment specified in Schedule-II of the Act. Schedule-II includes persons employed in factories, mines, plantations, motor-vehicles, construction work etc.

With the gradual expansion of the coverage of the ESI Scheme , the area of application of the Workmen's

compesation Act has shrunk to some extent .The coverage under the ESI Scheme is, however, restricted to factories and certain other establishment located in the notified areas. The Workmen's Compensation Act continues to prevail in the remaining areas.

The Act was last amended in 1984. Based on the recommendations of the Law Commission and suggestions received from the State Government and other Central Ministers, it is proposed to carry out the following major amendments in the Act:—

(1) The provisions of the Act are being extended to drivers, cleaners and other workmen recruited by the employers registered in India and sent for work abroad.

(2) The rates of compensation were last revised in 1984. Since then, there has been a general increase in prices. It is, therefore,proposed to enhance the amount of compensation under Section 4 as given below:-

(a) The minimum amount of compensation is being enhanced from Rs 20,000/- to Rs.50,000/- in the case of death and from Rs.24,000/- to Rs.60,000/- in the case of permanent total disablement;

(b) The rates of compensation are being enhanced from 40 per cent to 50 per cent of the monthly wage in the case of death and from 50 per cent to 60 per cent of the monthly wage multiplied by relevant factor in the case of permanent total disablement . The proposed rates are in accordance with the ILO Convention No. 121 of 1964 concerning employment injury except that the amount of compensation shall continue to be paid in lumpsum, as at present.

(c) The wage ceiling on the monthly wage for working out the maximum amount of compensation is being enhanced from Rs.1,000/- to Rs.2,000/-.

(3) In addition to the amount of compensation , a provision for payment of Rs.1,000/- towards funeral expenses of the deceased workmen is also being made.

(4) Keeping in view the problems of the poor inter-state migrant workers, a provision has been made in the Bill to facilitate filing of the claims for compensation also before the Commissioner for the area where the workmen or the dependants ordinarily reside.

The Standing Committee of Parliament on labour and Welfare has also cleared the Bill subject to certain observations/recommendations. The Government has noted them for further examination in consultation with sister Ministries after the present Bill is cleared by the House.

These are, in short, the important amendments proposed through this Bill. I hope that the Members will welcome the proposed amendments. With these words. I commend the Bill for consideration of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved:

That the Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act,

1923 , as passed by Rajya Sabha , be taken ir to consideration."

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur) : I beg to move:

"That the bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of 7 members, namely:-

1. SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR
2. SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIAY
3. SHRI MANJAY LAL
4. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD
5. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE
6. SHRI P.A. SANGMA; and
7. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES

With instruction to report by the first day of the next session."

(Translation)

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : Madam Chairperson, the resolution moved to amend the Workers Compensation Act 1923, was long due , but the persons in the Government and the Government of India are trapped in such works which do not allow them to take up the issues of public interest . This Bill is related to the people at lower rung of our society and our villagers.

The objective behind this amendment is to envisage compensation for the labourers who get injured or die in the course of their duty, regardless of whichever industry they belong to. When the Bill was passed in 1923, the Compensation amount was fixed up commensurate to that period. Mr. Minister has said that an amendment resolution with regard to compensation was moved in 1984 and now the amendment is coming in 1995 to the effect that compensation amount be raised. I understand that it is a genuine resolution.

We should discover as to what kind of labourers should be given compensation and in what circumstances. I understand that next to the kin of the deceased or injured gets a job on compassionate grounds in the undertaking where the deceased or disabled worked. They get compensation as stipulated in the Act. Hon Minister is sitting here, I want to say to him most humbly that that kind of provision is not available in the Private Company. The private companies operating in the country do not provide this type of facility to those who are killed or injured in the factories , and the provisions seen in the Government Companies, Public undertakings are not available in the

private undertakings. They get their work done on contract basis. If any labour is killed,then they argue that the said labourer was not from the company but contractor's man. If anyone of them gets injured, then they say that he is not their labour, but a contractor's man. So the contract system that has been evolved with your Ministry's approval is the most controversial system.

Our labour leader is present here and when he speaks he will speak in detail. I want to say about the contract system that wherever that system has been in vogue the labourers are exploited . If any labour dies and gets injured, then no one is answerable for this. There is a company namely Hindal of Birla Sahib in my region. There is a Conodia's Chemical Company where in addition to regular employees 10 times workers work on contract basis. They have got power house. It is your Government only which gives sanction for Power House Initially 50 megawatt electricity used to be generated and now 500 megawatts is being produced . Tehri labourers die and get injured daily and yet no law of India applies to Renu Power Company. This is because it is Birla Sahib's Company and also because people from your Government go and sit with Mr Birla. Who is there to listen to those labourers? What difference this Bill is going to make Hindal Company is there which produces Carbon. Mr.Dinanath Pandey of B.J.P. hailed from Bihar . One of his relatives used to work there, he was rendered disabled by heat of Aluminium and Carbon. He kept requesting time and again that he be transferred elsewhere but the management of Birla Company has never issued this kind of order. You have provided for compensation. With regard to profession born hazards but I want to ask from the Government of India that though time and again it is discussed that wherever industrial development took place, pollution increased and people suffered from consequent diseases. Those diseases could be included among profession born hazards. It could be said that germ of these diseases are inherent in these professions. Formulating a resolution, Act or law and diseases get eradicated as a result of that law, then I will definitely like to urge the Mr. Minister to make such laws daily. But nothing happens just by making laws. You go and see where there is Government undertaking, pollution is imminent . Their refuse fall into water and the inhabitants and labourers living around drink that water only and that is how they fall prey to the disease and slowly they die out . Nobody bothers for them and various families are forced to live there through their gererations. Entire waste of Kanodia Chemicals falls in the ocean and lakhs of people stay there and drink that water only and that is how they are afflicted with various disease. They are patients and the same profession born diseases, which you have discussed in the Act, afflict them and soon they are rendered disabled or become blind.

There is no law for the protection of those who die here.

So my request is that the law that applies to lower level people, must apply to higher level people as well, only then such law will become significant and prove effective.

I want to speak about those working in agriculture sector. Those living in villages do fishing. A special caste has it as its profession. They fish out in ponds, rivers and sea. Today, foreign companies are entering into the contracts of fishing, but fishing job is entrusted to them only and that is how those big companies exploit those villagers and fishermen.

16.46hrs.

[SHRI NITISH KUMAR in the Chair]

No attention is paid to those who are injured or who are rendered disabled or are carried away in the sea storm or drowned while boating and fishing. My request is that such people should also be covered by the law.

My area is a carpet weaving area, where lakhs of weavers are engaged in carpet weaving. All kinds of misgivings are there all around the globe, these are discussed and child labour also is discussed. It is said that children do weaving during their student life. There are all discussed, but nobody pays any attention to solve their difficulties. So far as the question of their educationist concerned, acquiring the knowledge of words only is not considered sufficient but taking from it is also considered an education of its own type. Children make Potteries or learn weaving or iron work. This is also called translating knowledge into action if the study and conceiving knowledge go together in a coordinated way, then the problems of weavers can largely be solved. Today, children are engaged in weaving work, but the polluted atmosphere they work in, throw them open to diseases. If a dispensary is set up for keeping them free from these diseases, then they could do weaving work properly.

Similar is the condition of shoemakers, beltmakers and those working in leather industries. Those passing through this area know through odour that leather work is done here. The wastes of these factories keep piling up here and diseases are spread through it also and labourers working in the factory fall prey to the diseases. The Government must take appropriate measures to get the people rid of the disease afflicted system. Its example could be witnessed at Kanpur which is Dronjee's constituency. We need to pay attention to all these things and I understand that you could be doing a great work.

Similarly, those working in the agricultural field at times get injured. The carpenters get injured blacksmiths also get injured. So a provision must be made for those working in these small industries as well. If they become disabled or their hands severed, then some compensation is provided by the district administration but they do not have proper information as to where from they could get

medical facilities or compensation in the event of getting injured. I want to say that such kind of people should also get this type of facilities.

I will like to remind you that so many foreign companies are coming in India under the liberalisation policy of the Government such as Pepsi Cola or Indrani Company. Ours is a labour intensive country. We have got a huge labourers force here. Now these companies do not bother for them at all. They run their industries with machine only and do not engage labourers so that they could escape the applicability of labour welfare laws. They want to earn more and more profits. When you go to apply these laws on them, they can say that they are not trained labourers. I will like to request the Government of India. That it should be ensured while making such a law that we can make provision for appointing labourers also in our country the major population of which is formed by labour force. Whereby labourer could be saved from unemployment.

If you pass by a sugar mill, you will have to bear a stench emanating from it. There are several such mills in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh where they get licence for manufacturing wine. There is a Nandganj Sugar Mill in eastern U.P. I do not say where the wastes emanating from sugar mill will go to. What is the provision for tackling the stench emanating from the Mill and the resultant diseases. The compensation amount cannot enforce the system for ever. So Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will urge upon the Government to conduct a survey in these sugar mills, leather mills or the mills run by big industrialists. I have referred to the case of Hindal, Birla Chemicals, especially because the questions concerning these people have often sprung up and the assurance was also given by the Government. I want to say through you wherever the labourers live, the Government should carry out a survey there. Then it will come across thousands of patients amongst them and also those who are not capable of working. Despite all that Birla's Company force them to work. Today also, wastes from Kanodia mills is dropped into pant sugar and thousands of people drink its water you do not take any action against Birla and Kanodia. I have raised this issue time and again but you have never paid your attention to these facts. If you pay your attention towards this aspect, then this will benefit labourers and society. The people have lost their faith in the Government, if you take action against it. Then people's confidence will be restored to some extend. I conclude with these words.

[English]

MR.CHAIRMAN : Shri Basudeb Acharia to speak.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Is nobody speaking from the Congress?

MR.CHAIRMAN : I have called your name. If you are

not prepared to speak, please sit down. Then I can some other Member.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum) : I am the first from this side. When one name from the Opposition Benches has been called, one from this side also should have been called.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called his name.

SHRI A. CHARLES : That is true. But he is casting aspersions on the members of the Ruling Party. We are equally or even more concerned about the workers. Why should he make such unnecessary comments?

[Translation]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You have called me. So, I will speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What you speak will go on record.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Mr. Chairman Sir, welcome the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 1995. But there are a number of lapses, a number of Limitations in this Bill. He has stated just now that this Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare. That Standing Committee deliberated upon the Bill and has made certain recommendations. He has also said when this Bill will be passed, then the Ministry will act upon the recommendations of the Standing Committee.

What was the purpose of referring the Bill to the Standing Committee? The Standing Committee deliberated upon the Bill and made certain recommendations. Why were those recommendations not incorporated in the Bill? That is why Shri George Fernandes has suggested an amendment that this Bill is a very important Bill. We consider this Bill as a very important Bill concerning thousands and thousands of workers.

The original Act was enacted in the year 1923. Then there had been a number of amendments. The last amendment was in the year 1984 when the amount of compensation to be paid to the workers in the case of death or permanent disablement was enhanced. Then again in 1989 the Law Commission also recommended for the enhancement of the amount of compensation.

17.00 hrs.

But the Ministry did not act then also. If we calculate what was the price index in the year 1984 and what is the price index now, the amount which is being enhanced from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 60,000 for permanent disablement is quite meagre. In any case, the amount should not be less than Rs. 2 lakh.

A mention has been made regarding the Indian Railways Act. This Indian Railway Act has been amended. In the Indian Railways Act, 1989, there are some categories of employees and railway workers, like drivers, assistant drivers, guards and ticket checking staff, who were working or performing duty in the trains, excluded from payment of compensation because of death due to railway accident. Previously, they used to get compensation as per the Workmen's Compensation Act. Now, if a guard is killed because of an accident, the guard gets compensation on a par with the passengers killed in the accident. This amendment was made when the Indian Railways Act of 1890 was amended and certain categories of workers were excluded from the payment of compensation because of accident. I was one of the Members of the Joint Committee which considered the amendments of the Indian Railways Act of 1890. We made certain suggestions that some other workers who are now getting compensation as per the Women's Compensation Act should also be included in that category of worker's like gangmen who have been included now after the amendment of the original Act. If because of a derailment of a coach or wagon, the engineering staff or gangmen working on the railway track are killed, they will not get the compensation as per the Indian Railways Act of 1890 where some categories of workers have been included. They get compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act. So, there is a need for amendment of the Indian Railways Act Also.

We expected that when the Minister has brought this Amendment after eleven years, at least a comprehensive Bill would come. We expected that. Here, he has not changed the definition. Under the definition which was accepted in the original Act of 1923, I presume, "workman" means:

"Any person (other than a person, whose employment is of casual nature, who is employed otherwise than for the purposes of the employer's trade or business) who is-

(i) a Railway servant as defined in Section 3 of the Indian Railways Act of 1890 (9 of 1890)..."

".... not permanently employed in any administrative, district or sub-divisional office of a Railway and not employed in any such capacity as is specified in Schedule II."

Now, he has expanded the list. He has proposed to incorporate certain other categories of workers. But it is not sufficient.

In Factories Act, what is the definition of 'workers'? The term 'workers' means:

"A person employed directly or through any agency including a contractor with or without the knowledge of principal employer whether for remuneration or not, in a

manufacturing process or any other kind of work incidental to or connected with the manufacturing process, but does not include any member of the Armed Forces of Union."

This is the definition which is there in the Factories Act. But here the definition of worker is quite different. There are millions and millions of workers who are engaged in construction work. There is a great demand from various sections, from various people for this. A Campaign Committee has also been constituted three or four years back; and throughout the country there had been a campaign for a comprehensive legislation for construction workers. These construction workers are hapless, helpless and they are poor people. There is no law. We have the experience because there are a number of law regulating labour. We have the Contract Labour (Abolition and Regulation) Act which is a misnomer. It has no teeth. It can neither abolish nor regulate. If the workers do not the minimum wages, the Labour Ministry will be helpless and everybody will be helpless.

There are other Acts like Child Labour Act. It also has no teeth. Nothing can be done against the violation of the Act. In this case also, if the law is not enforced strictly, there is no provision to take care of it because there is no time limit fixed. In the case of Industrial Disputes Act, a time limit has been fixed under Section 10(2)(a), in regard to trial, adjudication, finalisation of cases, to retrenchment, suspension, nonpayment of wages and dismissal. But here in regard to payment of compensation for death and permanent disablement, there is no time limit fixed. The employer can take one year or two years or three years; and there is no time limit. No action can be taken against the employer for the violation of the provisions of this Act. There is no provision for the strict enforcement of the law. That could have been incorporated while bringing forward this amendment.

Now, the amount is being increased from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 50,000 and the percentage is being increased from 40 per cent to 50 per cent. I want to know whether this amount is being increased as recommended by the Law Commission in the year 1989. What was the price index in 1989 and what is the price index now? Some realistic calculations should also be made.

Similarly, the compensation paid to the workers because of permanent disablement was Rs. 24,000. It is now being enhanced to Rs. 60,000. The amount of Rs. 24,000 was fixed eleven years back. What was the price index at that time? What was the recommendation made by the Standing Committee? When the Standing Committee made this recommendation, they had suggested that the calculation should be made on the basis of the price index. Let us consider the Law Commission's recommendations as the basis which were made in 1989. But I would say that the increase in the price index should also be taken into

consideration. In this case, this has not been considered while enhancing the amount of compensation. The Hon. Minister, while replying to the debate, may kindly clarify this point as to why that has not been taken into consideration.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I consider this as a very important day because this concerns thousands and thousands of workers.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Acharia, you have taken 18 minutes time.

SHRI BASUDEV ACHARIA (Bankura) : I have just started speaking.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You conclude within two minutes. Time allotted to your party was 4 minutes but you have already taken 18 minutes, so you conclude within two minutes.

SHRI BASUDEV ACHARIA : Our three speakers are yet to speak . . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

There are unorganised workers, agricultural workers, bidi workers. Cigarette workers and such categories of workers who are working in hazardous conditions. Why have they been excluded here?

AN HON. MEMBER : What about political workers?

SHRI BASUDEV ACHARIA : Now-a-days, it is more hazardous than other categories of workers.

For bidi workers, we can only have tuberculosis hospital but you have no fund for that also. I have been demanding this for last three years. In my district, in one place, there are about 40,000 bidi workers.

I have been demanding a Tuberculosis(TB) hospital for the bidi worker and I am getting the reply from the Minister that there is no fund from the Government. I am asking for the money from the Bidi Workers Welfare Fund and not from the Government. There is a Fund for Bidi workers welfare and even from that fund money is not being made available for the welfare of the bidi workers.

SHRI ANIL BASU : This is the problem with the Congress.

SHRI BASUDEV ACHARIA : Similarly, Mr. Chairman, Sir there are thousands of workers engaged by the contractors in the Railways. Thousands of workers are there. There is no law to govern, to regulate these contract workers. Even the minimum wages which are required which are there in the Contract Labour Regulations Act—for the senior workers are not being provided and the

Labour Minister is quite helpless. The Railway Ministry is not complying with the law. Even in the perennial nature of work these contract workers are being engaged and after completing 15 or 20 years of service suddenly they are being retrenched. No welfare measures are there for them.

Sir, he has included certain categories of workers in the Schedule 2. But I know a case of a young boy of 27 years of age. He was engaged by a Project under the Indian Statistical Institute. This Project was being funded by a foreign agency. He was to get a permanent employment under the Government of West Bengal. His appointment letter was received by his parents after seven days of his death. He died while going in a vehicle. He was performing his duties when he met with an accident and got killed. What was the reply of the Management, the Project authority? The reply was that there is no provision under the Workmen's Compensation Act and no compensation could be given for his death.

Mr. Chairmen, Sir, we are surprised to know that the parents of that boy who was killed in an accident are now starving. Not a single paise has been paid to them because there is no provision for that.

So, there should be a clear definition of the workers. Why have the casual workers been excluded; why have the contract workers been excluded; why are the agricultural workers been excluded while the other categories of construction workers, bidi workers and the workers of unorganised sectors with millions of workers are there? What is the percentage of the organised sector in the whole labour class?

Sir, recently two or three months back, he also attended a Seminar at Durgapur. The subject of the Seminar was "Safety of Construction Workers." This Seminar was organised by the National Safety Council but there is no provision for the compensation for construction workers. The construction workers will not get any compensation as per this Act. If the employers violate the Act, where is the provision to act against the employers, to prosecute them? Is there any single case where the compensation due to the worker has been paid? No, What action has been taken by the Government to bring the employers to book?

Sir, we have the experience that in spite of having a number of labour laws, these laws are frequently violated and in such cases the Government, the Labour Commissioner and the concerned Ministry become helpless. So, some stringent provisions should be made in this Bill. Otherwise this same thing would happen to this Bill also. I would like to suggest that it would be better if it is referred to a Select Committee. There is no hurry in passing this Bill. The report of the Select Committee would come within 15 days or a month and then the Government could consider this Bill. Or else, the Government should either

bring forward suitable amendments or accept the amendments that are likely to be moved during the consideration stage of this Bill for enhancement of the compensation amount of Rs.50,000 for death of a worker. Rs. 50,000 as compensation for death of a worker is a very meagre amount.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please wind up.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, Rs.62,000 as compensation for permanent disability of a worker is also a meagre amount.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have made your point. Now, please take your sit.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : So, I would like to request the Hon. Minister to bring in an amendment for enhancing the amount of compensation and also for expanding the scope of the Bill so as to cover the workers of all sector-organised, unorganised, casual, contractor etc.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum) : Sir, I rise to support the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 1995, as passed by the Rajya Sabha.

Sir, I had been listening to the speeches of the two previous Hon. Members from the other side. The first speaker has criticised that this is a Bill brought belatedly and that it should have been brought much earlier. It has been said that the parent Act was passed in 1923 and after several years only these changes are being brought forward. If my information is correct, this is one Act which has undergone a number of changes in the previous years - I am not quite sure about the number of amendments - and it is almost twenty to twenty one times that this parent Act had been amended according to the existing conditions, thereby amending the compensations and other benefits to those who had met with an injury or had been disabled or to the next of kin of the family who died as a result of accident. So, the amendment sought to be brought in through this Bill is the twenty-second or so. It may true that it is being brought forward the recommendations of the Law Commission and these changes could have been brought a little earlier but the charge that it has been 'so belated' is not true. Time and again, changes have been brought forward.

The Hon. Member, Shri Basudeb Acharia has made various suggestions. I agree with him in one of the suggestions made by him in regard to the definition of 'workmen'. It has been defined in one way in the Industrial Disputes Act, differently in the Factories' Act and differently here in this Bill.

I feel that especially the casual employees, contract labourers and apprentices should be brought within the ambit of the Bill. We know that recruitment even in the public undertakings have been stopped, for different reasons, for

the last few years. Thousands of workers are being engaged on daily wages or as casual workers. To say that if something happens to such workers, who are working got the last six-seven years, they will not be eligible for the legitimate compensate or in the eventually of their death the members of their family or the next of the kin will not get the compensation is very very unfortunate. So, I request the Hon. Minister to kindly look into this aspect.

I do not agree with the suggestion that it should be referred to the Select Committee. I am very sorry to say that this suggestion has come from a Member who belongs to a Party which is always weeping for the working classes. If it is set to the Select Committee, it will mean that even in the Tenth Lok Sabha it will not be passed. If this is the type of encouragement given to the workers, I am very sorry for the state of affairs in the State of West Bengal. We, who come from other States, strong support this Bill and say that it should be passed. This Bill has been amended 22 times before. So, there is no bar and it is considered necessary even in the Tenth Lok Sabha, in the Winter Session itself, another amendment can be brought about. I appreciate such remedial measures rather than blocking the workers from getting the benefits of this Bill.

Coming to some of the amendments that have been proposed congratulate the Minister for the way it has been brought forward. Shri Basudeb Acharya has said that the amount of Rs. 40,000 or Rs. 50,000 is not sufficient. I agree with him but I feel there is some confusion and I request the Minister to clarify it when he will reply to the debate. I understand that this is the minimum that one can get and the maximum can be more than Rs. 2 lakh. If this is correct, then I do not think this Bill deserves such a criticism. In certain cases the minimum amount that one can get is Rs. 50,000. So under the present circumstances, it is not correct to say that the amount is too low. Of course, we can improve upon this as this will only be to the advantage of the poor workers and their family. I commend that the criticism that it is too low gives an impression that this is the maximum which is eligible to any worker. That is not correct.

Coming to the categories of workers, though I said that the definition should be changed, there are a number of changes in the Act bringing forward various categories of workers such as, Master, Seaman, Captain and Members of the Crew of a ship or an aircraft, a Driver, Helper, Cleaner and a person recruited for work abroad by a company. It is a welcome change to include a worker who is working abroad because there is no compensation for those who are recruited here but are working abroad. This aspect has also been taken care of in this Bill.

I now come to Clause 5 of the Bill. The Payment of compensation from the side of the employer is protected. The employer has to say the compensation within one month. If payment is not made within one month, there

is one enforcing section for the payment of interest. This is a very welcome change. If the payment is still delayed there is a penalty also. But there is no provision to ensure that the Commissioner will take a decision within a certain time frame.

It is true that there is an enforcing provision on the employer to pay compensation. If the employer does not say, he would have to pay interest and penalty. But what about the Commissioner? What would happen if he takes a long period like three years to five years? I feel that there should be some provision to avoid this. A specific period should be stipulated and it should be made incumbent on the Commissioner to make the payments within that period.

I have some difference of opinion in regard to one Clause, that is, Clause 5(3) (a). It provide that the interest payable shall be payable to the workman or his dependent as the case may be and the penalty shall be credited to the State Government. The Commissioner is an employee of the State Government and, therefore, it will be in the interest of the Government if he delays the payment indefinitely. To avoid this, a provision should be made that the penalty also shall be paid to either the workman or to his next of kin in the end.

Our Minister is very kind at heart. I have been listening to him and following him. I attended his meeting in Trivandrum. A number of welfare schemes have been provided. The Minister is present here. I request him that if possible, this particular aspect be kindly taken into consideration. Possible changes may be made in this Act either now or along with other amendments in future.

As I stated earlier, a number of changes have been made in the Schedule II to enlarge the scope of the workman so that a number of categories of workers who are not paid compensation hitherto will get it.

Before concluding, I would like to make one appeal. There are a number of welfare schemes that are being envisaged and offered. The Hon. Minister has promised that pension shall be given to workers covered by the Provident Fund. Sir, it was assured in the last Session and in this Session also. Millions of workers are waiting for this. Several millions of family members of the workers will be benefited by this. The Bill being debated now will come into force only in the eventually of an accident. If somebody wants to get an amount of Rs. 60,000, he has to involve himself in some accident. It is not fair. What about the workers who put in, say 30 to 40 years of committed service and who go without anything in the end? I know that the Hon. Minister is very much committed on the objective of this Bill. I want an assurance from the Hon. Minister that a Bill to that effect will also be passed in this very session of Parliament. It would go a long way in improving the conditions of workers' families.

With these words, I command and support the Bill

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I cannot support this Bill because we do not consider this Bill would be helpful in solving the problems faced by labourers.

In 1976, when this Bill i.e. 'Workmen' Compensation Act, 1923. was amended in this house, Shri Veerendra Patil, the then labour Minister had made a speech and I would like to quote a few lines from that speech. That time minimum wages were raised from Rs. 500/ to Rs. 1000 and now a proposal has come before this House to further raise this amount to Rs. 2000 He had said in the context:

[English]

"The proposed revised rates of compensation are based on the rates specified in the ILO Convention concerning the minimum standard of social security except that the compensation payable in respect of those drawing wages at existing Rs. 1,000 per month is proposed to be restricted to the amount payable on the wages to Rs. 1000 per month"

[Translation]

Whatever be the wages, we will presume it to be one thousand rupees per month. That was the limit fixed. Now I read out the next sentence which will clarify the Government intention and its thinking towards the labours. The Then Labour Minister said:

[English]

"The Proposal ceiling of one thousand rupees is mainly intended to ensure that the amount of compensation payable under the Act does not become unduly large which the employers, particularly, the smaller ones may find it difficult to pay.

[Translation]

This philosophy has been associated with this Bill since the first day of Independence. I may be pardoned for saying that the one day we may be compelled to say that the pre independence period was better. This Act was passed in 1923. That time Britisher were ruling India. This Act was amended ten times between 1923 and 1946. Actually this Act was amended 11 times but one time that was merely a technicality, and it was not considered an amendment. I have not made any through study in this regard and therefore I seek Hon. Minister's help. When this Act was amended in 1924 for the first and thereafter in 1925, 1927, 1929, 1933, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1942 and 1946, those amendments were made because the prices of commodities in the market had gone up. The Britishers increased compensation to some extent by enacting law. In other words some people

wanted to cover more number of labourers under this Act. At that time there were about leaders like Varah Giri Venkat Giri and Pandit Nehru was the Chairman of AIIC. These people might have placed a proposal in this regard and consequently amendments were made in this Act. Then in 1947 our country got independence. During the period of 16 Years between 1947 and 1962, this Act had been amended. Pardon me, this had been amended only four times during 29 years between 1947 and 1975. Prices continued to rise and the value of rupee continued to decline. Your document reveals that the value of a rupee which was equal to hundred paise in 1950-51, today it is not even one paise. This process continued after independence but nobody thought about the labourer who has been anguishing who has been toiling and who is becoming handicapped and unemployed. The actual idea behind this Act was to protect the employer who would not be able to pay the compensation. All this was done to protect the employer. That is why I have said in the begging that I can not support this Bill. This Act has been amended twice during the period of 20 years between 1976 to 1995 and now the proposal for amendment has been placed for the third time. The Hon. Minister has stated that the rate of compensation is being raised about three times from Rupees twenty four thousand to Rs. 60 thousands. The compensation is also being rased from Rupees twenty thousands to Rs. 50 Thousands which comes to about two and half times increase. Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are making fun of the labourers and poor people of this country. You are fixing a price to Rs. 50 Thousands for his life. I know that now you will tell that 50 thousands rupees is the minimum amount taking into account his age, salary etc. But in this country we have to start with the minimum. If the same labourers travels by train after purchasing ticket and meets with an accident, he would be paid Rupees two lakhs as compensation. In other words, if a mistake is committed while running a train the cost of life of a labourer is fixed at Rs. 2 lakhs. This was done by us, when I was the Minister of Railways, and here you are fixing to the cost of his life at Rs. 50 thousands only. A compensation of Rs. 60 thousands is paid if the victim is rendered permanently disabled which is legitimate because one is declared permanently disable if a person loses both hands or both feet or one foot. Therefore it is necessary to give him sufficient amount of compensation because he has to lead his life and subsist his family as well. We are therefore, opposing this with great dilemma because I think that it will be better if we call this Act as 'Employees Protection Act' instead of Workmen's compensation Act. So I request that the worker should be protected at any cost. And this fact is evident from every angle. Today those people who claim that the amount of compensation has been raised to this extent are making a false claim. I am not saying that the Hon. Minister has made a false statement. I do not mean that some one is telling a lie. The false statement is that this Act was last

amended in 1984. Eleven years have elapsed and now it is twelve year. This was amended in 1976 and it was withheld for 8-9 years. Now you are amending it in 1995 but the prices of all the commodities during the last 10-12 years have increased. You are presenting it today and stating that since 1984 when we last amended this Act, the prices of commodities have increased to this extent and taking into account the increase in the cost of living price index and other factors we are going to raise the rate of compensation by two and a half times. But in this regard the false claim is that during the next 12 years the price of commodities will increase sharply. So, this is a false claim. This is joke played with the poor who is exposed to all sorts of hazards to fall, to be crushed, or to get his hands and feet broken anywhere. You are telling him something false during the next 10 years, the prices and salaries will register an enormous increase. I give two examples in this regard. If you see the Economic Survey of India, 1994-95, you will find that per capita emoluments of public sector, employees and the consumer price Index was when amended in 1976, the average salary of the employees working in Central Government Undertaking was Rs. 8,940 per annum. Per-capita emoluments means an average which has become Rs.72,151/ in 1993-94.

[English]

The increase is 700 per cent. Between 1976-77 and 1993-94, the increase in the per capita emoluments of public sector employees is 700 per cent

[Translation]

This was not merely a one time increase during the ten years. This increase was given to them year after year in the form of dearness allowance, increase in Bonus and three years agreement and the arrears and other benefits accrued as a result thereof. Organised labour sustains itself and gets the pay increase on the basis of struggle.

[Synopsis]

There are workers both in the organised and unorganised sectors. Here a reference was made to the construction workers in the unorganised sectors. The number of such workers whether they are in the railways, dockyards or construction sites, could be not lakhs but crores. Mr. Minister, Sir, if this Act is implemented in the right earnest, the provisions of pages 29 to 32 in schedule II of the 1992 edition of this manual will apply to crores of people. But this is not being done. The Government is not doing anything in this regard when the owner is pressurised, he finds some way out. This is the position.

Under this Act the ceiling is being raised from Rs. 1000 to Rs.2000 in the event of death the compensation amount is being increased from 40 to 50 per cent. In the case of total permanent disability it is being raised to 60 per cent from the existing limit of 50 per cent. While in the event of death the compensation to be provided is Rs.50,000, in the case of permanent disability the amount will be Rs. 60,000. Wages have also been increased in different sectors. The other aspect to be considered is that the prices of commodities are rising. This aspect is not being taken into account by the Government.

Today morning question No 39. was stated for answer, but it could not be put up due to paucity of time. Let us have a look at the price list of foodgrains and vegetables furnished by the Government. After a gap of 12 years the amount is being raised from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000 and from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 50,000. But the enhanced prices of foodgrains during the last six month , from February to July should also be seen . The prices of 'Jawar', bajara', groundnut oil and 'arhar dal' have gone up by 14.7 per cent 13.8 per cent, 45.8 per cent and 18.4 per cent respectively. The prices of vegetables have increased by 58.3 per cent. The price of salt has increased by 47.1 per cent during the last six months. These are Government figures and Shri Buta Singh is the Minister of this department. This legislation has been brought forward by the Government and we are welcoming it in the house. . . . (Interruptions). We are doing a great injustice to the labourers who build this country by putting up hard labour. Today, I am very much distressed to see their plight because I have spent my entire life among them and spent my times for raising their organisations and struggling for them. This is the first time that I am speaking on this point in this House but it does not mean that we will not put up struggle for it. I am ashamed because in spite of whole life struggle I have not been able to do anything. I am ashamed that my life has not been of any use . I do not agree to what the Government is doing now. The Government is misleading the house. If this law is passed by the house, it will be an atrocity on labourers and an injustice to them.

I would like to state further that now the Government is following its policy of liberalisation and globalisation which means giving our production units on contract basis and privatising them. All this is going on. A few days ago the Minister of Railways announced that we are going to privatisate 26 railway stations immediately and 100 big Railway stations including Delhi railway station will also be privatised next year. What will happen in that case. A contractor will sell the tickets outside the railway station and charge commission. The workers employed in the Railway Canteen will be removed from services and the job will be entrusted to contractor. The Government records show that 1.5 lakh employees have been removed from

service in the public sector during the last 3 years. These public undertakings are being run by private persons. All the foreign companies coming to India are looking for contractors. The companies like coca-cola and Pepsi Cola which have been mentioned here are running their business with the help of contractor. Pepsi Cola claims that it has provided employment to 6 lakh people in the world. If a regular employee of the Railways is placed at the disposal of a contractor. What will happen to him? The employees entitled to a salary of Rs. 2000/P.M. an 8 hours working in a day, 1 day's weekly off, 30 days of leave in a year sick leave, casual leave which are our general demands will be on the roads under the circumstances, the employees will have to work for 12 hours a day instead of 8 hours. All the facilities which were available to them will be stopped. Mr. Minister, Sir, after passing the Workmen's Compensation Act a railway employee who, is getting a remuneration of Rs. 2000/- will get Rs.. 500/ only under the liberalisation policy. Then how can the Government expect our support for the increasing the minimum compensation? Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have given this amendment so that the Bill is referred to a Select Committee because it needs to be amended considerably. We want to give a chance to the Government as this is also the year of election. The day before yesterday the Hon. Minister announced several schemes. It is understood that several schemes involving an expenditure of Rs. 4799/ crores were announced in the last budget. These have been reannounced day before yesterday in the style of fire side chat as President Roosevelt used to do. Fire side chat was done first day in Hindi and second day in English and it had been stated that is going to be done and what amendment are going to be carried out. As a matter of fact the public sector undertakings are giving a number of advertisement's which should be opposed. It is being said that whatever is going on in the country is being done under the leadership of Shri Narasimha Rao and at the instance of so and so minister. It means that the prices are also increasing due to them. If I say something in this regard. I know you will expunge it. There was a time when a great writer, dramatist, editor, activist and first winner of gold medal from the Hon. President in Indian cinema Acharya Atre was in our Party who got very much annoyed when it was said that all is going on due to him. He used to say that when everything is being done at his instance in the vicinity of his house. **

As a matter of fact there is nothing unparliamentary in it. I very often remember Acharya Atre's those words that when everything is being done at his instance then whatever happening in his street is also happening at his instance. There should therefore, be some limit. This is not good.

Some times there may be counter productive but in that case positive expectation become negative. And it begins

** Expunged as ordered by the chair.

to seem like a sun. (*Interruptions*) Everybody is being exposed, all are after their own interests.

I, would therefore, like to tell the Hon. Minister that this Legislation should be seriously discussed in the House. The Government makes publicity by spending public sector money on advertisements that production of iron and coal has increased on account of their efforts. But the fact remains that it is not due to their efforts that the production has increased, but due to hard labour put by labourers. When there is a fall in production, the Government should not put the blame on others. It should not say that the fall in production was caused during the 9 months, V.P. Singh Government. Instead of doing all this it would be better if we amended this labour law honestly.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, The National labour Commission came into existence in 1967 and Mrs. Indira Gandhi herself appointed Shri Gahendra Gadkar as its chairman who was the Chief Justice of Supreme Court and one of the renowned Chief justice. This commission released its report in 1969 in which this law was discussed at length had made certain recommendations also. I want to read out those recommendations to the Hon. Minister because officers will not read out those recommendations to him and he has no time to read them. There is a lot of time while he is in the opposition but while in the Government he has no time because there is always one or the other committee or scandal. In their report they said that:-

[English]

" The working of the Act has brought to light several shortcomings: - and this report is of 1969 - " Which impede speedy relief reaching the workers. Cases of evasion occur even though the enactment is over 45 years old".

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is Six O'Clock now. How much more time you will take ? Can you conclude within 5 minutes?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : No Sir, it cannot be concluded within five minutes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 2nd August, 1995 at 11.00 A.M.

18.00 Hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven on Wednesday, August 2, 1995 / Sravana 11, 17 (Saka).