

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Tenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XL contains Nos. 21 to 30)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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(English Version)

...

Tuesday, May 9, 1995/Vaisakha 19, 1917 (Saka)

...

<u>Col./line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
32/7&8 (from below)	THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DR. BALRAM JAKHAR)	THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR)
43/ 5&6 (from below)	THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
46/2&3	(DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & CULTURE)	(DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE)
54/25	SHRI K.C. SHIVAPPA	SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA
69/17 (from below)	SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATERIA	SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA
124/10	HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OF THE	HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
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223/27	SHRI SANT KUMAR MANDAL	SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, May 9, 1995/ Vaisakha 19, 1917 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, today is the 50th Anniversary of the Victory over Fascism. A reference from the Chair should be made as this is a very important event.

MR. SPEAKER : You discuss this between the Leaders and then come back, and we will see about it; but not like that, please.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, nobody will object to it. Everybody will support it.

MR. SPEAKER : It is better if you take everybody into confidence.

(Interruptions)

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Support Price of Foodgrains

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

(a) whether the Government have any proposal under consideration to increase the support prices of various foodgrains particularly in the case of wheat and rice during the year 1995-96; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the increases proposed therein?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b). There is no proposal under consideration to increase minimum support prices already announced for Rabi crops viz., Wheat, Barley, Gram, Rapeseed/Mustard and Safflower of 1994-95 to be marketed in 1995-96 season. The price policy for Kharif crops viz., Paddy, Coarse cereals, Pulses, Oilseeds, Cotton and Tobacco of 1995-96 is under the consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been the policy of Government to take into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural costs and prices, the views of the State Governments and different ministries of the Union Government and

other relevant factors which in the opinion of the Government are important to determine the support price before declaring the support price of the agricultural products. But increase of Rs. 10/- in the support price of wheat is not sufficient in comparison to the increase in the prices of fertilizers, seeds, electricity and water. In the year 1993-94 the price of wheat was Rs. 350/- per quintal and the support price announced in 1994-95 for wheat and the procurement in 1995-96 will be made at Rs. 360 per quintal. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether before determining the support price of wheat the increase in the prices of fertilizers, the labour put by the farmer and cost of other important inputs were kept in mind or whether ignoring all these things, you considered that the increase of Rs. 10 in the support price of wheat will be sufficient for the farmers because they will not start any agitation. I would like detailed information in this regard.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the points raised by the hon. Member about increase in the prices of fertilizers, electricity and power are definitely considered by the commission for Agricultural costs and prices while recommending the increase in the prices of agricultural production and the Central and State Government after considering these recommendations take decision in the matter. It is not correct to say that Agricultural Prices Commission does not consider these factors.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member may recollect that this question has been replied to many a times in the past also and I have given full details in this regard. I am prepared with your permission, Sir, to inform the hon. Member that all the relevant factors have been considered, viz. the cost of land, prices of seed, water, electricity, insecticides, labour and depreciation while taking the decision on the support prices of agricultural products. It may be noted that our Government have done a lot for the farmers during the last three years. We have given the rate of Rs. 135 per quintal. We have given Rs. 100/- for coarse grain; Rs. 100/- for maize Rs. 280/- for pulses like moong and urad; Rs. 300 for sunflower seed; Rs. 250 for soyabean; Rs. 450/- for cotton. This was never done before... (Interruptions). All this has been done in accordance with the cost of the production. How do you say like this has any body done so before?

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : How much the prices of electricity, water, fertilizers have been increased during the last three years including the labour?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Whatever has been done is incomparable and was never done in the past and nobody else will be able to do in future... (Interruptions). Every thing from 'A' to 'Z' has been taken into account... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Agriculture Minister has become rather emotional

and has said that none has done such a good thing before and will not be able to do in future also. Support price of wheat in 1991-92 was Rs. 275/-

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Rs. 215.

SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : You have shown Rs. 275/- in the year 1991-92. What was the price of fertilizers at that time. You are not taking this into consideration. The support price of wheat has not been increased in proportion to the increase in the prices of all these things. If the cost of the labour of the farmer is included all your figures would prove wrong. I will not be wrong to say that you do not consider the cost of labour of the farmer. A class IV employee gets Rs. 1500/- per month as salary. But you even do not consider the labour of the farmer so much. I would request the hon. Minister to give special attention to the agriculture. Agriculture is the base of the country. Being a farmer you are a specialist in agriculture. If you challenge that nobody can do whatever you have done for the farmers then all the farmers of the country will become hopeless, we all will become hopeless. I would request you to please ensure that the concession which were being given to the farmer till 1991-92 are restored to him. Only then I will accept your claim.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an old saying that only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches. He does not know the difficulties of the agriculturists. How farmer faces the scorching heat, severe cold, drought, floods etc. I have considered all these things including water and fertilizers(Interruptions). Why do you disturb? Please listen to me at least as a courtesy?

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : How much it has been increased during the last three years?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : First listen to me. It is not good to speak before listening to others. Every thing is done according to rules. So far as implements are concerned, seeds are concerned; I too want that and I shall do that. I will put all my efforts in this regard.

SHRI UMRAO SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, adequate and sufficient price for superfine quality of paddy was not given to the farmers in Punjab last year. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government is considering to give sufficient price for superfine quality of paddy to the farmers? The present crop of wheat is not being lifted in the markets because of shortage of storage capacity. I want to know whether it is in the notice of the hon. Minister that farmers are facing the difficulties due to non lifting the wheat from the markets?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is a question of prices, not of storage.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : What should I reply to this question?

[English]

SHRI SOBHANDREESWARA RAO VADDE : Through you, I would like to raise a very important question. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, while computing the cost of production, is ignoring the element of risk involved in agricultural production because of floods, drought, cyclones, hailstorms, pests and diseases. Several times the crop is lost. Sometimes it is totally lost. Now it is a fact that for the last three to four years, the prices have been slightly better because of some changes in the formula that was made when the previous Government was there. I am happy about it. But, at the same time, particular element of risk is ignored. That is not doing justice to the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask a simple question whether the element of risk is involved in computing the price or not. Otherwise, it becomes very complicated.

SHRI SOBHANDREESWARA RAO VADDE : I am not extending it. The other thing is in respect of industrial products the transport cost also will be taken into consideration whereas in the case of agricultural production, the transport charges require to take the inputs to the farm and the agricultural production to the markets. That aspect is also not taken care of.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether things will be taken care of.

MR. SPEAKER : Now you have asked the question. You sit down and get the reply. Please sit down now. It is a very good question - the risk element and the transport cost.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : In every walk of life, there is risk. There is a couplet in Urdu :

Zindgi Kashmakashon Ka Hajoom Hai

Zindgi Hai Tau... (Interruptions)

[English]

We are evolving a new formula. There is our insurance policy up to Rs. 10,000/- We are going to implement a new policy which will be comprehensive for all crops as in other cases of life.

SHRI SOBHANDREESWARA RAO VADDE : For the last two years you are saying it. But it is not being implemented in any way.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : It should be a workable thing. We are trying to find out a policy without any lacuna. I am also trying to contact and discuss with experts in every walk of life - agriculturists and insurance people, but still it is in the Cabinet Committee.

MR. SPEAKER : If you don't mind, there are two elements - risk element and the cost of transport. Will it be considered while computing the price?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : As I replied to the hon. Member, from A to Z we consider everything and expedite it.

SHRI SOBHNADREESWARA RAO VADDE : These are not under consideration.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The hon. Minister's reply is that the price fixed is cost plus. All the elements of costs are taken into account and then a certain percentage of profit is calculated.

I am a little really surprised by that answer because there are several other elements which the farmers as well as the scientists in agriculture science are persistently asking for. One such thing is that if you want to induce a change in crop pattern, then you are to have a shift in relative prices among the crops. Do you take into account? That is number one because, on the one hand, we see that despite per capita reduction in foodgrains, we have a bulging stock. I would like to know whether or not this is taken into account.

Secondly, there is a persistent demand that the terms of trade between agriculture and industry should change and, therefore, not only the cost, but the cost of living as between the industrial sector and the agricultural sector should also be built into the price structure. I would like to know whether that also is done.

The third thing is, when you talked about cost, you just mentioned the outlay. But you fixed up the price per unit, whether tonne or KG or whatever it may be and this means, you are trying to accept an output also. Otherwise, just this outlay does not lead you anywhere. Is that also taken into account?

The last part of the question is whether or not your issue prices bear a constant relation to the support prices.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Sir, the hon. member is wise enough. He must have realised it if he has gone through all the stuff provided to him. I think that will show that the quantum jump in oil-seed production is only due to the incentives given to the farmers. If you have not given them incentives, they would not have produced that much. That is what we did. That is going to be done in the future also.

Secondly, about the terms of trade, we have taken into account that aspect. That is one of the prime requisites for fixing the prices.

Thirdly, we have given diversification plus value-addition to the crops. That is the new policy which we are going to pursue so as to have not just a raw-material as it is because marketing is the biggest deficiency we have in the agricultural sector. It is the middleman who enjoys the fruits. We are trying to do something. We have established some new patterns so that we can have value-addition to the crops and it is not sold as it is in the raw-material shape just like fruits,

vegetables and others which are just perishable products and we cannot keep them, we cannot process them. Their loss is to the extent of 20-30 per cent. So, we are going to avoid that.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Does it include cost of living?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : It includes cost and everything.

MR. SPEAKER : I think the agriculturists should ask the question.

Shri Virendra Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a question of prices of foodgrains and it is always said that India is an agricultural country. Policies are formulated for the progress of the farmers. The question is of fixing the support prices of wheat and Paddy. The Government has been making promises that to improve the lot of the farmer it has been increasing the prices of the foodgrains he grows in the fields. But I want to know from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, that what are the reasons that the farmer of India becoming poorer where the people who put less labour and work in factories producing agricultural implements get more money than the farmers. The prices of inputs are fixed much more in comparison to the agricultural produce. I would like to know the basis on which the prices of these inputs and implements, the farmer uses, are fixed. The prices of these agricultural implements are always higher than the prices of the agricultural produce? Why it is so?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : The support price is given to the farmer so that he is not compelled to go for distress rule. There is no binding on the farmer to sell his products on the support prices. He is free to sell it at higher rates and if he gets lower price in market then he can sell his foodgrains to the Government. The position today is that barring one or two products, he is getting higher price in the market, for instance, in the case of cotton he is getting double the price in the market. Same is the case with mustard and groundnut oil. There is no binding on the farmer to sell his produce to the Government only.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Why the products manufactured in factories fetch higher prices than those of agricultural productions?

MR. SPEAKER : The reason is that the things produced in the factories are lesser in quantity whereas the production of the farmer is much higher in quantity.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if things are discussed in the House in such a manner then nobody can save the interests of the farmers.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : If Government do not fix minimum support price the rates will fall down in the market and the farmer will be the loser. That is why it is necessary to fix the price to save the farmer. But he is free to sell his produce to anyone.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, My question is very simple the answer of hon. Minister will also be in the affirmative. You have mentioned about last three years that you have increased. The production of wheat and paddu. Now my simple question is that in 1965...

MR. SPEAKER : Your every question is simple.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Prices of wheat and Paddy remained static. There has been only 3 time increase in the prices of wheat and rice but there is 5 times, 10 times or 20 times increase in the cost of the inputs since 1965 either it is implements, labour, electricity or fertilizers whereas the prices of agricultural productions have been increased by three-times only. What is the reason of this?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, his question is as straight as 'Jalebi' sweet... (Interruptions)... You can make comparision of price-increase. But you just compare the quantum of production increased per acre and the support prices are fixed in the same proportion... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Sir, there is no revolution during the last fifteen years other than the green revolution.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : There has been a revolution. All this increase is nothing but revolution. If we increase 10 times more, people will revolt.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : This is why the farmer is badly affected?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : It is not correct... (Interruptions)

DR. G.L. KANAUJIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are not allowing us to speak. You are giving time to the front benches only. Sir, give opportunity to us also... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Let me reply to that.

I have first time got a chance to speak in this session today. You can check from the records... (Interruptions)

DR. G.L. KANAUJIA : We are also elected members of Parliament of this August House... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please resume your seats.

(Interruptions)

DR. G.L. KANAUJIA : You can expel us from the House.

MR. SPEAKER : I will do that also. Do not shout.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Sir, it has been clearly asked in the question as to whether there is any proposal under consideration to increase the support prices of wheat and paddu. The price of superfine quality of rice is fixed at lower rates as compared to its production cost. When market rate is lower the production cost becomes higher.

There are many qualities of rice which are exported such as Basmati and Parmal or other qualities of rice.

I want to know from the hon. Minister whether Government propose to give subsidy on the production of superfine rice to the farmers to boost the production and export of rice.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think it is required.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : It is done after much consideration... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask relevant question...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask question if it is a relevant one.

DR. G.L. KANAUJIA : We are asking the same. The hon minister has just delivered his speech. He had been our hon. Speaker. You just smile at our question and do not give proper reply. I have seen the figures of production cost on 5 acres of land, the cost of labour, consumption of fertilizers, etc. I have also calculated the productions cost. The production cost fixed by you is not even one-third of the actual production cost the farmer bears your figures are all misleading... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You please hear me first. Let the question be relevant, please.

[Translation]

It is the job of Price Commission; not that of a Minister... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand it first.

[Translation]

DR. G.L. KANAUJIA : I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the support price fixed are lower or higher, and whether this benefit is given in full to the farmer? In my constituency the wheat is being sold at Rs. 20 to 40 rupees less than the support price. Whether the hon. Minister is aware of this fact? If not, the reasons therefor?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It do happy when a medical professional asks question on agriculture?

(Interruptions)

DR. G.L. KANAUJIA : It is not so. You have fixed lower support price and whatever has been the increase in the support price that is not given to the farmer. Please make enquiry about this in our four districts of Shahjahanpur, Sitapur... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is irrelevant. I will disallow it if you do not come to the proper question.

[Translation]

DR. G.L. KANAUJIA : The fertilizers being supplied there is adulterated. Salt and soil is mixed in that. It is inferior in quality... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I do not think it is relevant. Even then, you reply.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I will request the hon. Member not to lose temper. Your concern is that the rates are falling. I am giving the answer to the question of Shri Virendra Singh. If there is no support price farmer gets lower price. Shri Ajit Singh ji is present here. I will request him to see that there is no such complaint about the non-purchase of wheat... (Interruptions)

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : Can a Cabinet Minister give order to his colleague in the House?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I am not giving Orders... (Interruptions) Why are you angry?

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : I am not angry. I am raising a very relevant question. You had been a speaker. You must know... (Interruptions)

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : You are shirking from your responsibility.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Sir, you have been a judge. You are also saying this... (Interruptions). This is not so. FCI procures foodgrains and that is why I am requesting him to work into the matter. As regards fertilizers we shall look into the aspect of conducting an enquiry.

MR. SPEAKER : This question has consumed half an hour. So this has become a half-an-hour question.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : The hon. Minister has just now said that they have declared support price on agriculture during the last 30 years. This is correct. The hon. Minister is also a farmer. He knows that the entire agricultural produce of the farmer comes in the market at one time. So he must get support price, which he does not get. The industry prepares its own chart daily and produces daily. So the prices of agricultural

products are always lower than that. Some times they produce less and make more money. But the farmer does not do that because his entire production of foodgrain is brought in the market at one time. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he proposes to link the agricultural production with price index like the dearness allowance of Government employees which is linked with price index so that farmer gets the benefit of price hike automatically. If this is done the farmer will get benefit.

MR. SPEAKER : If the Government procures entire agricultural production then it could be done.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Every thing is there. Every aspect has been considered while fixing the prices... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please let him ask about sugar.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMORIA : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I wanted to ask the Hon. Minister... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This question does not pertain to coconut.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMORIA : Wheat and rice are grown in the hope of remunerative price. The support price offered by you does not give remunerative price to the farmers. The production cost which includes cost of agricultural inputs right from tilling of land to taking of yield to the barn and thereafter to the market...

MR. SPEAKER : That has been asked by Rawatji.

DR. RAM KRISHNA KUSMORIA : How your scientists have calculated and assessed that the support price offered to the farmers for the current year is profitable or not?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Of course, it is remunerative. Support price carries no meaning sans element of profit. Support price means remunerative price and that is determined after taking every aspect in view.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMORIA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, there is a difference between the support price and remunerative price... (Interruptions)

[English]

District Primary Education Programme

+
*482. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

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

(a) whether Government have reviewed the District Primary Education Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assessment has been made of the performance of the organisations implementing the programme; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTRY IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d). The implementation of District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) has started in December, 1994. It is therefore early to review the programme as a whole. However, a review was made of the manner in which the programme started. This was found to be generally satisfactory.

[Translation]

SMT. BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister in reply to my question has stated that District Primary Education Programme was started in December, 1994 and that it would be too early to review it. But she has also stated that the review was made of the manner in which the programme was started.

The main problem of India is increasing population and also of increasing unemployment, the problem of unemployment starts from primary education. We have formulated many programmes and schemes but only on papers. They were not implemented. I want to know the names of the states where you have reviewed this programme. I also want to know the names of the states and the districts of each of these states where this programme has started.

KUMARI SELJA : We have started the programme DPAP in 43 districts in phase-I. We reviewed this programme in all these districts to ascertain whether the societies have been formed or not and its structure has been formulated or not. We can term it a preliminary supervision which will be done four times in a year in all the districts.

SMT. BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : What about states?

KUMARI SELJA : These 43 districts are in seven states.

SMT. BHAVANA CHIKHLIA : Which are the districts?

MR. SPEAKER : You may write it later on.

SMT. BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : I want to know whether Gujarat is covered or not?

MR. SPEAKER : Such questions should be asked in writing.

SMT. BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Part (b) of my first question relates to Gujarat.

My second supplementary is that though the major part of population in India lives in villages but the standard of primary education in villages is very poor because of which children do not get good education. The position there is that where the schools are situated

there are no children and where there is no school there are children. Therefore, I want to know whether you have sought assistance from World Bank to start programmes for raising the standard of Primary Education? If so, the extent of the amount spent on this programme?

KUMARI SELJA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Member the names of the seven states. These states are Assam, Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. There are 43 districts in these states. Gujarat is not therein. hon. member is correct to say we have faced problems in Primary Education. Therefore, our focus is on Elementary Education. We are giving priority to Primary Education under the elementary education and we have started DPEP programme. Assistance has been taken from World Bank for this programme.

SHRI ASTBHUAJ PRASAD SHUKLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Primary Education is facing a serious problem. On the one hand Public Schools are flourishing and on the other hand condition of primary schools is very bad. In 60 per cent of the schools students bring their own Tat-Patti to sit on. In 40 per cent of such schools there is no chair for the teacher and no black board and in 45 per cent schools there are only two teachers. 70 per cent schools have no buildings to house the classes. The condition of these schools in villages is very bad.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask question. What is your question?

SHRI ASTBHUAJ PRASAD SHUKLA : I am asking question. Literacy ratio in India is 47 per cent. In U.P. it is 27 per cent. In district Basti it is 11 per cent. My question is that the rate of fee in public schools is from Rs. 4 to 44. Literacy rate in the districts was 11 per cent at the time when development less was not imposed and education was free. I want to know whether Government propose to start a scheme to raise the standard of education in Government primary schools as compared to that in the Public schools? Seven states have been brought under World Bank Scheme and 43 districts in DPEP scheme. What is the criterion you have adopted. Third question is... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you put so many questions. You will not get reply and you will be angry.

SHRI ASTBHUAJ PRASAD SHUKLA : Whether Government propose to constitute a basic education commission by integrating literacy schemes to streamline the primary education and to attract the people. People living in the villages do not want to send their children in primary schools there... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, if you do not sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now please do not take it down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. If you go on asking such questions, others will not get time and you will not get reply to your question. It is not good.

KUMARI SELJA : Sir, many things are related to this question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Your reply need not be as long as his question is.

KUMARI SELJA : I do not know from where he has got his facts and figures but I would like to inform the hon. Member that primary education and elementary education are free in the country... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

I said in reply to his first question that our focus is on elementary education and DPEP programme has been started in 7 states and 43 districts for which we are taking external assistance. He has said about some equipments. That is why we are strengthening primary education. We shall bring it forward in phased manner. Village Education Committees are being formed. The hon. Member has complained about non-availability of small things like chalk and chair. We will provide funds for these equipments. There will be involvement of all of us in this. Wherever there are teachers training will be imparted to them. Involvement of village Education Committees will be there. We will educate these village Education Committees how to take maximum advantage out of it. We have plenty of funds, but there is lack of peoples' involvement. I would appeal to all to contribute in this programme and only then we can make this a successfull programme.

[English]

DR. R. MALLU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the reply given by the hon. Minister, the literacy rate is the highest in Kerala; still, it is included in the DPEP. I want to know from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, as to what is the criterion for selection of these districts. Is it on the basis of the literacy rate or it is included if somebody requests that some districts should be taken in?

KUMARI SELJA : We have a proper criterion for selecting these districts. Firstly, the average rate of women literacy is lower than the national average. Secondly, only if proper momentum has been created in those districts by our total literacy compaign, those districts are taken.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the objective of the District Primary Education Programme is to advance elementary education to all - high and low - to bring all into the arena of literacy throughout the country of different districts of our country, to endeavour to impart education to their ability. In our district we find that the district authorities depend fully upon the efforts of the volunteers. In the beginning, the volunteers

showed marked interest and did a lot. But nowadays, the volunteers are not showing marked interest as before. In this perspective, may I know from the hon. Minister, whether the Government will consider giving some sort of incentives to those volunteers so as to induce or motivate them to under take the work as before?

KUMARI SELJA : Sir, there are no volunteers in this Programme - DPEP.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI : Sir, this is a very sorry state of affairs that even after 48 years of Independence, the Government have been unable to implement the constitutional provision fully for free and compulsory primary education. Now, since the Government have launched DPEP, it has to be not only quantitative, but also qualitative. Minimum levels of learning need to be ensured not only for improvement of quality, but also for universalisation of improved quality. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether suitable strategies have been implemented to achieve this. If 'yes', what are those steps taken for this; if 'not', why not?

Second part of my question is whether effective teaching strategies have been planned and implemented to ensure effective DPEP.

KUMARI SELJA : Sir, these are the very objectives of DPEP, that is, to improve the quality, to give proper training to the teachers, to involve the local people so that the quality of primary education is improved; and we can work out the strategies at the local level.

Loss to Food Corporation of India

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*483. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :

DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has been suffering losses due to fixation of lower sales price than the economic price through the Public Distribution System both in the domestic market as well as abroad;

(b) if so, the loss incurred per quintal, foodgrain-wise; and

(c) the proposals envisaged for making this policy economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) The difference between the economic cost and the issue price to the PDS is reimbursed by the Government to the FCI in the form of food subsidy. There is no PDS for external market.

(b) For the year 1994-95 the average per quintal difference between economic cost and sales realisation through the PDS and open sales works out to be of the order of Rs. 163.5 and Rs. 125.8 for wheat and rice respectively.

(c) As a matter of deliberate policy on food security, the Central Government does not realise the economic cost from the consumers in full. This policy is aimed at protection of the interests of the farmers and supply of foodgrains to the consumers at affordable prices.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to express my thanks to the hon. Minister for giving me the information that public distribution system is not for external market. But my question was different and the reply given is also different one. However, I don't want to go into it.

It is very strange that on the one hand, we still claim with pride that we have sufficient stock of foodgrains and on the other hand, we are worried how to sell the same. The Government has recently taken a decision to sell 25 lakh tonnes of wheat and 20 lakh tonnes of rice, wherever in the world it could be sold. In this way, efforts for selling foodgrains are being made for the last one or two years, whereas it is impossible today to sell foodgrains in foreign market. I would like to say that even today we cannot sell foodgrains at economic price either in the country or in the foreign market because the hon. Minister has himself admitted in the Economic Survey presented in the House one month back that :

[English]

"This is the first time Indian rice has become uncompetitive in the international market."

[Translation]

It has been stated in the next statement,

[English]

"Exporting wheat does not seem to be a feasible option as well. India produces soft wheat which fetches a very low export price of about 100 dollars i.e. Rs. 3100 per tonne FOB as against hard wheat traded globally at 130 dollars to 160 dollars per tonne. Hence, even in wheat export, we are at a disadvantage, unless we shift to producing hard durum wheat."

[Translation]

Now, when you admit that it is not possible to sell wheat at present prices as well as at economic prices in foreign market, then why loud proclamations are being made about new economic policy and globalisation every day and the farmers are being lured to accept it? Further, where, when and at what price the Government proposes to sell these things?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has said that the reply given was a different one. The question was :

[English]

"Whether the Food Corporation of India has been suffering losses due to fixation of lower sales price than the economic price through the Public Distribution System both in the domestic market as well as abroad."

[Translation]

In reply to this, I said that P.D.S. was not for external market... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, he has not insisted upon that aspect.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT SINGH : His main question was that whether we would be able to sell sugar, rice and wheat at prices prevalent in the international market. First, I would like to inform that in case of rice we have got so many inquiries and applications from the exporters. We have fixed sale price of wheat only last week and we hope that we shall be able to sell wheat keeping in view wheat production position in the world. It is necessary to take into account the available buffer stock as well as expected procurement in Rabi season. I would also like to reply to the question which the hon. Member intends to ask. If we take into account economic cost, storage cost and finance charges, it would be proper to make efforts to sell foodgrains at the prevailing international price.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I have still to get a reply to my question. I have asked about the extent of loss incurred in the entire deal. Sir, it may be that he has replied in anticipation. However, the Hon'ble Minister would agree that the quantum of foodgrains released under public distribution system from 1991 till 1995 has come down. Similarly, the number of Fair Price Shops has reduced. About 2 crore 8 lakh tonnes of foodgrain was released in 1991. In 1992, it was 1 crore 88 lakh tonnes; in 1993, 1 crore 64 lakh tonnes and in 1994, 1 crore 41 lakh tonnes. It seems to me that it will be around 1 crore 20 lakh tonnes this year. Thus, there has been 80 per cent decline during the last 4 years, whereas the population has increased by 8 crores during these four years. On the one hand, there has been steady decline in the quantity of foodgrains released whereas on the other hand, released foodgrain has not reached the market. What are the reasons therefor? Is that grain very old which nobody wants to purchase? People prefer to purchase grain from the open market and not from PDS. Whether this strategy as well as increase in issue price and abolishing subsidy on external pressure are a prelude to do away with PDS? Whether poverty is increasing to such an extent in the country that poor people cannot purchase foodgrains at the subsidised rates and they are facing starvation?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the contention of the hon. Member that there has been 80 per cent decline in releasing the foodgrains, is not correct.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I beg your pardon. It is not 80 per cent but there has been about 35-40 percent decline.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : There has been a decline, but it is about 20 per cent. Secondly, we have not released less quantity of foodgrains because these are released according to the demands of the States. Moreover, prices have decreased in the open market due to increased production and hence, people prefer to purchase them from open market. So far as scrapping the P.D.S. is concerned, it is not so. Instead, we have started Revamped Public Distribution System under which wheat and rice is being supplied at Rs. 50 less per quintal than the price under P.D.S.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, I was in Lucknow. I received a complaint that there is inflow of wheat in large quantity in the market but the Government is not purchasing wheat from the farmers. The middlemen purchase wheat at lower prices from the farmers and sell it to the Government at higher prices. Thus, they are making huge profit. There is big difference between the prices of wheat purchased through the profiteers and directly from the farmers. The farmers are thus incurring losses. The hon'ble Minister who hails from Uttar Pradesh must be aware of the plight of the farmers there.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Whenever hon. Atal Bihari goes to Lucknow, he is faced with a problem. Whatever he has said, I shall enquire into that matter. Shri Joshi had also raised a question about quota. I immediately obtained information and gave necessary directions. Similarly, another hon. Member has also complained about Shahjahanpur and Sitapur. I shall enquire into every complaint which will be brought to my notice and take suitable action accordingly. It shall also be looked into whether wheat is purchased from the farmers at reasonable price or not.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been said just now that storage cost and handling cost is included in the economic cost. Shri Vajpayee has also said that farmers have been getting less price in this procurement season. Whether the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister is contemplating reduction in economic cost. It is not the reason behind non-procurement that FCI is not having storage capacity. They get space on rent for storage. Is the Government contemplating procurement of wheat from farmers in the month of October and pay the storage cost of Rs. 20-30 per quintal to the farmer so that FCI is saved from paying handling charges twice?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : The question of the hon. Member is laudable and a proposal in this regard is under consideration.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That means it is an assurance.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the production of sugar has gone beyond the target? Is it a fact that even then you have decided to import another five lakh metric tonnes of sugar from the international market at a higher cost?

MR. SPEAKER : I don't think it comes out of the main question.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : It concerns the same Ministry and the production has gone beyond the target.

MR. SPEAKER : I have no objection if the Minister wants to reply to it.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT SINGH : As you have said, this question does not come out of the main question... (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : When sugar production is surplus. Why are you resorting to its import?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. I leave it to you. It is not relevant.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonia) : Wheat is cheaper in open market than under PDS at present. However, a situation will come when wheat will be costlier in open market. I would like to ask from the hon. Minister about its quality. The reason behind not purchasing wheat from Fair Price shops is that when you purchase wheat from the farmer it is not adulterated but once it reaches the PDS shop, stone, dust etc. is found mixed with it. Are you keeping a check as to how these things get mixed with wheat in FCI godowns?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : We supply after full check. The responsibility of PDS lies with the State Governments.

SHRI UMRAO SINGH : The hon. Minister was telling that storage charges are high and that there is no storage capacity. Whether Government will make such arrangements under which farmers will be given loan from the banks against their crop and they could store the grain in their stores?

MR. SPEAKER : You have perhaps replied to this question just now.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have replied to this question.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN : The hon. Minister has said that we have sufficient stock of foodgrains and that we are looking for markets to sell them. But Bihar is not getting its monthly quota of wheat and rice. Bihar has a demand of 80 thousand metric tonnes of wheat and 40 thousand metric tonnes of rice every month, but only 58 thousand 800 metric tonnes of wheat and 31,800 metric tonnes of rice is being supplied to it. In tribal areas of Bihar, people like to eat rice. Whereas, "Arva Rice" is supplied through Fair Price shops under PDS.

We have been bringing this problem in the notice of the Government of India from time to time but it has remained unresolved. People living below poverty line are not getting foodgrains of their requirement. I want to know from the hon. Minister, through you, when Bihar will get its required monthly quota of foodgrains?

12.00 hrs.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we supply wheat and rice to all the State Governments, including Bihar, according to their demand. The Government of Bihar do not lift the stock it asks for from us...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN : He is misleading the House, it is not so. The Central Government does not head the request of Bihar Government...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHIR A. CHARLES : Sir, one per cent loss is allowed for storage and transit. Usually, the actual loss is not calculated. As a result, the FCI loses. May I know from the Minister whether in future the actual loss, subject to a maximum of one per cent loss, will be calculated for storage and transit?

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Sir, I could not understand the question.

MR. SPEAKER : I could not get it too.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : I would like to inform the hon. Member from Bihar, who seems to be unhappy, that this is not the problem of Bihar alone. This problem exists in other states also. I did not say about Bihar only.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You please repeat the question.

SHIR A. CHARLES : Sir, my question is very simple. One per cent loss is usually allowed for storage and transit. But the actual loss is never taken into consideration. So, may I know from the hon. Minister whether in future the loss would be limited to a maximum of one per cent and only the actual loss calculated will be written off, so that FCI may stand to gain.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a very good question.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT SINGH : There was 1.49 per cent loss in storage and transit during 1991-92 and 1.48 per cent in 1992-93.

MR. SPEAKER : He was saying that 8 per cent loss is allowed. If the loss is less, will it be taken into consideration so that FCI may stand to gain?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : At present it is 0.95 per cent. It was a bit higher last year. We will see how much it can be reduced.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Soil Erosion

*484. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated percentage of annual loss of agricultural produce in the country during the last three years due to soil erosion and the States which are the worst affected;

(b) the measures taken by the Government so far to save the loss of crop due to soil erosion particularly in the rainfed areas and the extent to which these measures have been able to save the agricultural produce; and

(c) the deficiencies in the existing method of soil conservation and the alternative methods proposed to be adopted by the Government for enhancing the yields in the rainfed areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) No estimates are available about the loss of agricultural produce due to soil erosion. States which are most affected due to soil erosion are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

(b) Government is implementing following important schemes including those specifically for rainfed areas, which, among other things, help in checking soil erosion and improving soil and crop productivity :

- (i) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects.
- (ii) Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers.
- (iii) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas.
- (iv) Watershed Development Project in the Shifting Cultivation areas of North-Eastern India.
- (v) Drought Prone Areas Programme.
- (vi) Desert Development Programme.
- (vii) Integrated Wastelands Development programme.

However, no relationship has been worked out in quantitative terms between measures taken to conserve the soil and increase in the crop productivity.

(c) Based on the experience of implementing various soil conservation schemes in the past, Government of India have made modifications in the guidelines for implementing soil conservation schemes during 8th Five Year Plan which are as follows :

- (i) Adoption of a projectised approach for the treatment of selected watersheds for all types

of lands i.e. Agriculture, forest and wastelands based on their needs.

(ii) Stress on the use of vegetative barriers, appropriate tillage practices for in situ conservation of rain water and also water harvesting for re-cycling.

(iii) Involvement of people/beneficiaries at all levels of the projects i.e. planning, implementation and post management.

[Translation]

Pending Cases in Consumer Courts

*485. DR. SAKSHIJI :
SHRI M.G. REDDY :

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

(a) the total number of cases pending in National Commission and various Consumer Courts in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the total cases settled by the Commission/Courts during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) the average time being taken by the Commission/Courts to settle a case;

(d) whether the Government propose to simplify the procedure adopted by these Commission/Courts to reduce the disposal time; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c). Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution compiles such information on quarterly basis. Based on the information available with the Ministry, a statement has been prepared and is annexed. The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and the rules framed thereunder provide for deciding a case within 3 months which does not require any Laboratory testing or analysis and within 5 months if it requires testing or analysis. The attached Statement also indicates the cases decided by the State Commission/District Fora within 90/150 days.

(d) and (e). The Consumer Protection Act provides for setting up additional District Fora in a district depending upon the work load. However, the responsibility of setting up of such additional District Forum lies solely with the State Governments. The procedure under Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and the rules framed thereunder is already very simple. The complaint can be written on plain paper and sent to the redressal forum even by post. No fee is charged for registering the complaint.

STATEMENT

MAY 9, 1995

State/UT	State Commission						District Forums					
	No. of Complaints			No. of Appeals			Filed Since Inception			Decided Within 90/150 Days		
	Filed Since Inception	Disposed Pending Cases	Decided Within 90/150 Days	Filed Since Inception	Disposed Pending Cases	Decided Within 90/150 Days	Filed Since Inception	Disposed Pending Cases	Decided Within 90/150 Days	Filed Since Inception	Disposed Pending Cases	Decided Within 90/150 Days
Andhra Pradesh	1119	333	786	127	3493	2826	687	841	64186	51442	12744	24755
Arunachal Pradesh	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	60	56	4	56
Assam	357	128	229	3	176	73	69	5	2268	964	1304	403
Bihar	707	406	301	196	1293	554	739	177	18593	10370	8223	425
Goa	105	102	3	38	228	188	40	43	1234	791	443	86
Gujarat	1500	866	634	270	1177	842	335	697	29896	15751	14145	9127
Haryana	266	218	48	122	2155	1291	864	1125	25439	18613	6826	12141
Himachal Pradesh	247	92	155	92	810	69	741	69	5485	4237	1248	2577
Jammu and Kashmir	41	9	32	-	10	0	10	-	5019	4782	237	-
Karnataka	1038	838	200	253	1947	958	989	199	10773	6205	4568	3100
Kerala	1254	853	401	99	3068	1578	1490	645	52812	42808	10004	15500
Madhya Pradesh	414	284	130	97	1702	1221	481	386	28006	16613	11393	9876
Maharashtra	2117	1239	878	405	3932	1715	2217	517	45627	32051	13576	18364
Manipur	3	1	2	1	22	4	18	4	506	505	1	505
Meghalaya	4	3	1	-	1	1	0	-	4	2	2	2
Madras	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	-	131	113	18	112
Nagaland	4	0	4	-	0	0	0	-	13	6	7	-
Orissa	1270	759	511	158	1099	331	768	76	10907	6948	3959	3849
Punjab	382	262	120	67	410	403	7	168	10855	6996	3859	3490
Rajasthan	3623	787	2836	242	3571	1453	2118	436	55800	42511	13289	23841
Sikkim	1	1	0	-	0	0	0	-	43	15	28	3
Tamilnadu	1632	1392	240	846	2813	2119	694	1344	27998	18620	9378	4562
Tripura	41	38	3	64	56	36	20	27	538	390	148	225
Uttar Pradesh	1534	691	843	45	8034	2369	5665	64	86249	49742	36507	9994
West Bengal	2414	500	1914	200	660	364	296	93	17905	3761	14144	1002
A & N Island	9	5	4	-	8	4	4	-	87	77	10	-
Chandigarh	537	301	236	6	295	224	71	12	5874	2980	2894	144
D & N Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	19	10	9	7
Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	32	16	16	-
Delhi	2298	1406	890	600	1838	1237	601	400	26099	17283	8816	3871
Lakshadweep	1	1	0	-	0	0	0	-	18	15	3	2
Pondicherry	46	40	6	22	177	169	8	103	831	656	175	531
Total	22967	11555	11412	3954	38980	20029	18951	7431	533307	355329	177978	148550

In National Commission, as on 31-3-95, 2282 cases are pending. A total number of 2,863 cases have been settled by the National Commission during the period from April 1993 to 31st March, 1995.

[English]

Medicinal Herbs

*486. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

SHRI D. VENKATESHWARA RAO :

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

(a) the details of the Medicinal Herbs whose export is banned due to their scarcity;

(b) whether these rare Medicinal Herbs worth crores of rupees have been illegally exported in the guise of their local names;

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Union Government have received any representations to amend the concerned legislations so as to check the illicit trafficking of Medicinal Herbs;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):
(a) 46 plant species are prohibited for export out of which 40 species have medicinal value. A Statement consisting A list of these plants is enclosed.

(b) and (c). The export consignments of medicinal plants, even if declared by their local names, are subjected to pre-shipment examination by the Customs and Wildlife Authorities since April 1, 1994 when the ban was imposed. Export of 6 species listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was banned earlier. Pre-shipment inspection is carried out to ensure that only the permitted species are exported and that all necessary documentation has been produced.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. A representation has been received from All India Doctors Association of Indian System of Medicine, Delhi for amending the Forest Conservation Act and Indian Forest Act to check the illicit trafficking of medicinal herbs.

(f) The Indian Forest Act, 1927 already regulates the collection and transport of medicinal plants, which are classified as forest produce under the Act, from the forest areas of the country. The Forest Conservation Act, 1980, only deals with the issue of diversion of forest land for non forestry purpose.

STATEMENT

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

Public Notice No. 47 (PN) 92-97
New Delhi : Dated 30th March, 1994

Note : Please see para 158 Part I (3) of the Policy.

Attention is invited to item No 3 Part I, Para 158 (Prohibited Items) of Chapter XVI Negative List of Exports of the Export and Import Policy, 1992-97 (Revised Edition : March, 1994)

2. The Director General of Foreign Trade hereby prohibits the export of Plants, Plant Portions and their derivatives as under :

1. Aconitum spp.
2. Atropa spp.
3. Aristolochia spp.
4. Angiopteris spp.
5. Arundinaria Jaunsarensia
6. Balanophora spp.
7. Colchicum Luteum (Hirantutya)
8. Commiphora Whightii
9. Coptis spp.
10. Cyathaea gigantea
11. Dioscorea deltoidea
12. Drosera spp.
13. Gentiana kurroo (Kuru, Kukti)
14. Gloriosa superba
15. Ghetum spp
16. Iphignia indica
17. Meconopsis betonicifolia
18. Nardostachys spp (Jatamansi)
19. Osmundae spp
20. Rauwolfia spp. (Serpghandha)
21. Rhododendron spp
22. Podophyllum hexandrum
23. Physochlaina Praealta (Bajarbang)
24. Pralitia serpumlia
25. Rheum emodi (Dolu)
26. Berberis aristata (Indian barberry; Rasvat)
27. Acorus spp.
28. Artemisia spp.
29. Coscimium fenestratum (Calumba wood)
30. Costus speciosas (Keu, Kust)
31. Didymocarpus pedicellata
32. Dolomiaea pedicellata
33. Ephedra spp.

34. *Gynocardia odorata* (Chaulmogri)
 35. *Hydnocarpus* spp.
 36. *Hyoscyamus niger* (Broseword)
 37. *Strychnos potatorum* (Nirmali)
 38. *Swertia chirata* (Charayatah)
 39. *Taxus baccata* (Yewu, Birm)
 40. *Urginea* spp.
CITES APEENDIX I SPECIES
 41. *Beddomea cycad* (*Cycas beddomei*)
 42. Blue vanda (*Vanda coerulea*)
 43. Kuth (*Saussurea lappa*)
 44. Ladies slipper orchid (*Paphiopedilum* spp.)
 45. Pitcher Plant (*Nepenthes Khasiana*)
 46. Red vanda (*Renanthera imschootiana*)

3. This issues in public interest.

sd/-

(Dr. P.L. Sanjeev Ratty)
 Director General of Foreign Trade

Pending Dues

*487. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway has yet to recover dues from several State Electricity Boards for transporting Coal and related material to Thermal Power Stations in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the total amount payable by each of these State Electricity Boards; and

(c) the action taken to recover these dues?

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

(b) Details about dues outstanding against State Electricity Boards and Thermal Power Plants as on 28.2.95 are given below :

S. No.	Name of State Electricity Board/Power Houses	Amount due as on 28.2.95 (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board.	0.81
2.	Assam State Electricity Board.	3.95
3.	Bihar State Electricity Board.	11.09
4.	Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking;	93.81
5.	Gujarat State Electricity Board.	36.37
6.	Haryana State Electricity Board.	84.41
7.	Karnataka State Electricity Board.	0.16
8.	Maharashtra State Electricity Board.	28.89
9.	M.P. State Electricity Board.	3.60

1	2	3
10.	Orissa State Electricity Board.	
11.	Punjab State Electricity Board.	11.20
12.	Rajasthan State Electricity Board.	2.86
13.	Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board.	4.34
14.	Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board.	58.40
15.	West Bengal State Electricity Board.	26.83
16.	N.T.P.C.	663.75
17.	Private Power House-Sabarmati.	1.58
	Total	1032.05

(c) State Electricity Boards and other Power Houses are being repeatedly requested to clear the dues. Ministry of Finance had decided to recover an amount of Rs. 308.05 crores from Central Plan Assistance (except DESU and NTPC). Also compulsory prepayment of freight has been enforced on the Power Houses of Gujarat and Haryana State Electricity Boards.

Further, to discourage State Electricity Boards from booking coal consignment on 'To Pay' basis, surcharge has been further enhanced from 10% to 15% w.e.f. 15.1.95.

Besides adjustment against traction bills of UPSEB and DESU is also being done to minimise outstanding dues.

Wild Animals

*488 SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR :
 KUMARI UMA BHARTI :

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

(a) whether the number of wild animals is increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of each major species as per the last census and the rate of increase thereof, State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to save and increase the species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). State-wise details of all wild animal populations are not maintained by the Central Government. Census of some major endangered species are conducted by the States once in four years and in some important protected areas once in two years. The figures for some such major wild animals are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) The increase in the population of some wild animals is due to effective protection measure and

managed habitat conditions, while the decline in some species is due to inadequate protection and habitat decline.

(d) A number of steps are being taken to safeguard wild animal populations. These include : Providing

assistance to the States for development of national parks and sanctuaries; implementing special projects for endangered species such as Tiger, Elephants, Rhino etc; undertaking ex-situ conservation and rehabilitation of species in wild; controlling poaching and illegal trade of wildlife etc.

STATEMENT

S. No.	Name of the State	Tiger 1989-93	Elephant 1989-93	Lion 1989-90	Rhinoceros 1989-93	Leopard 1989-93	Brow Antlered Deer 1992-95	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	235	197	-	46	-	301 152 -	
2.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	10 15 -	
3.	Goa	2	3	-	-	-	18 31 -	
4.	Bihar	157	137	335	500-600	-	134 203 -	
5.	Mizoram	18	28	-	-	-	38 49 -	
6.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	199 821 -	
7.	Orissa	243	226	-	1500-1600	-	279 378 -	
8.	Rajasthan	99	64	-	-	-	461 475 -	
9.	Gujarat	9	5	-	-	239 284	702 772 -	
10.	Maharashtra	417	276	-	-	-	580 417 -	
11.	Karnataka	257	305	-	5000-6000	-	283 455 -	
12.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	-	19 25 -	
13.	Meghalaya	34	53	-	2500-3000	-	- - -	
14.	Uttar Pradesh	735	465	-	750-1000	-	9 12 1095 711 -	
15.	Arunachal Pradesh	135	180	-	2000-3000	-	-	121 98 -
16.	Madhya Pradesh	985	912	-	-	-	2036 1700 -	
17.	Kerala	45	57	-	3000-4000	-	-	27 16 -
18.	Tamil Nadu	95	97	-	2300-2500	-	-	95 138 -
19.	West Bengal	353	335	155	-200-	-	39 44 108 108 -	
20.	Assam	376	325	-	5000-6000	-	1543 1440 123 246 -	
21.	Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	37 18 -	
22.	Nagaland	104	83	-	-	-	72 - -	
23.	Sikkim	4	2	-	-	-	1 - -	
24.	Manipur	31	-	-	-	-	-	62 152
25.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	-	4 - -

Biological Control of Pests

*489. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in regard to biological control of pests in the country;

(b) the amount spent during 1992-93 and 1993-94 on the research work; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage farmers to go in for biological control of pests?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) Sir, a number of effective biocontrol agents have been identified and technology for mass multiplication of major biocontrol agents i.e. Trichogramma, Chrysopa, Trichoderma, Nuclear Poly Hedrosis Virus (NPV) etc. has been established.

(b) The amount spent on biological control research by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is as under :

1992-93	Rs. 78.33 lakhs
1993-94	Rs. 121.61 lakhs

(c) The following are the steps taken to encourage farmers to promote biological control of pests :

(i) The existing biocontrol production Centres and Central Surveillance Stations have been re-organised into 26 Central Integrated pest Management Centres. 4 new such Centres would become operational during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

- (ii) Providing grant-in-aid to the States/UTs. for setting up of State Biological Control Laboratories during the Eighth Plan Period.
- (iii) Registration of biocides *Bacillus thuringiensis* (B.t.) and neem based pesticides.
- (iv) Organising Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Farmers' Field Schools.
- (v) Organising IPM demonstrations.
- (vi) Funds have been provided under the IPM Farmer Field Schools and IPM demonstrations for the purchase of biocontrol agents.

Agreement between India and Turkey

*490. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY :
SHRI KESRI LAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Turkey to further the existing co-operation in the Railway Sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total foreign exchange to be earned by the country as a result thereof;
- (d) whether Indian Railway Construction Company (IRCON) is likely to secure any project from Turkish Railways; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost of the project?

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

(b) to (c). Both sides agreed for more constructive interaction in the railway sector and extending this cooperation as also cooperation in training and R&D spheres. Indian side expressed interest in undertaking other electrification, signalling and track renewal works in Turkey. A specific project of electrification of Izmir Suburban section was mentioned for which Turkish side agreed to explore possibilities of negotiating the project between Turkish Railways and IRCON. The offer and detailed break up of cost for this project are yet to be negotiated with Turkish Railways. The rough cost has, however, been assessed to be in the region of USD 33.0 m. with foreign exchange earning of about 11 m. USD.

Scrap Material

*491. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a scrap management group has been set up in the Railway Board to monitor disposal of scrap;
- (b) whether the Railway have maximised their income by disposing of its scrap material;

(c) if so, the details of revenue earned during the last three years, Zone-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(c) A statement is enclored.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Revenue Earnings from Scrap Disposal during the Last Three years are given below :

Railway	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	(Rs. in crores)
Central	101.72	110.52	115.72	
Eastern	89.03	95.65	117.10	
Northern	117.56	134.63	180.21	
North Eastern	21.44	32.12	42.68	
Northeast Frontier	14.02	21.86	25.61	
Southern	57.37	97.36	135.31	
South Central	75.35	103.66	116.37	
South Eastern	87.02	106.33	120.89	
Western	90.16	109.81	121.10	
Total	653.67	811.94	974.99	
Production Units	25.27	37.74	42.76	
Grand Total	678.94	849.68	1017.75	

Edible Oils

*492. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the total quantity of various edible oils released by the NDDDB during each of the last three years;
- (b) whether there is a sharp cutdown in the supply of these oils recently leading to acute shortage in the market;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the supply of these oils?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DR. BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) The details of sales of edible oils by NDDDB during last 3 years are as follows :

Financial Year	Dhára Oils	Imported Oils
1992-93	76,817	12,884
1993-94	57,239	12,868
1994-95	49,425	65,629
Total	1,83,481	91,381

(b) and (c). Due to seizure of stocks of edible oils of NDDB by Gujarat Government in the first half of April, 1995, the production and supply of Dhara Oils were hampered between 4th April to 18th April, 1995. The dispute regarding the seizure of edible oil has now been settled and NDDB has reported supply of Dhara Oil as almost normal.

(d) Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution has reported that various steps have been taken by Government to augment the availability of indigenous edible oils in the open market and keep prices under check. The import of all edible oils except coconut oil, palm kernel, RBD Palm Oil and RBD Palm Stearin has been permitted under OGL w.e.f. 1.3.95 and import duty reduced to 30% from the previous level of 65%. STC has been authorised to import 1.5 lakh tonnes of imported palmoline during 1995-96. Action is being taken by States/UTs against persons indulging in hoarding, blackmarketing etc., of essential commodities including edible oils under provisions of Control Orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. In addition, NDDB has been permitted to import 1.5 lakh tonnes of edible oils at concessional import duty of 20% during 1994-95 in order to stabilise edible oil prices in the market as early as possible.

Smuggling of Idols

*493. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :

SHRI ANNA JOSHI :

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

(a) whether all the temples and other buildings under the Archaeological Survey of India do not have adequate security arrangements;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that ancient idols and artifacts of great importance are being smuggled at large scale from the ancient temple and monuments of the country;

(c) if so, the name of the temples and monuments from which idols have been stolen and the details of idols smuggled to the foreign countries during each of the last three years;

(d) the number of idols recovered out of them; and

(e) the concrete measure taken by the Government to check the theft and smuggling of old idols and the action taken against the persons involved? . .

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir. Security arrangements have been made for monuments under protection of Archaeological Survey of India in accordance with the importance and need of these monuments.

(b) Yes, Sir, but it cannot be considered to be on large scale.

(c) A list of monuments from where idols have been stolen during the last three years is given in the statement enclosed. The Government is not aware whether the stolen idols have been smuggled out of the country as per information available with the investigating agencies of the Government.

(d) Six idols have been recovered.

(e) Steps have been taken by the Archaeological Survey of India to check the theft of antiquities and their smuggling by careful vigilance and intensifying checking at custom exit points, as well as strict enforcement of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972. Armed Police Guards have been deployed at selected monuments and sculpture sheds.

STATEMENT

S. No.	Name of State	Name of the Temple/monuments and the District	Description of the object Stolen	Date of theft	Status of the case
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bihar	Mahadova Temple Rajgir District Nalanda	One stone object (Architrave)	24th-25th Feb.,1995	Under investigation with the investigating Agencies
2. Madhya Pradesh	1.	Vishnu Varaha Temple Karitalai District Jabalpur	Three sculpture	6th July, 1993	Recovered
	2.	Virateshwari Temple Sohagpur District Shahdol	One sculpture of Apsara	14-15 March, 1994	Under investigation with the investigating Agencies
	3.	-do-	One Shivalinga	12 March 1993	-do-

1	2	3	4	5	6
3. Rajasthan	1.	Kalyan Raiji's Temple District Tonk	Stone image of Ganesh	10 March 1992 July,	-do-
	2.	Somnath Temple at Deo Som Nath District Dungarpur	Two stone sculptures (i) Apsara (ii) A bracket figure	1993	-do-
4. Tamil Nadu	1.	Siva Temple Irumbanadu	Two lionscul- ptures	6-7 July, 1993	-do-
	2.	Dharmeshwar Temple Mainimangalam District Chengalpattu MGR	Skanda	17-18 December 1993	-do-
	3.	Rajgiri Fort Gingee District Villupuram- Ramaswamy, Padayachiyan.	Stone Ganesha Sculpture	29 Dec., 1993	-do-
	4.	Bund of the village tank at Madarapatti District Pudukkottai	Three stone sculptures	6 Nov., 1994	-do-
	5.	Dharmeshwar Temple Mainimangalam District Chengalpattu	Nataraja, Sivakami & Ganesha	3rd Nov., 1992	Two Recovered i.e.(Natraja & Shivakami)
5. Uttar Pradesh	1.	Varaha Temple Deogarh District Lalitpur	One stone Varaha Sculpture	24-25 August 1993	Recovered
	2.	Model Room Residency Lucknow	One Lithograph	27 May 1994	Under investigation with the Investigation Agencies
	3.	Kalinger Fort Kalinger District Banda	Two Stone sculptures (Bust of Devis)	3 Oct., 1993	-do-

Integrated Sports Policy and Planning

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to achieve them?

*494. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appeared in the Indian express, dated April 6, 1995 regarding lack of proper planning in sports affecting its performance at the International/ Asian level;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have initiated any integrated sports policy for scientific coaching of sports men;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any short-term and long-term targets have been laid down for promotion of sports and athletics; and

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The newspaper report quotes the views of Ukrainian Training Method's Experts about the importance of having long term planning for achieving high level performances in major sports events. It also correctly mentions that there is a significant move towards this direction in the recent years.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. A number of schemes are under implementation by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) for the scientific coaching of sportspersons. Under these schemes talented children are identified at a young age and put for training under coaches with all costs with regard to their boarding, lodging, academic fees, sports equipment and kit being met by the SAI.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Short-term and Long-term development plans and targets have been drawn up in consultation with Sports Authority of India and the National Federations of various sports disciplines. The implementation of these plans is being regularly monitored by all the concerned agencies.

[Translation]

Development of Forests

*495. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA :

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :

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

(a) whether deforestation in India has taken place in over 3,39,000 hectares of land between 1980 to 1990;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the area which has become barren due to denudation of forests during each of the last three years State-wise;

(d) the reasons therefor;

(e) whether allocation for 1995-96 is meant; for a major thrust to forestry and Wild Life activities;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the amount allocated for this purpose during 1995-96, State-wise; and

(g) the schemes implemented and proposed to be implemented to curtail the denudations, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (d). The first assessment of the forest cover in India for the period 1981-83 was available from Forest Survey of India's Report 1987. The last report on the same was published in 1993 for the period 1989-91. The loss of forest cover during this period is 1,93,400 ha. The main reasons of deforestation/denudation are illicit felling of trees for domestic and industrial consumption and encroachments.

(c) Statement is enclosed.

(e) and (f). There is only marginal increase in the allocation of funds for the year 1995-96 for the schemes implemented by the Government of India. The allocation for forestry and wild life activity for the year 1995-96 is Rs. 211.50 lakhs as against the allocation of Rs. 201.95 lakhs during the previous year. State-wise allocation of funds for the Government of India schemes has not been settled so far.

(g) The schemes of Government of India implemented and proposed to be implemented to curtail the denudation are as under :

(1) Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Scheme.

(2) Area-Oriented fuel wood fddc-scheme.

(3) Aerial seeding.

(4) Non-wood forest product and medicinal plant scheme.

STATEMENT

Comparative Situation of Forest Cover-1993 and 1991 Assessment

(Sq. km.)

S. No.	States/UTs	1991 assessment	1992 assessment	Change in 1993
1.	Andhra Pradesh	47,290	47,256	-34
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	68,757	68,661	-96
3.	Assam	24,751	24,508	-243
4.	Bihar	26,668	26,587	-81
5.	Goa (including Daman & Diu)	1,225	1,250	-5
6.	Gujarat	11,907	12,044	+137
7.	Haryana	513	513	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11,780	12,502	+722
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	20,064	20,443	+379
10.	Karnataka	32,199	32,343	+144
11.	Kerala	10,292	10,336	+44
12.	Madhya Pradesh	135,785	135,396	-389
13.	Maharashtra	44,044	43,859	-185
14.	Manipur	17,685	17,621	-64
15.	Meghalaya	15,875	15,769	-106
16.	Mizoram	18,853	18,697	-156
17.	Nagaland	14,321	14,348	+27
18.	Orissa	47,205	47,145	-60
19.	Punjab	1,343	1,343	-
20.	Rajasthan	12,835	13,099	+264
21.	Sikkim	3,033	3,119	+86
22.	Tamil Nadu	17,113	17,726	13
23.	Tripura	5,535	5,538	+3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	33,609	33,961	+352
25.	West Bengal	8,015	8,186	+171
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	7,622	7,624	+2
27.	Chandigarh	5	5	-
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	208	208	-
29.	Delhi	22	22	-
30.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-
31.	Pondicherry	-	-	-
	Total	639,182	640,107	+925

[English]

Zone Depleting Substances

*496. MAJ GEN. (RETD) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

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

(a) whether any target date has been fixed under the Montreal Protocol to phase out 'Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far;

(c) whether India has been able to draw merely \$ 11 million out of the Montreal Protocol Fund constituted for the phasing out programme of 'ODS', as against \$ 2 billion earmarked for it;

(d) if so, the reasons for such low utilization of the fund;

(e) whether the Government apprehend any bar on Indian products manufactured by companies who fail to modify their technology to eliminate 'ODS'; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by Government to remedy the situation?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India is required to bring down its level of consumption of Chlorofluorocarbons, Halons, carbon tetrachloride and Methyl choroform in 1998 to the average level of consumption of these substances in the years 1995-97. The use of these substances is to be completely phased out, in phases, by the year 2010. A country programme for phasing out ODS was prepared in 1993 with active involvement of industry.

(c) and (d). A total of 30 projects and activities for about \$ 11.4 million have been approved for India by the Montreal Protocol Fund. Another 15 projects for about \$ 3.3 million have been submitted to the Fund for approval. The Fund does not earmark funds on a country basis. It releases funds on a project by project basis.

(e) The developed countries are required to phase out Halons by 1994 and the remaining ODS by 1996. These countries may not allow import of products containing ODS beyond this period.

(f) The Government is interacting closely with industry and sharing with it all related information. Necessary assistance is being provided in preparation of ODS phase out projects. The Government has also availed full exemption from payment of customs and excise duties on capital goods required to implement projects approved by the Fund.

UN Climate Conference

*497. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

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

(a) whether an Indian delegation attended the UN Climate Conference held in Berlin recently;

(b) if so, the issues discussed and resolutions adopted at the Conference; and

(c) the stand Indian Delegation took to the proposed German protocol to the convention bracketing India with the developed countries for limiting Green House Gases?

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

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Conference of Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change discussed and took decisions on matters relating to transfer of technology, criteria for activities implemented jointly by the Parties, adequacy of commitments of developed country parties to achieve the objectives of the Convention, role of the Subsidiary Bodies established by the Convention and location of the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention

(c) The Indian delegation successfully opposed the German proposal bracketing India with the developed countries in limiting Green House Gas emissions.

Sports Activities

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

(a) whether sports and extra curricular activities are properly implemented in Central Schools;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Central Schools' students participate fully in competitions pertaining to these activities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to further develop such activities in the Central Schools?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (d). In Kendriya Vidyalayas, sports and extracurricular activities are organised regularly. The students are also encouraged to participate in competitions at different levels, including at National School games.

(e) The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan is further strengthening games fields and facilities, sports hostels, coaching facilities and mass participation programmes.

Super Bazar

*499. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Super Bazar was asked to improve and consolidate its working in a planned way;

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

(c) whether any perceptible change has been brought therein;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Super Bazar was also asked to improve its system of procurement of goods;

(f) the action taken thereon;

(g) the names of the slow moving articles whose purchase have been discontinued; and

(h) when were these items introduced in the Super Bazar?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (d). Super Bazar is a Cooperative Society whose Management and affairs are looked after by the duly constituted Managing Committee under Delhi Cooperative Societies Act and Rules framed thereunder. This Ministry also reviews the working of Super Bazar from time to time and wherever required renders its advice to the Managing Committee of Super Bazar. It is observed that during the last few years, Super Bazar has improved its financial position, paid higher dividend to the share-holders, higher bonus to its employees, added substantially to its assets and further improved upon its profitability. Its sales has increased from Rs. 9784.01 lakhs in 1991-92 to Rs. 11520.34 lakhs in 1993-94 and its net profit has increased from Rs.9.33 lakhs in 1991-92 to Rs. 41.65 lakhs in 1993-94.

(e) and (f). Management of Super Bazar does undertake review of its trading policies including those of system of procurement of goods as and when required in order to bring in greater accountability vis-a-vis quality of the products, competitive prices and better transparency in the entire working set up. The Management of Super Bazar has recently taken a decision to discontinue direct supply of the items by the suppliers to the branches. All the items are now routed through Regional Distribution Centres.

(g) and (h). During the last 2 years around 500 slow moving items like some brands of Aggarbatti, Dhoop, Soap, Razor Blades, Tooth Brush, Kajal, Cream, Powder, Shampoo, Hair Oil, Coconut Oil, Vanaspati, Pure Ghee etc. have been discontinued. These items were introduced for sale in Super Bazar during the last four years.

NCERT Study on Female Literacy

*500. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Council of Educational Research (NCERT) has recently conducted a study on Girl's education and its impact on various aspects of society;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made in depth study of the conclusion arrived in the study particularly with regard to the impact of Girls Education on fertility and population control; and

(d) if so, the details of the action proposed to be taken by the Government on the observations made therein?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Study entitled, 'Universal Primary Education of Rural Girls in India' largely draws upon the Vth All India Educational Survey, 1986 in regard to educational data; it demonstrates the correlation between female literacy and socio-economic indicators.

(c) and (d). The National Policy on Education, 1986 and its Programme of Action (POA) were reviewed in 1992 taking note of all the available information including the Vth All India Educational Survey 1986. POA 1992 specifically enunciates the strategies for women's education for Women's Equality. The updated National Policy on Education and its Programme of Action were placed in Lok Sabha on 7.5.92 & 19.8.92 respectively. The Study was also taken into account in designing the District Primary Education Programme.

[Translation]

Passenger Facilities

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4985. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether no full time ticket counters and basic facilities like drinking water, sheds on platforms etc. are available at several stations between Manmad and Daund; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to provide the above facilities on all the Railway Stations on this line?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). Full time ticket counters are functioning at Ahmednagar and Belapur stations situated on Manmad-Daund section. The volume of passenger traffic handled at other stations does not justify provision of full time booking counters.

Deficiencies in respect of basic passenger amenities have since been eliminated at all stations. All the stations on Daund Manmad section have been provided with suitable drinking water arrangements. As regards platform shelters, the same are already available at Ahmednagar, Vilad, Belapur and Kopargaon stations. Their augmentation and provision of shelters at other railway stations will also be considered when so warranted by growth in the volume of traffic, subject to availability of funds and comparative priorities of various stations.

[English]

Medium of Instruction

4986. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated some directives regarding the introduction of mother tongue as the medium of teaching primary schools in the light of the Supreme Court's judgement;

(b) whether any guidelines have been issued to the State Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c). The Policy of the Government, in regard to medium of instruction at the primary stage is set out in Article 350 A of the Constitution and the national Policy on Education, 1986. This policy has not been offreted by any Supreme Court judgement.

[Translation]

Pureline Poultry Breeding Programme

4987. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pureline Poultry Breeding Programme has been introduced in the country, particularly in Gujarat;

(b) the Achievements made thereunder, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken so far to achieve targets fixed under the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Government of India has set up 4 Central Poultry Breeding farms on regional basis at Bombay, Bangalore, Bhubneswar and Chandigarh to develop quality poultry breeding stocks through Pureline poultry Breeding Programme.

(b) and (c). As a result of this endeavour quality hybrid stock name as BH-78, HH-260, KALINGA-BROWN & CHABRO have been developed by Central Poultry Breeding Farm, Bombay, Bangalore, Bhubneswar and Chandigarh respectively. These stocks are being made available through various public and private sector Organisations throughout the country. In order to maintain and also to further improve upon the performance of these stocks the selection and breeding programmes are continued.

[English]

Snake Garden

4988. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Snake garden has been set up near Kota in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the Central Assistance sanctioned therefor; and

(c) the main objectives of the establishment thereof?

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

(a) According to the infromation provided by the state Forest Department, no such snake garden has been set up near Kota in Rajasthan.

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

Fishing Harbours in Kerala

4089. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of harbours in kerala that have not been completed even after expiry of period stipulated for their completion;

(b) the reasons for delay;

(c) the time by which these are likely to be completed; and

(d) the extent to which these projects are affected by cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b). The details of fishing harbours which have not been completed within the originally stipulated period and the reasons for delay are given in the Statement-I. The Central Government provides 50% of the approved estimated cost as grant for construction of the harbours which is the responsibility of the State Government.

(c) and (d). The details are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

STATEMENT-I

Name of fishery harbour	Date of sanction	Originally stipulated date of completion	Reasons for delay
1. Vizhinjam	Feb. 1987	Feb. 1990	Land acquisition, lack of staff and non-allocation of matching grant in time by the State Government.
2. Puthiappa	Jan. 1988	Sept. 1992	Lack of staff and non-allocation of matching grant in time by the State Government.
3. Munambam	Oct. 1988	Oct. 1993	Lack of staff and non-allocation of matching grant in time by the State Government.
4. Thangassery	Oct. 1988	Jan. 1993	Sanctioning of Stage-II, lack of staff and non-allocation of matching grant in time by the State Government.

STATEMENT-II

Name of fishing harbour	Year by which the projects are likely to be completed	Original estimate (Rs.in lakhs)	Anticipated revised cost estimate (Rs.in lakhs)
1. Vizhinjam	March, 1997	704.00	1100.00
2. Puthiappa	December '95	527.00	1045.00
3. Munambam	December '95	710.00	1244.00
4. Thangassery	March, 1997	1980.50	-

Assistance by National Book Trust

4990. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) Whether National Book Trust provides financial assistance to the private publishers for the publication of books; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the financial assistance provided to the publishers during the last three years?

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

(b) National Book Trust provides financial assistance for the publication of text and reference books under the scheme for subsidised publication of books. An assistance of Rs.11,65,150.00 has been given by NBT during the last three years.

[Translation]

Railway Lines

4991. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV : SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of railway lines in Uttar Pradesh for which survey work is under progress since 1993-94 or proposed to be conducted during the financial year 1995-96; and

(b) the date fixed for completion of the survey work?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). Names of the new railway lines in Uttar Pradesh for which surveys are in progress since 1993-94 or proposed to be conducted during 1995-96 with their target dates for completion, are as under :

Name of the lines.	Survey work is expected to be completed in
1. Sitapur-Nanpara	1995-96
2. Sitapur-Bahraich	1995-96
3. Daurala-Bijnor via Hastinapur	1996-97
4. Regional bye-pass line from Khurja-Rohtak via Palwal-Rewari (partly in UP)	1995-96
5. Koderma to Manikpura via Aligarh-Palwal (partly in UP)	1996-97
6. Panipat-Meerut (Partly in UP)	1996-97
7. Agra-Bah-Etawah	1995-96

[English]

Law Education

4992. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to raise the standard of law education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether three years course is proposed to be converted into that of five years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

Bombay Urban Development Project

4993. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank Mission which visited Mumbai in August, 1994 have suggested revised formulation in respect of Bombay Urban Development Project II (BUTP II);

(b) whether the World Bank has also suggested formulation of Metropolitan Railways Authority for metropolitan transport planning;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the progress made so far in consideration and implementation of the World Bank suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (d). The World Bank Mission visited Bombay in August, 1994 to hold discussions with the State Government and Railways to prepare for formulation of Bombay Urban Transport Project-II (BUTP-II) which includes suburban rail, road transport and water transport projects for Bombay.

As a first step towards formulation of the project, it was agreed to undertake the following five rail related Studies with the World Bank assistance to enable identification of the requirement, appraise and prioritise the projects and to work out the financial implications of the entire project including institutional changes that may become necessary.

- (i) Financial and Institutional Study
- (ii) System Planning Study and development of simulation Model
- (iii) Study to develop specifications for remanufacture of EMUs
- (iv) Study for conversion of d.c. to a.c. traction in Bombay
- (v) A group of Techno-economic Studies and detailed design for major investments.

World Bank has suggested to segregate the planning, financing and management of suburban rail network by forming a metropolitan railway authority. The Terms of Reference of the Study at No. (i) include this aspect to work out financial implications including institutional changes that may become necessary in case the above suggestion is considered for implementation. The bids have recently been invited from the international consultants in accordance with the procedure laid down by the World Bank and the Study will take about nine months to complete after award of the contract.

Green House Gas Emission

4994. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether developed countries are back tracking in their efforts to fulfil their targets of Green House Gas Emission and are trying to shift the burden to developing Countries in the guise of Joint Inspection Schemes;

(b) if so, whether the Government of India have entered into any collaboration for the control of Green House Gas Emission;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) To fulfil their target of reducing Green House Gas Emissions, countries included in Annexure-I to the Framework convention on Climate Change are seeking recourse to Joint Implementation provided for in the Convention. At the first Conference of Parties to the Climate Change Convention held in Berlin during March 28 to April 7, 1995, the Conference of Parties agreed to establish a 'Pilot Phase' for activities to be implemented jointly. Participation by the developing countries in this phase is voluntary, and the parameters stipulated by the Conference for the pilot phase employ protect the vital interests of developing countries.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) The Secretariat of the Convention is yet to frame detailed guidelines for the pilot phase.

Primary Education in Chandigarh

4995. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Territory of Chandigarh provides attendance scholarship for girls, special coaching, free text books, uniforms to Scheduled Caste students and mid-day meals to primary class students; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of students covered under each of the incentive and amount of expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years, Year-wise?

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

Suppliers in Super Bazar

4996. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Super Bazar is making payments to such suppliers in 3-4 days time who offer additional discounts and delayed payment to others who do not offer additional discounts;

(b) if so, whether this practice is violating the provisions of the M.R.T.P. Act;

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(d) whether the suppliers who do not offer additional discounts are not receiving their payments on due dates; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of suppliers whose payments were delayed in the last three months?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (e). Super Bazar is making payments to the suppliers depending on availability of funds as far as possible in accordance with terms and conditions of supply. Under agreed terms and conditions of supply, advancement for payment has been allowed for some of the suppliers offering additional discount. This is done ensuring that it does not affect payment schedule of other suppliers. This scheme is open to any supplier who wishes to avail of it and is a normal trading practice and there is no violation of the M.R.T.P. Act.

Demands of Dairy and Oilseeds Co-operatives

4997. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a request from the Dairy and Oilseeds Co-operatives *inter alia* urging the Government to liberalise Co-operative law and regulate and curb open General licence import of dairy products and edible oil;

(b) if so, the details of the requests made by the Dairy and oilseeds Co-operatives; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

Shramik Vidyapeeths

4998. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Shramik Vidyapeeths functioning

in the country at present with special reference to Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the total amount spent on these Vidyapeeths during the last three years, year-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) There are 47 Shramik Vidyapeeths functioning in the country at present. In Andhra Pradesh six Shramik Vidyapeeths are functioning. Statement of all the Shramik Vidyapeeths is enclosed.

(b) The year-wise amounts spent on all the shramik Vidyapeeths are as follows :

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1992-93	191.76
1993-94	276.75
1994-95	385.00

STATEMENT

S. No.	State Name	No. of SVPs	Place(s)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	Guntur, Hyderabad, Hyderabad (Rangareddy), Vijayawada, Vishakhapatnam, Kakinada
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-
3.	Assam	1	Silchar
4.	Bihar	1	Jamshedpur
5.	Goa	-	-
6.	Gujarat	3	Ahmedabad, Vadodara
7.	Haryana	1	Surat, Faridabad
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	Jammu
10.	Karnataka	4	Bangalore, Mysore, Tumkur, Karwar
11.	Kerala	1	Tirvendrum
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4	Indore, Satna, Ujjain, Gwalior
13.	Maharashtra	7	Aurangabad, Bombay (Dharavi) Bombay (Worli), Nagpur, Pune, Kolhapur, Nashik

1	2	3	4
14. Manipur		-	
15. Meghalaya		-	
16. Mizoram		-	
17. Nagaland		-	
18. Orissa	2	Cuttack, Rourkela	
19. Punjab		-	
20. Rajasthan	4	Ajmer, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota	
21. Sikkim		-	
22. Tamil Nadu	4	Coimbatore, Madras, Madurai, Trichi	
23. Tripura		-	
24. Uttar Pradesh	4	Ghaziabad, Kanpur, Lucknow, Faizabad	
25. West Bengal	2	Calcutta, Narendrapur	
S.No.	UTs	No. of SVP	
1. A & N Island		-	
2. Chandigarh	1		
3. D & N Haveli		-	
4. Daman & Diu		-	
5. Delhi	1		
6. Lakshadweep		-	
7. Pondicherry		-	
Total No. SVPs 47			

Remunerative Prices of Coconut

4999. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether coconut farmers have been given any help by the Government to get remunerative process by way of procuring nuts at a minimum floor price or by any other scheme, if so, how and if not, why;

(b) the statistics of prices which farmers were getting on an average during the past ten years;

(c) the steps envisaged to give farmers remunerative prices for coconut; and

(d) the rate to increase in the cost of cultivation of coconut during the past ten years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Minimum Support Prices fixed by the Government help the copra growers to get remunerative prices.

(b) Annual average wholesale prices of copra at some selected centres for the last ten years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) In order to ensure remunerative prices to the copra growers, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (NAFED), the designated nodal agency, undertakes price support operations when the market prices fall below the minimum support prices announced by the Government. The Government has been enhancing MSP for copra in each year to benefit the growers.

(d) The official estimates of the cost of production of coconut are not available since it is not covered under the Comprehensive Scheme of Cost of Cultivation of the Ministry of Agriculture.

STATEMENT

Annual Average Month-End Wholesale Prices of Copra at Selected Centres of the Country.

Year	(Rs. per quintal)			
	Kerala	Karnataka	Maharashtra	
	Cochin	Kozhikode	Mangalore	Bombay
1985	1270	1258	1339	1433
1986	1429	1464	1395	1563
1987	2012	2013	1892	2129
1988	2089	2113	2015	2283
1989	1561	1665	1732	1800
1990	1812	1931	1743	2031
1991	2697	2641	2608	2960
1992	2970	3078	3081	3648
1993	2525	2640	2648	3165
1994	2170	2185	2074	2600

Commission on Sale of Eatables

5000. SHRI RAMCHANDRA GHANGARE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the commission on the sale of eatables and the cold drinks being given to the Vendors in Nagpur Division of the Central Railway has not been revised since 1956 though the selling rates of the above eatables have been enhanced several times during this period; and

(b) if so, the measures are being contemplated by the Government to meet the grievances of the vendors in the Nagpur Division?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). The rate of Commission is reviewed by the Zonal Railways from time to time. The Commission to the Vendors is paid on the sale value of eatables and cold drinks and the amount of Commission also increases with the increase in sale price. The rate

of Commission payable to Vendors ranges from 6 to 12 per cent and is uniform on all the Divisions of Central Railway.

Metro Railway in Calcutta

5001. SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are four more proposals Metro Railway in Calcutta and Howrah;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which any one of them is likely to take off; and

(c) whether there is any proposal for the East-West corridor connecting Salt Lake with Ramrajatola?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). Two Surveys, i.e. (i) Preliminary-Engineering-cum-final location survey for extension of Metro Railway from Tollygunj to New Garia, and (ii) Engineering-cum-traffic survey for its extension from Dum Dum to Barrackpore have been included in Railways Works Programme 1995-96. Taking up of the work will depend upon result of the survey and availability of funds.

(c) No, Sir.

Construction of Sports Stadium in Bangalore

5002. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA :

SHRI K.C. SHIVAPPA :

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to construct sports stadium in Bangalore for the coming National games; and

(b) if so, the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

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) No, Sir. The State Government of Karnataka and the Organising Committee have to construct the Sports Stadia in Bangalore for the coming National games.

(b) Does not arise.

Pension to Agricultural Labour

5003. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to introduce any scheme for grant of old age pension to agricultural labourers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expected time of implementing the scheme;

(d) whether the scheme would be entirely sponsored by the Central Government; and

(e) if not, the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (e). The Ministry of Labour had constituted a working Group to study the existing Social Security and Welfare measures available to the workers in the unorganised sector. After due deliberations, the said Group constituted a sub-group to draw up an outline scheme for adoption by the Central/State Governments. The Sub-Group identified the Agricultural Workers, rural artisans, small and marginal farmers as the proposed beneficiaries in the first phase, to be extended to other categories in the second phase. The Social Security package under consideration includes Life Insurance, old age pension to identified beneficiaries above the age of 60 years, medical assistance and maternity benefit. The Sub-Group has also deliberated on viable sources of funding the package, methods to create awareness and participation and effective implementation. The model scheme outlined above is being given a final shape.

The Scheme is proposed to be funded by contribution from the members (beneficiaries), subsidy from Social Security Fund of Ministry of Finance (operated through LIC) and the Central/State assistance to the nodal agencies. The outline scheme is yet to be approved by the Working Group for recommendation to the Government.

Centralisation of Purchasing Material

5004. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have centralised in the purchases;

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

(c) whether the purchases made by the centre are at higher prices than those which were made by the Zonal Railways;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). Certain items of high value with limited sources of supply or having other special features are centralised for procurement in Railway Board. This also helps to obtain price advantage by way of bulking the requirements of the Railways/Production Units and the procurement is made more effectively.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Railway Project

5005. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state : .

(a) whether Rail India Technical and Economic Services Ltd. (RITES) has recently achieved a major project of Tanzania Railway Corporation Hands-on Training in Civil Engineering;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time and the manner in which the project is likely to be implemented;

(d) whether RITES has undertaken such works in other countries also;

(e) whether major works of this nature are likely to be entrusted to RITES;

(f) the action plan envisaged to cope up with such demands; and

(g) whether the Government proposes to further equip and modernise RITES?

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

(b) The project envisages analysis of training needs of Permanent Way Inspectors (PWIs) of Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC), including designing and conducting training programme in Tanzania and India.

(c) The project is expected to commence by June, 1995 and completed by January, 1996. The project will be executed by deputing RITES expert to Tanzania and with the help of home office support in India.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f). RITES are in a position to undertake such works as they have developed flexibility of resources and has got linkages/arrangements with organisations and Training Institutions of repute in the country. Further demands of such nature can be met effectively by making use of these resources.

(g) Equipping and modernisation in RITES is a continuous process.

[Translation]

National Commissions on Teachers

5006. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

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

(a) whether Government have accepted the recommendations of Chattopadhyaya and Rais Ahmed Commissions in to;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the recommendations are likely to be implemented by the Government?

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

Committee on Railway Lines

5007. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any action on the review Report of the Committee set up under the chairmanship of Dr. D.M. Nanjudappa on Railway Lines running in losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of losses incurred during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether the Central Government have written to the State Governments for making good the loss of this revenue on such Railway Lines;

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

(f) the steps taken by the Government to make good this loss?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). The Railway Fare and Freight Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. D.M. Nanjudappa has, *inter-alia*, recommended selective closure of uneconomic branch lines. Alternatively, the State Governments concerned should bear the losses on operating these lines. The Railways' approach in this regard is already in conformity with this recommendation. So far, 15 such lines have been closed.

(c) The losses suffered were Rs. 123.04 crores in 1991-92, Rs. 133.84 crores in 1992-93 and Rs. 145.84 crores in 93-94.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Most State Governments have not reacted favourably.

(f) The steps taken to reduce the working expenses on such lines to minimise losses include closure/ conversion into halts of unremunerative stations, running of mixed (passenger and goods) trains, introduction of one engine only system, economy in staff, curbing ticketless travel etc.

[English]

Mahila Samridhi Yojna

5008. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRYAPPA :

SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA :

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL :

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

(a) whether Mahila Samridhi Yojna has out performed its expectations;

(b) if so, the number of deposits attracted by the scheme and the amount deposited till date in comparision to the original estimates, State-wise; and

(c) the number of SC and ST beneficiaries so far registered under the scheme from each State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI) : (a) and (b). MSY has been well received by the rural women.

A total of 85,29,308 Accounts with deposits of Rs. 78,55,03,325/- have been opened in different States of the country as on 31st March, 1995. State-wise information is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Separate information of S/C and S/T wise is not maintained. However, number of MSY accounts opened by women in tribal areas of the country are 9,86,147 accounts with deposits of Rs. 6,47,41,430/- as on 31st March, 1995.

STATEMENT*Statement Showing Details of Target/Achievements/%Age of Achievement of Mahila Samridhi Yojna*

S. No.	States/UTs	Target upto 31.3.1995 based on prorata share of each State out of 1.50 crs. accounts (fig. in lakhs)	No. of Accounts Opened upto March 1995 (fig. in Lacs)	% of Achievement as against Target	Amount Deposit till March 1995	Average Deposit per account	Statewise Review Committee
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11.600	15.50541	133.66	150955844	97	Yes
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.180	0.00667	3.71	113258	170	No
3.	Assam	4.754	6.40836	134.79	32173528	50	Yes
4.	Bihar	17.899	2.164	12.09	21729545	100	No
5.	Delhi	0.226	0.03891	17.18	704435	181	Yes
6.	Goa	0.165	0.18321	111.29	2722112	149	Yes
7.	Gujarat	6.457	1.46521	22.69	30344265	207	Yes
8.	Haryana	2.961	1.54344	52.13	27535542	178	Yes
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1.127	0.70135	62.25	16018168	228	Yes
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.403	0.17915	12.77	2849133	159	Yes
11.	Karnataka	7.413	6.80837	91.85	78879549	116	Yes
12.	Kerala **	5.110	3.51803	68.84	34380444	98	Yes
13.	Madhya Pradesh	12.130	9.04301	74.55	56241794	62	Yes
14.	Maharashtra	11.547	3.83165	33.18	63157660	165	Yes
15.	Manipur	0.318	0.0645	20.30	316610	49	Yes
16.	Meghalaya	0.345	0.01447	4.20	69140	48	Yes
17.	Mizoram	0.089	0.0459	51.71	633718	138	Yes
18.	Nagaland	0.239	0.00769	3.22	158752	206	Yes
19.	Orissa	6.543	2.75114	42.04	34718456	126	Yes
20.	Punjab	3.409	2.68903	78.88	30976769	115	Yes
21.	Rajasthan	8.097	1.47003	18.15	23885823	162	Yes
22.	Sikkim	0.088	0.02232	25.35	81076	36	No

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
23.	Tamil Nadu	8.776	16.95135	193.16	60616274	36	No
24.	Tripura	0.557	0.14315	25.70	1504064	105	Yes
25.	Uttar Pradesh	26.604	9.09838	34.20	110006993	121	Yes
26.	West Bengal ***	11.779	1.76547	14.99	3665374	21	Yes
27.	Andaman & N Islands @@ 0.049		0.02596	52.82	216824	84	Yes
28.	Chandigarh	0.016	0.05746	364.89	271521	47	Yes
29.	D & N Haveli	0.030	0.01418	46.80	171010	121	No
30.	Daman & Diu	0.013	0.00369	28.64	72952	198	No
31.	Lakshadweep	0.005	0	0.00	-	-	No
32.	Pondicherry	0.069	0.14231	204.97	549516	39	No
Total		150.000	85.29308	56.86	785503325	92	24

** includes the figures of Lakshadweep

*** Feb. 1995 figures includes the Calcutta region figure for Mar. 95

@@ February, 95 figures are repeated

[Translation]

Manufacture of Fuel Catalyst

5009. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

SHRI PAMPAL SINGH :

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to manufacture fuel catalyst for the motor vehicles;
- (b) if so, the purpose thereof;
- (c) the quantum of energy likely to be saved as a result thereof; and
- (d) the extent to which pollution is likely to be reduced?

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

(a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Right of the Child

5010. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

SHRI MANJAY LAL :

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to enact a fresh legislation to conform to the U.N. convention on the Right of the child; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI) : (a) and (b). India ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on 2.12.92 with reservation on the provision of article 32, 2(a) regarding prescription of minimum ages for employment.

The Central Ministries, Departments have been addressed to review and amend, if necessary, the laws relating to children in their related sectors to bring it in line with the provisions of the UN Convention.

[Translation]

Development of Bio-Fertilizers

5011. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the efforts that have been made by the Government for the development of bio-fertilizers during the last two years;

(b) the names of the States in which the farmers have been supplied these bio-fertilizers as on 31st March, 1995; and

(c) the details of the training imparted to the farmers regarding use of bio-fertilizers in appropriate quantity alongwith other fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing a scheme "National Project on Development and Use of Bio-Fertilizers". Under the project during the last two years 21,76,478 Pkt (200 gm. each) have been distributed amongst the farmers. Training and demonstrations programme have been organised and publicity has been given through various

media. Besides, during the span of two years, 8 Bio-fertilizer Production Units have been approved with Central assistance in the States of Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra. In addition, Blue Green Algae sub-centres for production of BGA for its use in wet land rice have been strengthened in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

(b) Bio-Fertilizer developed/produced by National/Regional centres have been distributed amongst the farmers in the States of U.P., Rajasthan, J&K, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Assam, North-Eastern States, Maharashtra and Goa.

(c) Under the National Project on Bio-Fertilizer, National/Regional Centres have organised, field demonstrations and training programmes to promote and generate awareness amongst the farmers for use of Bio-fertilizer. During the period, 134 field demonstrations have been conducted and 127 training courses have been organised.

[English]

Catalytic Converters

5012. SHRI C. SREENIVAAASAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of already registered vehicles in four metropolitan cities which do not and cannot be fitted with Catalytic converters that can use unleaded petrol to minimise pollution levels;

(b) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to minimise pollution levels of these already licensed old vehicles which emit smoke/lead causing health hazards?

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

(a) The total number of registered petrol vehicles in the four major metropolitan cities of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras as on 31st March 1991 is given below :

Metro	Total Petrol Vehicles
Delhi	1,812,967
Bombay	625,456
Calcutta	475,032
Madras	544,278

The Government has, from 1.4.1995, permitted the registration of only those new four-wheeler petrol vehicles in these four metropolitan cities which have been fitted with catalytic converters and designed to use unleaded petrol. No systematic studies have been carried out to ascertain in the number of existent on-road vehicles in the country that can be fitted with

catalytic converters for use of unleaded petrol, but by and large, it has not been considered technically feasible or economically viable to retrofit older vehicles with catalytic converters, bearing in mind Indian conditions.

(b) The measures being taken and proposed for control of pollution from on-road vehicles include the following :

- (i) State Transport Authorities have been asked to enforce the standards stipulated for on-road vehicles.
- (ii) Lead level is planned to be reduced to a maximum of 0.15 grammes per litre in petrol to be supplied throughout the country by December, 1996.
- (iii) Intensive awareness campaigns have been launched by Transport Departments of cities including Delhi, to educate people about the statutory punitive provisions related to vehicular pollution, health hazards and about the measures for keeping the emission levels low.
- (iv) Various Government Departments have been asked to get the vehicles in their administrative control checked regularly and suitable measures be taken to ensure that the emissions are within the prescribed limits.
- (v) A major survey was carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board on the pollution caused by automobiles in the major cities and towns in the country. The findings of the Survey have been used to prepare comprehensive programmes for control of pollution in the major cities.
- (vi) City planners have been advised to incorporate in their plan the long-term requirements of mass transportation.
- (vii) Steps have been initiated to introduce compressed natural gas in petrol driven vehicles in some of the cities.

Non-Marking of Maximum Prices

5013. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that many companies producing eatables without publishing the maximum price on their products; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or being taken to ensure that maximum price is printed on the products in the interest of the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Declaration of the maximum retail price on a pre-packed commodity including eatables, is a

mandatory/requirement under the Standards of Weights and Measures Act 1976 and the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977, made thereunder.

Violation of this requirement invites penal provisions laid down under the Rules with a maximum punishment upto Rs. 5000/- in the first instance.

(b) Defaulters are prosecuted under the said Act and Rules, by the State/UTs enforcement department.

[Translation]

Hindi Books

5014. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :

SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

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

(a) whether there is constant decline in the number of readers of Hindi books;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the increasing prices of Hindi books is one of the main reasons;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to take effective measures to check the rising prices of Hindi books and also for promoting Hindi; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) No, Sir. NBT organised exhibitions in the Hindi speaking states and found that there is a wide readership of Hindi books.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). NBT has been publishing reasonably priced books which include books for children and post-literacy reading material for neo-literates. Books by Sahitya Academy are also moderately priced, as there is an element of subsidy in their production. Financial assistance is also provided by the Government to voluntary organisations for promotion of Hindi. These measures help check the rise in price of Hindi books.

[English]

Community Polytechnics

5015. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have appointed a National Appraisal Committee to appraise the implementation of the scheme of Community Polytechnics;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A National Appraisal Committee has been appointed under the Chairmanship of Shri M.M. Luther, Ex-DG, All India Management Association, to appraise the implementation of the scheme of Community Polytechnics.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Committee is expected to submit its report by the end of December, 1995.

Railway Stations

5016. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to improve the Railway Stations in Vijayawada Division of South Central Railways ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether basic passenger amenities provided at the railways stations in this division are inadequate and sanitary condition on the stations of this Division is also very poor; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to improve upon the same.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). Improvements to facilities at stations is a continuous process and works in this regard are taken up wherever so warranted by traffic needs subject to availability of funds and relative priorities of various stations. Accordingly, in 1994-95, works pertaining to improvement/augmentation of facilities have been completed at Anaparti, Annavaram, Guntur, Narasapur, Kakinada Town, Vetapalem, Akividu, Kaikalur, Ongole, Nellore and Rajahmundry railway stations.

Further works have been taken up or are proposed to be taken up at Nellore, Tenali, Kavali, Rajahmundry, Guntur, Niddubrolu, Anakapalle, Tuni, Ongole, Chinna Ganjam, Chirala, Vijayawada, Bhimavaram Town, Nidadavolu, Modukuru, Narsipatnam Road and Gudivada Railway Stations also.

(c) and (d). Deficiencies in respect of basic passenger amenities has recently been eliminated at all stations including those in the Vijayawada Division. Instructions have also been reiterated to the South

Central Railway to improve the standard of cleanliness of all railway stations including those falling in Vijayawada Division.

[Translation]

Train for Bombay

5017. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Bombay-Daund-Manmad passenger train has been cancelled for the past many years;
- (b) whether no direct train is available for Bombay from the cities located between Manmad and Daund, at present;
- (c) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce any train between Ahmadnagar and Bombay in view of the demand of the people from this area;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir. However the run of 1321/1322 Bombay-Pune-Daund-Manmad passenger has been curtailed only on Bombay-Pune section w.e.f. 1.5.88.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, a through coach is available between Daund and Bombay via Ahmadnagar-Manmad.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) Due to operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Assistance to Academies

5018. SHRI SURAJ BHANU SOLANKI :

DR. K.D. JESWANI :

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

- (a) the number of proposals received for sanction of Central grants to different Academies/Councils of States during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government have accorded approval to those proposals;
- (c) if so, the amount sanctioned so far and the amount actually paid during the above period; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which approval would be accorded to them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) The Central Government in the Department of Culture does not give grants to any academies/councils of the State Governments.

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

Medical Facilities to Kendriya Vidyalaya Employees

5019. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA :

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

(a) the details of medical facilities for the employees and teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) whether teachers and employees of Kendriya Vidyalayas serving in metropolitan cities have been brought under Central Government Health Scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c). Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan which is an autonomous body under the Government of India is following the Medical Attendance Rules of Govt. of India which has provision for providing medical treatment by Authorised Medical Attendant and re-imbursement of medical expenses etc. The employees of the Sangathan are not automatically eligible to be covered by C.G.H.S. facility.

However, the C.G.H.S. facilities have been extended by the Health Ministry to staff of some Kendriya Vidyalayas in Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Hyderabad and Bangalore residing in certain selected areas.

[English]

Import of Sugar

5020. SHRI TARA SINGH :

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the import of sugar is done on the basis of sugar production figures given by his Ministry;
- (b) if so, whether this practice has resulted into heavy import of sugar during last year; and
- (c) the action, if any, Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) The import of sugar is done taking into account the carryover stocks at the beginning of the season, estimated production, requirement of sugar for domestic consumption, etc. The estimates of sugar production are formulated on season to season basis keeping in view the inputs received from sugar factories, estimates given by the apex bodies of the sugar industry, estimates provided by the State Governments, estimated area & sugar cane production formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture, etc. Further for the sugar season 1994-95 (Oct. to Sept.) an Inter-Ministerial Group consisting of representatives from the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Ministry of

Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of food was constituted to make an estimate of sugar production for the current season.

(b) and (c). The import of sugar during last year was necessitated by the decline in sugar production during 1993-94 season due to fall in cane/sugar production in the major sugar producing State of Maharashtra and higher diversion of cane to gur and khandsari sectors.

Death of a Cheetah

5021. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the only surviving Cheetah in the country died at Delhi Zoo in January, 1995;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the captive breeding project for Cheetah has come to an end;

(c) whether the Government have gone into the reasons of death; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The only surviving African Cheetah in the country died in National Zoological Park, Delhi on 11.1.1995.

(b) There was no project for captive breeding of the African Cheetah.

(c) and (d). Autopsy carried on the dead animal revealed that the death was due to Salmonella Typhimurium. Central Zoo Authority appointed Dr. J.V. Cheeran to enquire into the causes leading to the death of Cheetah in National Zoological Park, Delhi. The report has been received and Government is taking appropriate action.

Directorate of Plant Protection/Quarantine

5022. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open a Branch office of Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage at Bangalore;

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

(c) whether the land required for the same has been allotted by the State Government;

(d) the estimated amount proposed to be given by the Union Government against the total expenditure; and

(e) the annual recurring and non-recurring expenditure on the proposed office?

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). yes, Sir, approval for establishment of Plan Quarantine & Fumigation Station at Bangalore during the 8th Plan has been accorded.

(c) State Government has not been approached, so far.

(d) and (e). The annual recurring expenditure is estimated at Rs. 11.00 lakhs approximately, which is to be entirely met by the Union Government.

[Translation]

Banaras Hindu University

5023. PROF. PREM DHUMAL :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

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

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum regarding theft and dilapidated condition of valuable books in the Central Library of Banaras Hindu University;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the losses suffered by the Library on this account;

(c) whether the Government have received any request from the University for compensating the above mentioned losses; and

(d) if so, the amount proposed to be provided 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) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Halt Station

5024. MAJOR D.D. KHANORIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposed to set up a halt station at Patti (Himachal Pradesh) on Pathankot-Joginder Nagar section of the Northern Railways;

(b) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be started and station to become functioning; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Construction work of the proposed halt at Patti is expected to start shortly and this station will start functioning after completion of construction work and other necessary formalities.

(c) Does not arise.

Admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas

5025. DR. SUDHIR RAY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether all eligible children of transferable Central Government employees-both civilians and defence personnel do not get admission though they apply for the same; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to chalk out some measures to ensure demand-supply parity in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Number of children of transferable Central Govt. employees both civilians and defence personnel, seeking admissions in Kendriya Vidyalayas is always more than number of seats available.

(b) In order to meet the demand for admission, Govt. have sanctioned opening upto 20 new Kendriya Vidyalayas every year during the period 1993-1998. Besides more sections are also added to existing classes wherever feasible.

[Translation]

Fake Cement

5026. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATERIA :

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

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that a large number of factories are manufacturing substandard cement;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) According to the information sent by the Department of Industrial Development, such matter has not come to their notice.

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

[English]

Castor Oil

5027. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of castor seeds produced and the quantity of castor oil exported during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the names of the countries to which castor oil was exported with break-up, country-wise;

(c) whether there has been spurt in the demand for the Indian castor oil in foreign countries in recent years;

(d) if so, the extent of increase in demand and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the steep increase in the demand for castor oil in foreign countries has affected the castor seeds economy in the country particularly in western region; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and its effect on other oil seeds for domestic oil market?

THE MINISTRY 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) The quantity of castor seed produced in the country and quantity of castor oil exported during the last three years is as follows :

(Figures in lakh metric tonnes)

Years	Production of Castor seed	Export of castor oil
1991-92	5.80	0.91
1992-93	6.20	0.68
1993-94	7.40	1.24

(b) The country-wise details of exports of castor oil is given in the Statement enclosed I to III.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. There has been increase in demand for the Indian castor oil in foreign countries during the recent years mainly because of increase in production of castor seed in the country which is greater than the domestic requirement. Moreover, the failure of castor crop in Brazil and China has led to increased demand of castor oil from India.

(e) and (f). The increase in demand for the Indian castor oil in foreign countries has benefitted the castor seed producers in our country and farmers are getting a better price for their produce. This has had a positive effect on the entire oil seed sector in the domestic economy.

Statement-I*Country-wise Export of Castor Oil during 1991-92*

Countries	Qty. in tonnes	Value in lakh Rupees
CASTOR OIL	90846723	13970.19*
Australia	105608	24.25
Bangladesh	7150	1.32
Belgium	35550	8.52
Chinese Taipei	23000	4.30
Cyprus		
Czechoslovk	11371361	1934.16
Egypt A RP	14000	3.01
France	34920920	4925.06
German F. REP	529640	125.71
Italy	2089600	497.83
Japan	4369860	745.53
Kenya		
Korea RP	114550	25.21
Kuwait	48000	8.89
Lesotho		
Malaysia	.5679	3.25
Mauriuous	9000	2.01
Netherland	4779304	698.00
New Zealand	51061	11.36
Nigeria	59000	17.00
Pakistan	84000	17.36
Philippines	36000	5.80
Qatar	1310	0.60
Reunion	60	0.05
Saudi Arab	84560	18.73
Singapore	243000	49.12
Spain	184400	39.71
Srilanka	4000	1.01
Tanzania Rep		
Tokelau IS		
U Arab Emnts	196390	44.41
UK	442500	86.25
USA	6980720	1186.80
C.I.S.	24056500	3484.95
Syria		

STATEMENT-II*Country-wise Export of Castor Oil during 1992-93*

Countries	Quantities (Kgs.)	Value (Rs.)
1	2	3
Castor Oil and its Fractions		
Australia	190500	4181259
Bangladesh	60860	1168082

1 **2** **3**

Chinese Taipei	16000	362981
Cyprus	30000	424846
Czechoslovk	1001000	18080500
France	16211000	256187344
German F. Rep	2227700	37915612
Italy	1153800	20502522
Japan	2588740	44122469
Kenya	2000	56325
Korea RP	144000	3064503
Kuwait	144000	2994297
Lesotho	61020	1347712
Malaysia	7413	282000
Mauritious	16000	413347
Netherland	20175119	341772939
Saudi Arab	56000	1438734
Singapore	87500	1976579
Sri Lanka	4000	117283
Syria	375	9161
Tanzania Rep	16000	393726
U Arab Emnts	53400	991223
USA	15391000	261689212

STATEMENT-III*Country-wise Export of Castor Oil during 1993-94*

Countries	Quantities (Kgs.)	Value (Rs.)
1	2	3
Castor Oil and its fractions	131351136	2691693620
Australia	190100	4991959
Baharain Is	700	14855
Belgium	35840	866418
Brazil	15804740	283123682
Canada	210	6568
Chinese Taipei	198900	5311988
Czech Rep	9534000	210680850
Egypt A RP	14000	398542
France	23112890	447926422
Italy	533000	12423311
Japan	2138020	40219910
Jordan	100	4378
Korea RP	828000	20716256
Kuwait	224000	5360766
Lebanon	11000	380610
Malaysia	33250	965283

1	2	3
Mauritius	17000	473833
Netherland	33904820	682663393
New Zealand	12000	347100
Russia	10510000	253417347
Saudi Arab	35600	1278249
Singapore	433000	10415284
South Africa	42000	1244545
Spain	816000	16587960
Sri Lanka	7000	189358
Thailand	451000	9903522
Turkey	176500	4155939
U Arab Emts	279000	8581978

Organisations of Conferences and Exhibitions

5028. SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any programme is being launched by his Ministry to organise International Conferences and Exhibitions relating to Agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such conferences and exhibitions organised during the last three years; and

(d) the details of the Government's future plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (d). Organisation of International Conferences and Exhibition is one of the means of dissemination and exchange of information for fostering international cooperation in the field of Agriculture. Details of International Conferences and Exhibitions relating to agriculture organised by Ministry of Agriculture during the last three years are given in the Statement attached.

STATEMENT

International Conferences/Exhibitions Organised by Ministry of Agriculture during the Last Three Years

S.No.	Subject	Venue	Date
1.	SAARC Conference on Disaster Reduction	New Delhi	30th March to 2nd April, 1994
2.	IV Session of Scientific & Technical Committee on International Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction.	New Delhi	1-5th Feb., 1993
3.	Agri. Expo., 1995	New Delhi	8th to 14th March, 1995.

[Translation]

Contract System in F.C.I.

5029. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether contract system is in practice for unloading of foodgrains in some of the godowns of the Food Corporation of India;

(b) whether cases of corruption/irregularities have come to the notice of the Government as a result of prevalent contract system in the godowns of Food Corporation of India;

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

(d) the efforts made by the Government to eliminate the corruption as a result of this system?

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

(b) to (d). As on 31.3.1995, thirteen cases relating to irregularities in awarding the contracts (handling and transportation) were pending in the FCI. Zone-wise Nos. are as under :

North Zone	5
East Zone	3
North-East Zone	4
South Zone	1

13

In cases of breach of the conditions of contract action is taken against the contractor. Besides, both preventive and punitive measures are taken to minimise irregularities and corruption. Preventive measures include surprise/regular checks. Stern action is taken as and when malafide/corruption is proved against any official or the contractor.

[English]

Hybrid Food Crops

5030. SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of the steps being taken by the Government for cultivation and promotion of Hybrid variety of rice and other hybrid food-crops in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : The Steps being taken for cultivation and promotion of hybrid variety of rice and hybrids of other foodgrain crops include :

(a) organisation of trainings for the farmers and also for extension workers in improved crop production technology including that of hybrids.

(b) organisation of field demonstrations on farmer's holdings on improved crop cultivation technology.

(c) distribution of seed minikits of hybrids of foodgrain crops.

[Translation]

Intercity Trains

5031. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the number of intercity trains in near future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). Introduction of new trains including intercity trains is a continuous process subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility and resource availability.

During 1995-96 new day time intercity trains have already been introduced on Tirupati-Cuddapah, Ernakulam-Trivandrum, Jaipur-Delhi and Kanpur-Farrukhabad sections. It is also proposed to introduce similar trains (excluding Shatabdis) on Bikaner-Jaipur and Ahmadabad-Bhavnagar sections.

[English]

Allocation to Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti

5032. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the allocation made for Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti was fully utilised during the last four years;

(b) if not, the main reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure proper and full utilisation of the allocated money?

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

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

Evaluation of Education Technology Scheme

5033. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration has undertaken the evaluation of the Educational Technology Scheme;

(b) if so, the brief outlines of the evaluation; and
(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government on the recommendations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) The National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) had undertaken an evaluation study on the aspect of media utilisation under the Educational Technology Scheme.

(b) The outlines of the major recommendations of the evaluation are :

(i) To include listening/viewing of educational broadcasts in time-table of schools having been provided with Radio-cum-Cassette Players and Coloured Televisions and :

(ii) Utilisation of CTVs/RCCPs to become essential items for inspection of schools.

(c) The recommendations have been circulated to the States/Union Territory Administrations for taking necessary action. Also, as follow up of the aforesaid study, the scheme has been further evaluated by an external agency under the supervision of Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET).

[Translation]

Rail Passes

5034. SHRI LAL BABU RAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Passes issued to various categories of persons are being misused;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected during 1994-95 till date; and

(c) the extent to which the success has been achieved in checking misuse of these Passes?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

[English]

Production of Banana

5035. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the total production of banana during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : The total production of banana during 1992-93 and 1993-94 was 8523.2 and 9241.5 thousand tonnes respectively. The estimates for 1994-95 have not yet become due from the States.

Production of Sugarcane

5036. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of sugarcane in the country during 1994-95, against the target fixed for the year, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for shortfall registered, if any;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate any programme for providing more technical know how to the farmers especially of Uttar Pradesh to boost the production of sugarcane; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) State-wise targets fixed for production of sugarcane for the year 1994-95 are given in the Statement enclosed. Final estimates of production of sugarcane for 1994-95 have not yet become due from the States. However, as per assessment available from the States. Total production of sugarcane in the country during 1994-95 is likely to be about 250.21 million tonnes which is higher than the target of 250.0 million tonnes fixed for the year.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on sugarcane has been proposed to be implemented during the remaining period of Eighth Five Year Plan in 21 States including Uttar Pradesh. Under this Scheme, emphasis is proposed to be given on training to the farmers, farm workers including women on newly developed production technology, demonstration, quality seed production, distribution of improved implements etc.

STATEMENT

Targets of Sugarcane in Different States for the Year 1994-95

(In '000' tonnes in terms of cane)

State	Targets
1.	2
Andhra Pradesh	13500
Assam	2000
Bihar	8500
Gujarat	10500
Haryana	8500
Himachal Pradesh	-
Jammu & Kashmir	-
Karnataka	20500
Kerala	600
Madhya Pradesh	2200
Maharashtra	35000

	1	2
Orissa		5000
Punjab		8000
Rajasthan		1300
Tamil Nadu		25000
Uttar Pradesh		107200
West Bengal		1200
Others		1000
All India		250000

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

5038. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision had been taken by the Government to convert the Meter Gauge Line into Broad Gauge Line between Raipur to Dhamantari;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage of work done till March 31, 1995 and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c). A survey for the Gauge conversion of Raipur-Dhamtari narrow gauge line to broad gauge is being taken up in 95-96. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Railway Line

5039. SHRI BHAWANI LAL VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in regard to construction of ongoing Bilaspur-Champa-Tihri Railway Line under Bilaspur Division of South Eastern Railways;

(b) whether the above route would be restricted to Champa only or it would be extended further and if so, upto what extent; and

(c) the time by which the route under construction is likely to be completed and the cost thereof?

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

[English]

Educational Survey

5040. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA) : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sixth All India Education Survey has been completed;

(b) if not, the time by when it is likely to be completed; and

(c) the details of the findings of the survey so far?

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

(b) The 6th All India Educational Survey (AIES) is likely to be completed by 31.7.96 as per the National Time Schedule.

(c) Does not arise.

Committee on Consumer Cooperatives

5041. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI :

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

(a) whether the Government have appointed an expert committee to bring about improvement in the working of the Consumer Cooperatives;

(b) if so, the composition and terms of reference of the committee;

(c) whether the committee has submitted its Report;

(d) if so, the salient recommendations thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) The composition of the Committee and terms of reference are given in the Statement-I and II.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Committee has submitted the Report on 10th April, 1995.

(d) and (e). The salient recommendations of the Committee are as follows:

(i) Too much Government control and consequently lack of members participation.

(ii) Structural inadequacies, absence of effective purchase policy and inventory management as well as absence of professional management; and

(iii) Restoration of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of consumer cooperatives in the country. The report of the Expert Committee is at examinations stage.

Statement-I

Composition of the Committee

The Government of India, Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution vide their

notification No. G-20011/7/93-CPD dated the 12th November, 1993 appointed an Expert Committee on Consumer Cooperatives as under :

1. Shri G.K. Sharma,	Chairman
Regional Director	
International Cooperative Alliance	
2. Shri K. Uppiliappan,	Member
Commissioner-cum-Secretary,	
Dept. of Personnel &	
Administrative Reforms,	
Government of Kerala	
3. Shri B.D. Pawar,	Member
Director of Marketing,	
Government of Maharashtra,	
Pune	
4. Shri B.C. Mathur,	Member
Chief Director	
National Cooperative	
Development Corporation,	
New Delhi.	
5. Shri P.A. Kambli,	Member
General Manager,	
Apna Bazar, Bombay	
6. Shri L.N. Suri,	Member
General Manager,	
Kendriya Bhandar, New Delhi.	
7. Shri K.N. Kutty,	Member
(replaced by Shri Y. Jha	
w.e.f. 1.6.1994)	
Addl. Chief Consultant	
Consultancy & Promotional Cell,	
NCCF of India Ltd., New Delhi.	
8. Shri M.K. Chakraborty,	Member-Secretary
Ex-Director (Coop.)	
Ministry of Civil Supplies,	
Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.	

STATEMENT-II

1. To study the functioning of the consumer cooperatives at all tiers i.e. state level, district/central level and primary level in all the states to find out the extent of sickness of the consumer cooperatives in the country.
2. To find out the bottlenecks and the hurdles which have contributed to the sickness of various consumer cooperative organisations in the different regions;
3. To study the effect of the policy of the liberalised economy of the Government on the functioning of the consumer cooperatives, keeping in view the interests of the multinationals in the field of consumer activities by setting up processed and

fast food units and other consumer durable and establishment of the various sizes of the wholesale and retail outlets and to suggest the steps to make consumer cooperatives strong enough not only to face the competition of the multi-nationals but also to enable them to continue to play their roles market price sector.

4. To study and suggest the strategy to be adopted for serving the weaker and vulnerable sections of the society in the far-flung and hilly areas of the country and the colonies and the urban slums inhabited by the poor and weaker sections in the urban areas of the country.
5. To suggest remedial measures to overcome the bottlenecks and short comings in the functioning of these societies and to recommend the steps to revitalise the consumer cooperative movement in the country as a whole; and
6. To draw and action plan for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee by the Central Government as well as by the State Governments.

Chemical Fertilizers

5042. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA :

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :
PROF. ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the use of chemical fertilizers causes adverse effect on agricultural production;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the ICAR has conducted any study in this regard as well as on the imbalance use of nitrogenous fertilizers;
- (d) if so, the findings thereof; and
- (e) the details of plan launched by the Government to educate the farmers in the country on the negative aspect of use of chemical fertilizers?

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). Use of chemical fertilizers is essential for enhancing and maintaining high agricultural production. It is essential that the use of nutrients N, P and K is made in a balanced way alongwith other micro and secondary nutrients for correcting deficiencies if any.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. ICAR has conducted fertilizer experiments through various All India Coordinated Research Projects such as Cropping Systems Research, Soil Test Crop Response, Biological Nitrogen Fixation, Microbial Decomposition of Organic Wastes, Micro-Nutrients and Long term Fertilizer Experiments. Results

of these trials have shown that crop yields can be sustained with integrated use of balanced fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers. The results of these trials are best used through a network of soil testing lab. in the country.

(e) Fertilizer Division of Department of Agricultural and Cooperation is implementing 2 centrally sponsored schemes (1) Balanced and integrated use of fertilizers and (2) Development of fertilizer use in low consumption rainfed areas and one central sector scheme (National Project on Development and use of bio-fertilizers). Through these schemes the use of organics and bio-fertilizers is promoted amongst the farmers. These schemes also have a strong component of educating the farmers on bio-composting and organic waste recycling etc.

Sugar Mills

5043. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the proposals for new sugar factories in co-operative sector under consideration of Union Government, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the proposals received from Maharashtra Government and the time by when these likely to be cleared;
- (c) whether the Union Government provided loans for construction of sugar factories under co-operative sector;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) how the term lending Institutions are likely to help sugar factories in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) State wise number of applications under consideration for setting up of new sugar mills in the Cooperative sector, as on 31.1.95, was as under :

1. Maharashtra	11
2. Karnataka	1
3. Madhya Pradesh	1
Total	13

(b) As on 31.1.95, 16 proposals were received through the Department of Industrial Development, Ministry of Industry for grant of letters of Intent for setting up of new sugar factories in the State of Maharashtra. These proposals will be taken up for consideration only after the review of the licensing policy for sugar industry is completed.

(c) to (e). Government of India does not provide any loans for the setting up of new sugar factories in the Cooperative Sector. However, such loans are provided by the Financial Institutions directly to the

undertakings. National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) also provides loan assistance to State Governments for contribution towards the share capital of Co-operative Sugar Factories.

New Varieties of Fodder

5044. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of new varieties of fodder developed by the Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi;

(b) the steps taken to make such varieties available to the farmers in every village of the country; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken during the current Plan period 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) The details of the varieties of different fodder and rangeland pasture crops developed by IGFRI, Jhansi are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) The Institute is meeting the full demands of breeder seed of the above varieties requisitioned by various seed producing agencies including the State Departments of Agriculture who are responsible for making the seeds of improved varieties available to the farmers.

(c) The Institute would continue to ensure the availability of breeders seed of all the released varieties as per demands of the seed producing agencies.

STATEMENT

The Details of the Varieties of Different Fodder and Rangeland Pasture Crops Developed by IGFRI, Jhansi.

Crop	Variety	Area of Adoption
1	2	3
Berseem	1. Wardan	All across the country.
	2. JHB-89-4	Hilly regions.
Oat	1. Bundel Jai-822	All over the country.
	2. Bundel Sheet Jai 810	Hilly regions.
Cowpea	1. Bundel Lobia 1	All across the country.
	2. Bundel Lobia 2	North Western Zone.

	1	2	3
Guar	1. Bundel Guar 1	Semi-arid regions.	
	2. Bundel Guar 2	Duel purpose for semi-arid regions.	
Napier-Bajra	1. IGFRI-6	All across the country.	
Hybrid	2. IGFRI-7	-do-	
	3. IGFRI-10	-do-	
Anjan Grass	1. Bundel Anjan	Semi-arid regions.	
Dinanath Grass	1. Bundel Dinanath-1	All over the country.	
	2. Bundel Dinanath-2	-do-	

Sugar Crushing Capacity

5045. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised plans to add to the sugar crushing capacity and evolve consumer oriented self sufficient policy;

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

(c) the sugar crushing capacity established/sanctioned/likely to be established during the current year, State-wise;

(d) additional capacity proposed to be established and order of investment in the next two years, State-wise; and

(e) total number of sick units with their capacities and action plan worked out for revival of these units State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b). As aganist the target of licensed capacity of 198.67 Lakh tonnes by the end of 8th Five Year Plan i.e., 1996-97, fixed by the Committee, constituted to formulate Development Programme for Sugar Industry, a capacity of 205.5573 Lakh tonnes has already been licensed upto 31.1.95.

(c) During the current sugar year 1994-95 (October-September), upto 31.3.95, New Sugar factories having total annual sugar production capacity of 2.3688 Lakh tonnes have been established.

The State-wise details are as under :

S.No.	State	No. of Sugar Factories gone into production
1.	Uttar Pradesh	2
2.	Punjab	3
3.	Maharashtra	1
4.	Madhya Pradesh	1
	Total	7

As per present indications, no further new sugar factories are likely to be established in the remaining part of this season upto 31.3.95, no letter of Intent/Industrial Licence for the setting up of a new sugar factory has been granted during the current sugar year 1994-95.

(d) It is too early to estimate the additional capacity likely to be established in the next two sugar years.

(e) Under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, Companies registered under the Companies Act, 1956 which become sick have to be referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). These provisions have been extended to cover Government companies also. BIFR has intimated that as on 28.2.95, there were 13 cases of sick sugar companies registered with them. A Statement showing the State-wise list of such sick sugar companies, as furnished by BIFR, is in the Statement enclosed.

STATEMENT

Statement Showing Statewise List of Sick Sugar Companies Registered with BIFR as on 28.2.1995.

S.No.	State/Company	Installed Capacity (T.C.D)
	ANDHRA PRADESH	
1.	Challapalli Sugar	2500
	BIHAR	
2.	Champaran Sugar	1600
	KARNATAKA	
3.	Davnagare Sugar Company	1250
4.	Salarjung Sugar	1016
5.	Gangawati Sugar	2500
	MADHYA PRADESH	
6.	Jiwaji Rao Sugar	559
	PUNJAB	
7.	Bhagwanpur Sugar Mills	2500
	RAJASTHAN	
8.	Mewar Sugar	1500
	UTTAR PRADESH	
9.	Lakshmi Sugar Mills	1700
10.*	Cawnpore Sugar Works Limited	1000
11.*	Shervani Sugar Syndicate Limited	1270
12.*	Swadeshi Mining and Mfg. Co. Limited	1219
	WEST BENGAL	
13.	Ramnugger Cane (Khitan Agro Complex)	1219

* Under Enquiry by B.I.F.R.

[Translation]

Pollution Control Board in Delhi

5046. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Delhi Main Pradooshan Board Banane Ki Manjori Nahin", appearing in the Navbharat Times dated April 7, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the Government have accorded approval to constitute a Pollution Control Board in Delhi;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) As per section 4(4) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and section 6 of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, no State Pollution Control Board shall be constituted for a Union Territory (UT) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) shall exercise the powers and perform the functions of a State Pollution Control Board for the UT. However, the CPCB may delegate all or any of its powers and functions to such person or body of persons as the Central Government may specify. For the National Capital Territory of Delhi, the Central Pollution Control Board has delegated all its powers and functions vested in it under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, to a Committee headed by the Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of N.C.T. of Delhi as its Chairman, vide Gazette Notification No. S.O. 198 (E), dated 15.3.1991.

[English]

Oil Palm Cultivation

5047. SHRI SOBHNADREESWARA RAO VADDE:

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area under oil palm cultivation in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether adequate processing facilities have been established in these States;

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that the farmers will not suffer losses due to their inadequacy;

(d) whether the Government have any fresh scheme under consideration for increasing the cultivation of oil palm in several States in the coming year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of States likely to be brought under the scheme?

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) The total area under oil palm cultivation in the country at present is about 24,400 hectares. The State-wise area is given below :

State	Area (Ha.)
1. Kerala	3,700
2. Andaman and Nicobar Island	1,593
3. Maharashtra	1,000
4. Andhra Pradesh	9,219
5. Karnataka	4,025
6. Tamil Nadu	3,883
7. Goa	410
8. Gujarat	250
9. Tripura	72
10. Orissa	248
Total	24,400 (P)

P = Provisional.

(b) and (c). Processing facilities are already available in Kerala, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka in the areas where fruit yield has started. In the areas where plantations is in progress palm oil processing mills are being set up under joint sector/public sector/cooperative sector/private sector.

(d) and (e). Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP) is being implemented in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Tripura, Orissa and Assam to bring about 80,000 ha. under oil palm during Eighth Plan (1992-97). The scheme is being implemented on 75:25 sharing basis between Government of India and the concerned State Governments.

Vocational Course in Gujarat

5048. SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allotted to Gujarat for vocationalisation of higher education in the State;

(b) the amount actually released for this purpose so far; and

(c) the time by which the balance amount is 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 (c). According to the information furnished by the UGC, an amount of Rs. 96.00 lakhs (Rs. 27.00 lakhs for the Universities and Rs. 69.60 lakhs for the Colleges) was allocated for vocationalisation of first degree education in Gujarat during 1994-95. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 91.00 lakhs has already been released. The balance amount is likely to be released during the current financial year.

Accident of Indrayani Express

5049. SHRI RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received the Report of the One-Man Commission regarding the accident of the Indrayani Express on 1st December, 1994;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) the action taken on the findings/recommendations of the commission;

(d) if not the reasons therefor; and

(e) the precautionary measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) The Commissioner of Railway Safety, Central Circle, has submitted his report on the accident involving 1022 Up Pune-Bombay VT Indrayani Express which occurred on 1st December, 1994.

(b) (i) In his findings, the CRS has attributed uncontrolled movement (rolling down) of the train due to non-securing of the train by proper application of the brakes by the railway staff soon after breaking out of fire in the loco which was caused due to bursting of a compressor and subsequent grounding of armature of the compressor motor;

(ii) fire in a coach was caused due to sparks and flames coming out of brake-gears striking the flooring of the coach when the train rolled down the ghats.

(c) and (d). Based on the findings of the Commissioner of Railway Safety, the staff found responsible for this accident have been taken up under Disciplinary Rules.

(e) Some of the important safety measures adopted for avoiding recurrence of accidents on Indian Railways are as follows :

- (i) Nearly 17,000 drivers with less than 10 years active driving service and 40,000 station staff have been subjected to special screening and given crash training.
- (ii) Regular counselling of staff is done to prevent accidents.
- (iii) Two High-Level Safety Teams have been making extensive spot checks and inspections of field installations and operating practices.
- (iv) Stringent penalty to the extent of dismissal or removal from service is being imposed on staff causing serious train accidents.
- (v) The drivers working trains on ghat sections are being specially counselled and monitored.
- (vi) Instant Action Groups have been formed on certain nominated trains to check entry of unauthorised passengers in reserved coaches and carrying inflammable/explosive material.
- (vii) Staff working air brake trains are being given special training in air brake system.
- (viii) Track renewals on all important routes are being liquidated.
- (ix) Regular inspections are carried out by Officers, inspectors and supervisors to ensure that the staff follow the correct rules and procedures.
- (x) Safety measures are reviewed from time to time and new measures adopted on the basis of recommendations of various accident inquiry reports.

[Translation]

Railway Station

5050. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any proposal to beautify the Hathrus Junction Railway Station and its surroundings;
- (b) if so, the schemes formulated and the financial allocations made for the beautification of the Railway Station;
- (c) the time by which the beautification work is likely to be started and completed;
- (d) whether there is any proposal for construction of overbridge at Hathrus Junction Railway crossing;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : No, Sir. This station is at present not identified for beautification as the present standard of maintenance of station and premises is satisfactory.

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

(d) Not, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Railway has asked the State Government to sponsor the prosal.

[English]

Adult Education

5051. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) details of Schemes/Projects being launched for the Adult Education in the country;
- (b) details of results thereof, during the last five years; and
- (c) the steps taken to achieve total literacy in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b). The major scheme for Adult Education under the National Literacy Mission, which was launched in 1988 include the following :

- (i) Special Projects for Eradication of Illiteracy (Total Literacy Campaigns/Post Literacy Campaigns).
- (ii) Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Agencies working in the field of Adult Education.
- (iii) Rural Functional Literacy Projects.
- (iv) Post Literacy and Continuing Education.

According to the reports received so far 81.00 million persons have been enrolled under various literacy campaigns and 44.78 million persons have been made literate so far.

(c) The National Literacy Mission has been mandated to make 100 million people literate in the age group of 15-35, all over the country by 1997. The principal strategy under NLM is the Total Literacy Campaigns (TLCs) which are area specific, volunteer based, time-bound, cost effective and outcome oriented. The target is to cover 345 districts by the end of 8th Plan. So far TLCs have been approved in 336 districts (with full or partial coverage) in 19 States/4 UTs.

[Translation]

Football Game

5052. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage football as cricket by recognising it to include in the ensuing World Cup football tournaments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the training being imparted to the players; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) All India Football Federation has chalked out a plan for coaching and competition of Junier and Senior players. A Football Coach from Uzbekistan has been engaged to train the players. Coaching Camps, funded by Government of India and competitions at national and international levels are being conducted.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Teachers' Education

5053. SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have sponsored any scheme for 'Teachers' Education' and approved upgradation of B.Ed. colleges in Assam;

(b) if so, the number of colleges with names and amount sanctioned to each college;

(c) whether money allocated for the purpose was properly utilised;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for ensuring the proper utilisation of sanctioned money?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Restructuring and Reorganisation of Teacher Education 7 Secondary Teacher Education Institutions (STEIs) have been upgraded into Colleges of Teacher Education (CTEs).

(b) A Statement is attached.

(c) to (e). As on date, according to information available about 60% of the funds released have been utilized. The State Government has been requested to expedite full utilization of funds.

STATEMENT

S. No.	Name of the STEI upgraded into CTE	Amount of Non-recurring Central assistance released upto 31-3-95 (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Department of Education, Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh.	52.00
2.	Post Graduate Training College, Jorhat.	47.00
3.	Government Post Graduate Training College, Kokrajhar.	48.00
4.	Government Basic Training College, Goalpara, Goalpara.	22.34
5.	Teacher Training College, Silchar.	23.02
6.	Teacher Training College, Tezpur.	22.95
7.	Teacher Training College, Mangaldai.	25.95

[Translation]

Railway Projects

5054. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the projects started in Gujarat by Railway and whether any time limit has been fixed to complete each of the projects;

(b) the reasons for the delay in their completion if any;

(c) if so, the revised schedule for completing these projects;

(d) the total estimated cost of these projects and the cost escalation thereof; and

(e) the measures adopted by the Union Government to complete these projects as per the revised schedule?

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

Gir Lion Project

5055. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of animals under Gir Lion a project area;

(b) the details of the schemes pertaining to the development of this project and the amount spent by the Government thereon during each of the last three years;

(c) whether some people have destroyed this area by undertaking unauthorised mining work there;

(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) The number of animals as reported by the State Government during the last census carried out in 1990 under Gir Lion Project are :

Lion	284
Spotted deer	27600
Sambar	1764
Blue bulls	1524
Four horned antelope	427
Chinkara	972

(b) Assistance is being provided to the State Government under two Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely, (i) Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, and (ii) Eco-development around Protected Areas. The amounts provided to the State Government and spent by them under these two schemes during the last 3 years are given below :

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (Rs.in Lakhs)
1.	Development of National Parks and sanctuaries Gir Wildlife Sanctuary and NPs	0.05	12.85	2.00 (utilisation not yet reported).
2.	Eco-development around Protected Areas Gir NP and Wildlife Sanctuaries	5.90	10.588	

(c) No such report has been received.

(d) and (e). Does not arise.

[English]

Railway Land

5056. SHRI RAM NIHORE RAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the actual land (in acres) of Railways at Renukoot, Anpara under Sonebhadra district of Uttar Pradesh on the records/papers of U.P. Government and the Railway Administration;

(b) the total area of this land under the possession of Railways and the area under unauthorised occupation; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c). As per records, the area of land belonging to Railways at Renukoot Station is 128.38 acres and at Anpara Station is 89.50 acres. The areas under possession of the Railways, except 2.07 acres at Renukoot Station and 0.44 acres at Anpara Station which is under unauthorised occupation. Eviction proceedings have been initiated in all cases of encroachments and eviction orders passed in all but three cases.

OCB Quota

5057. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Recruitment Board has taken any steps to fulfill other Backward classes quota;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(b) Instructions providing reservation for OBC were issued in January, 1994. These instructions are being observed by Railway Recruitment Boards while making recommendations for recruitment on the Railways.

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

Programme for the Farmers

5058. SHRI NURUL ISLAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research is organising programmes for farmers involving "Work Experience";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the numbers of farmers who have benefited by the programme of "Work Experience"; and

(d) the details of amounts earmarked for this programme in the North-Eastern Region during 1994-95 and 1995-96, (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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Training courses in agriculture are being conducted by 242 Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the country. Learning is acquired by the farmers through work-experience in these Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

(c) In 1994-95, 232731 farmers have benefited by the programme of Krishi Vigyan Kendra.

(d) The details of amounts earmarked for this programme in the North Eastern Region during 1994-95 and 1995-96 statewise are given below :

Name of the State	Budget 1994-95	(Rs. in lakh) 1995-96
1. Arunachal Pradesh	30.21	11.95
2. Assam	69.08	114.36
3. Manipur	23.29	11.95
4. Meghalaya	23.59	56.68
5. Mizoram	13.89	56.28
6. Nagaland	10.29	11.95
7. Sikkim	27.29	11.95
8. Tripura	54.51	66.48

Reforms in Examination System

5059. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is need to bring radical reforms in the existing examination system;
- (b) if so, the plan drawn up by the Government in this regard;
- (c) the changes proposed to be brought about during 1995-96 academic year; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d). The need for examination reform has been highlighted in the National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986. The NPE 1986 as modified in 1992 stipulates adoption of certain functional measures to reform the examination system.

As far as the school system is concerned, all the functional measures recommended in the NPE have been circulated amongst the State/UT Governments and the various Boards of School Education in the country urging them to implement these. The basic responsibility for implementation of these measures lies with the Boards in relation to the school system affiliated to each board.

In the Higher Education System, the University Grants Commission has worked out certain strategies on examination reforms which have been circulated to the Universities.

Implementation of these examination reforms is a continuing process.

Sugar Production

5060. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of sugar produced from various States during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise;

(b) whether Tamil Nadu Sugar Industry is facing major crises due to non-availability of place to store sugar at present;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to provide more storage space for sugar in the State?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) A Statement showing the State-wise production of sugar during the sugar seasons 1991-92 to 1993-94, is enclosed.

(b) to (d). Keeping in view the increasing trend of sugar production in Tamil Nadu and other major sugar producing States, Government has stepped up the monthly releases of sugar to overcome the problem of storage space.

STATEMENT

Statewise Production of Sugar during the Sugar Seasons (October to September) 1991-92 to 1993-94

(Lakh tonnes)

S. No.	States	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (provisional)
1.	Punjab	3.84	4.09	3.11
2.	Haryana	4.89	3.45	3.08
3.	Rajasthan	0.38	0.24	0.16
4.	Uttar Pradesh	36.53	28.57	27.15
5.	Madhya Pradesh	1.28	0.60	0.37
6.	Gujarat	7.53	7.51	8.26
7.	Maharashtra	42.19	33.60	27.34
8.	Bihar	4.62	3.27	2.21
9.	Assam	0.09	0.08	0.04
10.	Orissa	0.37	0.33	0.24
11.	West Bengal	0.06	0.04	0.05
12.	Nagaland	0.04	0.03	0.01
13.	Andhra Pradesh	8.43	5.40	6.47
14.	Karnataka	10.32	8.48	8.31
15.	Tamil Nadu	12.64	9.76	10.95
16.	Pondicherry	0.63	0.45	0.37
17.	Kerala	0.09	0.06	0.02
18.	Goa	0.18	0.13	0.08
	All India	134.11	106.09	98.12

[English]

Vocationalisation of Secondary Education

5061. SHRI P.P. KALIAPERUMAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount utilised by the Tamil Nadu Government out of the fund allocated under the vocationalisation of Secondary Education during the last three years; and

(b) the number of Vocational Classes sanctioned and started in Tamil Nadu during the said period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education at +2 level, an amount of Rs. 1406.70 lakhs was sanctioned to the Government of Tamil Nadu during the last three years. Of this the State Government has utilised Rs. 567.75 lakhs so far. The funds sanctioned in 1994-95 would be utilised in the current year.

(b) Of the 2140 vocational sections in 700 schools sanctioned to the State of Tamil Nadu so far under the above scheme, 1540 sections in 500 schools have been operationalised. Preparatory action like construction of worksheds is in progress to operationalise 600 sections sanctioned in 200 schools in 1993-94 and 1994-95.

Cold Storage

5062. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat have submitted proposals to the National Horticulture Board to set up cold storage in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds required by the State Government from the Union Government for the purpose; and

(d) the decision of the Union Government on those proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b). A proposal from Gujarat Agro Centres Corporation Limited was received on 31.1.95 for providing assistance as grants-in-aid to set up three pre-cooling units and three cold storages one each at Gandevi (Bulsar District), Junagarh and Pranji (Sabarkantha District).

(c) and (d). National Horticulture Board does not provide assistance as grants-in-aid for setting up pre-cooling units and cold storages but provides assistance in the form of soft loan. The Corporation was advised accordingly and asked to submit the detailed project proposal in prescribed proforma which is still awaited from them.

Reforms in Cooperative Movement

5063. DR. G.L. KANAUJIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn towards news captioned, "Centre, States rapped for stymieing cooperatives", appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' of November 10, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action plans are being drawn for reviving and encouraging cooperative movement in the rural areas; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b). A news item has appeared in 'Hindustan Times' on 10.11.94 regarding a publication of Cooperative Initiative Panel (CIP) on State of Cooperation in India' (1993-94). The Cooperative Initiative Panel has taken up a Cooperative Initiative Project sponsored by National Dairy Development Board (NDB) and Cooperative Development Foundation, Hyderabad. Under this project, the CIP conducts workshops to create awareness among the people. The members of CIP are S/Shri Mohan Dharia, L.C. Jain and Dr. V. Kurien.

In its report for the cooperative year 1993-94, the CIP has drawn attention to the need to create a legal environment in India conducive to cooperation. For this it has urged the need to amend the State Cooperative laws on the lines of the Chaudhary Brahm Perkash Committee recommendations and has expressed its concern at the slow progress of amendment of their laws by the States. In the case of some States where amendments have been carried out, it would like to introduce more than cosmetic changes. Concern has also been expressed at privatisation of some Cooperative Sugar Mills.

Suggestions for democratisation of cooperatives and reductions of Government control have been made on the lines of the suggestions given by Chaudhary Brahm Perkash Committee Report. Some of these suggestions include withdrawing Government officials from cooperatives restriction of power of registrar for registration and liquidation, withdrawal of Government nominees to board and managing committees, appointments of auditors for the cooperative societies etc.

The voluntary organisations have been asked to facilitate studies on cooperative law and support changes in cooperative laws regulations.

(c) and (d). The Central Government have recently initiated a series of measures to revitalise cooperatives at the grass root level.

These include :

(i) Initiating the process of Business Development Planning in Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies;

- (ii) Strengthening the role of Federal Cooperatives in relation to Primary Cooperative Societies;
- (iii) Supporting of self-help efforts of the cooperatives;
- (iv) Steps have been initiated to implement the suggestions given by Chaudhary Brahm Parkash Committee.
- (v) Strengthening of training of cooperative personnel to make the cooperatives profession aised and improve their working.

[Translation]

Environmental Projects

5064. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the projects which have been

started with Central and foreign assistance in Madhya Pradesh for conservation of environment and forests during the last three years;

(b) the progress made so far in this regard, project-wise;

(c) the amount made available for each of these projects; and

(d) the details of the projects proposed to be introduced in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):
(a) to (c). The details of the projects started in Madhya Pradesh with Central and Foreign assistance for conservation of environment and forests during the last three years alongwith achievements both Financial and Physical are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) The projects are continuing in nature.

STATEMENT

S. No.	Name of the Scheme/ Project	Broad objective	Extent of funding by Govt. of India	Status	Achievement during the last three years 1991-92, 1992-93 1993-94 and 1994-95	
					Financial	Physical
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	To assist the State in the development of National Parks and Sanctuaries through financial assistance	100%	Ongoing	316.21	27 National Parks covered
2.	Project Elephant	to ensure long term survival of elephants	100% NR 50% R	Ongoing	52.07	Target fixed in terms of financial releases
3.	Eco-development around National Parks and Sanctuaries	To provide alternate sustenance to communities living on fringes of National Park	100% NR 50% R	Ongoing	55.53	4 National Parks covered
4.	Project Tiger	To ensure maintenance of viable population of tigers	100% NR 50% R	Ongoing	348.41	3 Tiger Reserves covered
5.	Eco-development around Tiger Reserves	To provide alternate sustenance to communities living on fringes of Tiger Reserves	100% NR 50% R	Ongoing	87.84	3 Tiger Reserves covered
6.	Beneficiary Oriented Scheme for tribal villages of project Tiger areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries	To rehabilitate the tribal and other families under Relocation Plan	100%	Ongoing	13.98	Target fixed in terms of financial releases
7.	Integrated Afforestation and Eco-development scheme	To promote afforestation and eco-development	100%	Ongoing	1711.74	34020 ha. area covered

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project Scheme	Augmenting supply of fuelwood and fodder in identified fuelwood deficit districts	50%	Ongoing	737.50	23745 ha. area covered
9.	Seed Development Scheme	To develop infrastructure for quality seeds	100%	Ongoing	18.98	Target fixed in terms of financial releases
10.	Minor forest produce including medicinal plants	Raising of minor forest produce including medicinal plants	100%	Ongoing	150.53	3455 ha. area covered
11.	Association of Scheduled Tribes and rural poor in afforestation of degraded forests	To associate Scheduled Tribes and rural poor in afforestation of degraded forests to improve biomass resource base	100%	Ongoing	55.07	354 ha. area covered
12.	Conservation & Management of Bhoj Wetland	To undertake appropriate policies for conservation of wetland	100%	Ongoing	155.81*	Target fixed in terms of financial releases
13.	Modern Forest Fire Control Methods	Controlling forest fires to protect & conserve forests	100%	Ongoing	90.95	Target fixed in terms of financial releases
14.	Central Zoo Authority	To provide assistance to Zoos for improvement of infrastructure for upkeep and management of Zoo animals	100%	Ongoing	26.55	② Zoos covered
15.	Paryavaran Vahini Scheme	To create environmental awareness through active participation of public	100%	Ongoing	3.99	Constituted in 14 districts
16.	Aerial Seeding	Re-vegetation in difficult and inaccessible areas	100%	Ongoing	10.00	3820 ha. area covered
17.	National River Conservation Plan (NRCP)	Pollution abatement of rivers Khan, Kshipra, Tapti, Betwa, Narmada, Wainganga and Chambal	50%	Rivers Khan, Kshipra, Tapti, Betwa, Narmada, Wainganga and Chambal have been included in the National River Conservation Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 106.59 crore. NRCP has been approved in principle.		
EXTERNALLY-AIDED						
18.	World Bank assisted Industrial pollution prevention project	Strengthening of the State Pollution Control Board	Under the project an amount of US\$ 4 million is provided. The project will be implemented during 1995-2001.			
19.	Madhya Pradesh Forestry Project - World Bank assisted	To improve planning at a macroscale to increase both forest cover and productivity and promote Conservation of Biodiversity.	The project has been launched during the year 1995-96. The project agreement has been signed in April 1995 for IDA credit US\$ 58 million			

NR - Non Recurring

R - Recurring

* - Figure pertains to the years 1992-93 and 1993-94

Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

5065. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Governments have to take prior clearance for the development projects and programmes from the Union Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State Governments cannot undertake the work of road construction, installation of electric transmission lines, laying of pipe lines for water supply etc. due to inordinate delay involved in taking off such projects and programmes because of sending them for prior approval to the Union Government;

(c) whether the State Governments have to bear the financial burden caused by cost escalation due to the delay caused by the above procedure;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government propose to provide powers to the State Governments as per the prescribed terms and conditions for undertaking development projects and programmes;

(e) if so, the details of these powers; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (f). As per provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, prior approval of the Central Government is necessary for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. Proposals received under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are examined expeditiously for decision. In order to further decentralise and streamline examination of proposals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, revised consolidated guidelines were issued by the Ministry on 25.10.92. These guidelines *inter alia* include delegation of powers to Regional Chief Conservators of Forest to finally decide proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 5 ha., excluding proposals for regularisation of encroachments and mining, and initial examination of all proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 20 ha. in consultation with State Advisory Groups consisting of representatives of the State Governments.

Grant-in-aid to Laboratories

5066. SHRI SWAMI SURESHANAND : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether grants-in-aid provided to Universities for the maintenance of Chemistry laboratories is adequate in view of the escalating prices of chemicals; and

(b) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to enhance the grants-in-aid for the upgradation of Chemistry laboratories?

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

Palm Oil Centres

5067. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to set up Palm oil centres in various parts of the country particularly in the State of Assam;

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

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (c). Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP) for bringing 80,000 hectares under Oil Palm during the Eighth Plan with an outlay of Rs. 94.55 crores (Government of India share) is being implemented on 75:25 sharing basis between Government of India and concerned State Governments in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Gujarat, Goa, Orissa, Assam and Tripura.

In Assam, Oil Palm Development Programme is being implemented by State Department of Soil Conservation through Assam Plantation Crops Development Corporation Limited. One oil palm nursery is being set up at Harmoti in Karbi-Anglong District. An area of 500 hectares will be brought under oil palm cultivation during the Eighth Plan in Assam.

Palm Oil processing mills are being established in all States including Assam under joint sector/public sector/cooperative sector/private sector.

Gauge Conversion

5068. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the Budget of 1994-95 funds were allotted for fine work programme for Gorakhpur-Anand Nagar-Gonda and Anand Nagar-Nautanwa project of North East Railway;

(b) whether the Railway Board itself postponed the above project;

(c) if so, whether the General Manager of North-Eastern Railway has given suggestion of phase-wise implementation of this project; and

(d) if so, the reasons for which the work particularly in this very backward area on Indo-Nepal was postponed and the time by which work on this project is likely to be taken up by the Ministry?

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

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

(d) This work is included in the action plan for Gauge Conversion Phase-1 and is planned to be taken up in the 9th plan period.

[English]

Fertilizers

5069. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the measures planned by the Government to minimise regional imbalances in use of fertilizers and to promote its consumption to boost up agricultural production; and

(b) the present share of use of fertilizers in agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Measures taken by the Government to promote the consumption of fertilizer and minimise the regional imbalances are as follows :

- (i) Fertilizer consumption is reviewed during Fertilizer Zonal Conferences before each of the Kharif and Rabi seasons and low consumptions States are advised to increase the fertilizer consumption.
- (ii) Central assistance for supply of small fertilizer bags is available under the scheme on National Project on Development of Fertilizer Use in Low Consumption and Rainfed Areas.

(iii) Under the scheme on Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizers, Central assistance is made available for strengthening soil testing laboratories.

(iv) To increase the consumption of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers, scheme on Concessional Sale of Decontrolled fertilizer is also continued during 1994-95.

(b) In agricultural sector the estimated use of fertilizer is 13.83 million tonnes nutrients.

National Co-Operative Development Corporation

5070. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY :

SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO
GUNDEWAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of projects proposals submitted by the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra to the National Co-operative Development Corporation during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) whether some project proposals are pending with the National Co-operative Development Corporation;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the stage at which these proposals are pending; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for early clearance of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (d). Details of project proposals received by National Cooperative Development Corporation from Governments of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra during 1993-94 and 1994-95 and their present status are given in Statements I and II respectively.

STATEMENT-I

Details of Project Proposals Indicating the Position of Sanction by NCDC in Respect of Tamil Nadu

(Rs. lakhs)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
5. Plantation Crops		5	444.80	-	-	-	-	1 *	376.00	*under examination
6. Storage	35	71.76	-	-	1	7.125	-	-	-	Entire Amt.desanctioned on the request of State Government
7. ICDP	1	967.68	-	-	1	1061.94	-	-	-	
8. Marketing Inputs	1	95.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
9. Cold Storage	1	52.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10. Coir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 *	1671.10	*Sanction letter under issue
Total	50	2887.225	-	-	6	1216.045	3-	2881.96		

STATEMENT-II

Details of Project Proposals Indicating the Position of Sanction by NCDC in Respect of Maharashtra

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Activity	1993-94				1994-95				Proposals rejected	Remarks
		Sanction No.	Pending No.	Sanction Amt.	No.	Sanctions Amt.	Pending No.	Sanction Amt.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Student Consumer Coops.	8	1.20	-	-	11	1.65	-	-	-	
2.	Assistant for computers	1	29.80	-	-	2	185.755	5 *	-	-	Feasibility Report awaited
3.	Poultry	31	2650.50	-	-	5	277.40	-	-	-	
4.	Sugar	6	3799.53	-	-	14	8079.20	7 *	8410.94	-	*1 proposal under examination For 6 proposals addl. information sought
5.	Spinning Mills	1	317.50	-	-	7	1770.55	-	-	-	
6.	Handloom	1	3.87	-	-	5	302.817	1 *	225.00	-	*under examination.
7.	Powerloom	-	-	-	-	1	34.47	5 *	482.253	2	*Clearance awaited from State Govt. & (i) Low capacity utilisation of existing Unit, (ii) rejected as society increased area (Rs. 54.53 lakh)
8.	Particle Board	-	-	4 *	8945.00	-	-	-	-	-	*Proposals received in 1992-93 and still under process.
9.	Paper/ Stationary unit	1	65.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10.	Fisheries	61	461.691	-	-	81	704.326	-	-	-	
11	F and V	40	596.45	-	-	27	601.97	2 *	235.00	12	*Addl. informn. sought & Found unviable

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12. Marketing & Inputs	19	75.00		-	-	3	43.65	-	-	10£ (93-94) £ Found unviable Rs. 1410.70 lakh	
13. Foodgrains	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5£ (1994-95) £ Found unviable	1£ £ High Cost investment (Rs. 900.00 lakh)
169	8000.51	4	8945.00	156	12001.766	20	9353.193				

[Translation]**Strawberry and Mushroom**

5071. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in the field of development and research in regard to cultivation of strawberry and mushroom in the country;

(b) the name of the areas identified for the growth of these two progressive agricultural products; and

(c) the programmes being implemented by the Government for the development and promotion of these agricultural products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The following progress has been made in research and development relating to these crops :

I. RESEARCH

A strawberry variety named Pusa early Dwarf has been released by IARI, New Delhi. Some information on cultural practices has also been generated. Exotic varieties like Chandler, Pajaro, Selvo etc. have been introduced in Maharashtra during recent years.

As regards mushroom, five high yielding varieties of white button mushroom have been identified for cultivation. Reduction of composting period from 28 days to 16.20 days has been affected. Package of practices for summer cultivation of temperature tolerant white button have been standarized. A new high yielding variety of button mushroom has been identified which has out yielded, the previous best strains of this mushroom cacing practices of adding spawn has resulted in significant yield increases. For the development and promotion of mushroom cultivation training programmes for scientists, extension workers and farmers are being conducted.

II. DEVELOPMENT

Strawberry : No specific programme had been taken up for cultivation of strawberry till recently. It is grown in a limited scale in hill areas. Recently, Some exotic varieties have been introduced to promote its cultivation both in hill as well as plain areas.

Mushroom : Due to the developmental efforts made by the Centre as well as the State Governments, mushroom production has gone up from 100 tonnes in 1970 to 25,000 tonnes in 1993.

(b) Strawberry is grown in hills of Kashmir, Nainital and Dehradun of U.P., Shimla of H.P. and Nilgiri of Tamil Nadu. In Maharashtra, it is grown in Mahabaleshwar. Now even the plains of Maharashtra Nasik, Pune, Satara and Ahmednagar are considered suitable for cultivation of strawberry.

The major mushroom production States are Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. In addition, mushroom production is being taken up in the State of Rajasthan and North-Eastern States.

(c) Government of India is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on Mushroom Cultivation at a total cost of Rs. 10.00 crores during the VIII Plan period. The programmes undertaken include establishment of spawn production units and pasteurised compost units and training of farmers. In addition, the National Horticulture Board have schemes to provide assistance to integrated units involved in production and marketing of mushrooms and strawberry.

[English]**Railway Projects in Assam**

5072. SHRI PROBIN DEKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the action plan of the Government to gear up the railway projects under execution in Assam;

(b) the amount allocated for each of these projects;

(c) the names of the places where these railway projects are going on; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (d). The details are given below :

S. No.	Name of the Work	Amount Allocated 1995-96 (Rs. in Crores)	Location	Target date for completion
1.	Jogighopa-Guwahati Rail-cum-Road bridge across river Brahma-putra at Jogighopa alongwith BG line from Jogighopa to Guwahati (142.15 Kms)	30.50	Jogighopa (Goalpara district)	March, 97
2.	Dudhnoi-Depa-New BG line (17.50 Kms)	5.00	(Goalpara Distt.) 10.6 Kms in Assam	1997-98
3.	Lumding-Dibrugarh gauge conversion including link branches	17.00	Lumding (Nowgaon Distt) to Dibrugarh/ Tinsukia.	
	(i) Lumding-Dimapur			May'95
	(ii) Dimapur-Furkating			Dec'95
	(iii) Furkating-Mariani			Sept'96
	(iv) Mariani-Tinsukia-Ledo			Dec'96

Redeployment of Employees

5073. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of employees of Rampurhat Loco Shed so far redeployed; and
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to redeploy the remaining staff of the loco shed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) 80 Nos.

(b) Redeployment of balance staff is in progress.

[Translation]

Lions/Tigers

5074. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

- (a) whether an agreement has been signed between India and China for the protection of lions/tigers;

(b) whether certain points of the said agreement have been opposed in the International Union of Environment Protection;

- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. A Protocol on the conservation of tiger was signed in Beijing on 2nd of March, 1995.

(b) and (c). Some members of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature have voiced apprehension about usage of the words "sustainable development of the species" and "captive breeding activities with a view to release of the species into the "Wild" in the said Protocol.

(d) According to these persons, these phrases are untenable with the conservation of the tigers in the wild. The Government however, does not subscribe to their viewpoints, as sustainable development is an accepted principle of our Government's policy and the word "sustainable" need not necessarily be associated with consumption. The captive breeding activities mentioned in the Protocol are only at the experimental stage aimed at conservation not consumption, and not proposed as a large scale activity before the results are known. Besides, similar methods have been adopted in the case of several other endangered species without compromising high ideals of wildlife conservation. In any case, the scientific community should not foreclose its options about possible solutions without adequate study and trial.

Gauge Conversion

5075. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of Narrow Gauge and Metre Gauge lines in West Bengal;
- (b) whether any of those lines to be included in the Unigauge Programme of the Government;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) The names of the Metre Gauge and Narrow Gauge lines in West Bengal are as under :

METRE GAUGE LINES

- (i) New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri
- (ii) Alipurduar Jn. Siliguri
- (iii) Alipurduar-New Coochbehar-Gitaldaha
- (iv) Dalkolha-Siliguri
- (v) Barsoi-Radhikapur

NARROW GAUGE LINES

- (i) Burddhaman-Katwa-Ahmedpur
- (ii) Shantipur-Nabadwipghat
- (iii) Bankura-Rainagar
- (iv) Siliguri-Darjeeling

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Conversion of New Bongaigaon Alipurduar-Jalpaiguri is planned to be taken up in the 9th plan period.

ICDS Projects

5076. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of I.C.D.S. projects sanctioned for Sindudurg and Ratnagiri districts of Maharashtra so far;
- (b) the criteria for sanctioning these projects; and
- (c) the number of such projects proposed to be sanctioned in other districts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI)) : (a) to (c). The number of Integrated Child Development Services Projects (ICDS) sanctioned so far for the two Districts of Sindudurg and Ratnagiri in Maharashtra are four and three respectively. The identification of Blocks for new ICDS projects is done on the basis of concentration of SC/ST population. As per the rate of expansion approved in the VIIth Plan, it is proposed to sanction 100 new ICDS projects in the country during 1995-96. The pro-rata share of each State/Union Territory is determined on the basis of proportional distribution of rural population below poverty line.

[Translation]

Sports Hostel Scheme

5077. MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE :

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

- (a) the number of hostels constructed under Sports Hostel Scheme and their locations;
- (b) whether such hostels have not been constructed in several States; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor?

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) 18 Sports Hostels have been established at Alwar, Bhopal, Cuttack, Siliguri,

Calcutta, Gandhinagar, Goa, Kandivali, Calicut, Madras, Secundrabad, Bangalore, Bhiwani, Bilaspur, Chandigarh, Dimapur, Imphal and Guwahati.

(b) Under the Sports Hostel Scheme of Sports Authority of India, the State Governments are required to construct or provide already constructed accommodation for establishing a Sports Hostel. Such Hostels have been established in 17 States.

(c) Some of the States like Uttar Pradesh have their own Sports Hostels, whereas certain States are still planning such Hostels.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

5078. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government contemplates to connect Alipurduar Junction in the North Frontier Railways with Broad Gauge line;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). Gauge Conversion of New Bongaigaon-Alipurduar-Jalpaiguri rail line to provide double line between these points is planned to be taken up in the 9th plan period after which Alipurduar Jn. would get linked with the BG. Even now the people of Alipurduar can avail BG services from New Alipurduar Railway station.

(c) Does not arise.

New Trains

5079. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the assessment made by the Government of the increased passenger traffic and earnings by introduction of new trains during 1995-96;

(b) the factors taken into consideration for selection of sections for introduction of new trains; and

(c) whether the introduction of these trains is to be carried out in phases and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) New passenger trains are introduced as a part of Railways overall objective of improving the availability of services.

(b) Passenger traffic justification, public demands, operational feasibility and commercial viability.

(c) 4 pairs of intercity expresses on Tirupati-Cuddappah, Ernakulam-Trivandrum, Kanpur-Farukhabad and Jaipur-Delhi sections have already been introduced. The remaining trains will be introduced during the year depending upon operational feasibility and resource availability.

National Plantation Management Institute

5080. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state : :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Plantation Management Institute in Kerala; and
 (b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

National Museum of Natural History

5081. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state : :

(a) whether National Museum of Natural History proposes to organise some Summer Programmes for children between 9 and 13 years and 14 and 17 years;
 (b) if so, the details thereof with eligibilities fixed;
 (c) whether the Government propose to set up some Museums for the purpose, particularly in Kerala;
 (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). National Museum of Natural History has notified in the Press the following Summer Programmes for Children to be held from 16.5.95 to 17.6.95 :

Name of the Programme	Eligible Age-Group
Exploring the Environment	14 to 17 years
Learn Animal & Plant Modelling	8 to 13 years
Learn Nature Painting	8 to 13 years

(c) to (e). It has been decided to establish Regional Museums of Natural History at Bhopal, Bhubaneswar and Mysore. The outreach activities of the Regional Museum of Natural History at Mysore are intended to cover the State of Kerala also.

Malabar University in Kerala

5082. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals from Government of Kerala for approval of establishment of the Malabar University; 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). According to the information furnished by the CGC, the Government of Kerala has forwarded to the UGC, for advice, the Report of the Task Force for establishing a University in North Malabar. The salient features of the proposed University, as identified by the said Task Force, are as under :

1. The proposed university covering the districts of Kasagod, Kannur and North Wayanad will be multi-faculty and have multi-campuses with about 30-40 affiliated colleges.
2. The main emphasis will be on teaching and research in Science and Technology and on interdisciplinary studies, with common instrumentation centres and a central computer facility.
3. The main object of the new university is to reduce pressure on Calicut University on account of a large number of colleges affiliated to it. It is further envisaged that pre-degree Education will be transferred to the proposed pre-Degree/Higher Secondary Education Board.

Agricultural Sector

5083. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Agriculture sector is relatively less attractive for private investment as compared to other sectors;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. The analysis of data collected under the "Comprehensive Scheme for Studying the Cost of Cultivation of Principal Crops in India" shows that the net returns over cost of cultivation are quite attractive. A statement showing net returns for selected crops in some of the States is enclosed. The returns relate to the period of crop during the year concerned.

STATEMENT

State-wise Net Returns for Various Crops and Net Returns as Percentage to Cost of Cultivation

Crop	State	Year	Cost of Cultivation	Net Returns (Rs./ha.)	Net Returns as percentage to cost of Cultivation
			(C ₂) (Rs./ha.)		
Paddy	Bihar	1987-88	3343.68	601.73	15.65
	Haryana	1991-92	10251.86	6677.21	65.13
	M.P.	1991-92	5150.47	392.21	7.62
	Karnataka	1989-90	6321.55	2025.79	32.04
	Orissa	1990-91	5379.49	1090.80	20.27
	Punjab	1991-92	10390.80	2531.28	24.36
	U.P.	1989-90	5942.86	828.12	13.93
	W. Bengal	1991-92	9697.95	2324.13	23.96
Rapeseed & Mustard	Haryana	1991-92	5493.48	5029.15	91.55
	Punjab	1991-92	6044.61	1779.21	29.43
	Rajasthan	1989-90	3115.58	2944.87	94.52
Groundnut	Gujarat	1989-90	4804.71	1236.53	25.73
	Karnataka	1989-90	5400.39	2129.04	39.42
	Maharashtra	1989-90	4948.51	1589.11	32.11
	Orissa	1990-91	6961.27	3911.27	56.19
Cotton	Gujarat	1989-90	6164.34	1582.52	25.67
	Haryana	1990-91	6808.26	3718.88	54.62
	Karnataka	1987-88	4118.37	3246.84	78.84
	Maharashtra	1987-88	3267.38	789.29	24.16
	Punjab	1991-92	12447.50	7855.16	63.11
	M.P.	1988-89	4843.89	558.26	11.43
Sugarcane	A.P.	1990-91	19458.50	3496.64	17.97
	Haryana	1990-91	12642.36	9678.09	76.55
	Maharashtra	1990-91	17623.31	5864.73	33.28
	U.P.	1990-91	10965.10	7115.93	64.90
	Tamil Nadu	1987-88	13204.42	8146.31	61.69
Wheat	Haryana	1991-92	7617.69	5590.67	73.39
	M.P.	1991-92	6247.49	1611.72	25.80
	Punjab	1991-92	9274.96	3171.16	34.19
	U.P.	1990-91	7157.29	1066.20	14.90
	Rajasthan	1989-90	5434.80	2559.81	47.10

Farm Pumping System

5084. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to a paper jointly prepared by the Institute of Co-op. Management, Ahmedabad and the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)

India can save upto \$650 million a year if 50% of the existing agricultural pumping systems are rectified during the next five to ten years;

(b) whether his Ministry have evolved any techniques and equipments for reducing the energy needs in agricultural pumpsets and tried them in field conditions; and

(c) if so, what other measures are being taken to cut down excessive consumption of energy in the farm pumping systems?

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) Various organisations have estimated that there exists energy saving potential ranging from 10 to 50% on existing pumping systems which could be achieved by carrying out different types of improvements/rectifications.

(b) and (c). Technology and equipment have been developed for rejuvenation of sick and failed wells, low friction foot valve, rigid PVC pipe tubewell and for optimisation of tubewell design parameters. Government in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has taken up rectification of diesel pumpsets by replacing inefficient foot valves, suction and delivery pipes with that of fuel efficient ISI mark systems and also set up demonstration Centres for efficient diesel irrigation pumps. Ministry of Power has sanctioned a project recently, for demonstrating the performance of energy efficient pumpsets. Training and extension support has also been provided for efficient use of the irrigation pumpsets.

PET Bottles

5085. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Multi-National Companies are dumping toxic PET bottles into India for use after recycling;

(b) if so, the names of those Companies;

(c) the quantity of PET has been dumped into India during the last one year;

(d) the action taken by the Government to check this dumping; and

(e) the punitive steps taken against the Companies indulging in it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Import of toxic waste is strictly prohibited in this country under the Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989. Only import of wastes as a raw material for further processing is permitted after examination of each proposal. As per the amended Export-Import Policy (1992-1997) PET bottle waste is permitted under OPEN GENERAL LICENCE. No conclusive report regarding dumping of toxic PET bottles has been received.

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

National Commission for Women

5086. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Commission for Women has submitted its Report to the Government;

(b) if so, the major conclusions and recommendations of the Report in respect of crime against women; and

(c) the present status of implementation of these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The National Commission for Women has submitted its first annual report covering the period from 1.1.92 to 31.3.93.

(b) The Commission has concluded that despite the legal safeguards provided for women, violence against women continues unabated in our country, both inside and outside the home.

In this connection the Commission has recommended the following :

- (i) Wherever a district level monitoring body exists, it should be strengthened with more powers, appropriate status and financial and staff support.
- (ii) In States where no district level mechanism exist, suitable bodies should be created immediately.
- (iii) A special scheme be introduced by the Central Government to provide financial support to NGOs specifically for dealing with cases of violence against women.
- (iv) A gender sensitization module should be incorporated in all the training programmes for the police, the prosecutors, the magistrates, the forensic and medico-legal personnel and the judiciary.
- (v) A legal provision should be made to confiscate the property of the culprits (husband/in-laws) in every case of dowry death.
- (vi) The offence of Sati murder and its glorification should be included in the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act (para 2.4.17).
- (vii) Section 198 (1) of CrPC restricting lodging of complaints should be omitted. Clause (c) of section 198(1) should also be omitted (para 2.4.25).
- (viii) Epilepsy as a cause for divorce occurring in section 5(ii)(c) of the Hindu Marriage Act should be omitted (para 2.5.2).

(c) The recommendations of the Commission have been forwarded to appropriate authorities and have been taken up for inter-ministerial consultation wherever required. The implementation of many of the

recommendations is a continuous process. For instance, Gender Sensitization for police personnel have already been initiated by the Department and efforts are on to spread this. Similarly, Crime Against Women Cells have been set up in 12 States and other States/UTs have been requested to take such action.

[Translation]

Railway Stations

5087. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV :

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of major railway stations in Uttar Pradesh which are being expanded and developed;

(b) the details of the expenditure likely to be incurred on this, Station-wise; and

(c) the details of expenditure already incurred on this and the time limit fixed for the completion of the work of each station separately?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c). The details are as under :

Station	Amount proposed to be spent (in lakh of Rupees)	Amount already spent	Tentative target
1	2	3	4
Mau	64.00	Nil	1997-98
Ballia	13.00	1.50	1996-97
Gonda	25.96	8.00	1995-96
Deoria Sadar	10.50	Nil	1996-97
Basti	7.00	Nil	1995-96
Kathgodam	4.00	Nil	1995-96
Lucknow (NE Railway)	4.00	Nil	1995-96
Gorakhpur	4.00	Nil	1995-96
Mughalsarai	3.18	0.20	1995-96
Mathura	131.91	27.08	1996-97
Chitrakut Dham	13.90	0.60	1995-96
Agra Cantt	19.84	1.20	1996-97
Banda	3.00	Nil	1995-96
Jhansi	614.20	159.47	1996-97
Agra Fort	3.00	1.00	1995-96
Allahabad	85.42	20.97	1995-96
Aligarh	10.92	0.65	1995-96
Bareilly	20.00	14.00	1995-96
Partapgarh	18.70	11.01	1995-96
Haridwar	59.92	9.00	1995-96

1	2	3	4
Mordabad	6.50	4.00	1995-96
Tundla	27.74	7.27	1995-96
Firozabad	14.93	2.26	1995-96
Kanpur	152.41	61.09	1997-98
Lucknow (Northern)	221.05	74.55	1997-98
Varanasi	105.94	69.19	1995-96
Ghaziabad	1141.00	943.00	1995-96

[English]

Suburban Railway Passenger Traffic

5088. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to improve the sub-urban (Railway) passenger traffic in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). There is no Suburban Railway System in Orissa. However, Passenger trains and DMU Push Pull services are by and large catering satisfactorily to this short distance commuters

Unauthorised Passengers

5089. SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has directed the Indian Railways not to allow unauthorised persons without sleeper ticket to travel in sleeper coaches;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) details of the steps taken by the Railways to ensure that unauthorised persons do not board sleeper coaches; and

(d) the action shall be taken against railway employees indulging or willingly allowing unauthorised persons inside sleeper coaches?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). While deciding a petition, National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission had ordered that the Railways should see that in respect of Sleeper Compartments which are non-vestibuled there will be no one TTE/Conductor in each compartment so as to ensure that no persons other than passengers holding 2nd class Sleeper ticket valid for travel are permitted to enter or remain inside the compartment.

(c) and (d). Instructions were issued to the railways to ensure availability of TTEs in the Sleeper Class Coaches as per the prescribed yardstick. Besides, the following steps have been taken to prevent unauthorised entry :

- (i) Short distance passengers including MST holders have been debarred from travelling in reserved coaches of long distance Mail/ Express trains.
- (ii) Surprise checks are conducted with the help of GRP/RPF and action is taken against the unauthorised passengers who are detrained and fined under the provisions of the Railway Act.
- (iii) The vacancies of ticket checking staff are being filled up to improve manning of reserved coaches.
- (iv) Passengers holding 1Ind Class tickets found travelling in Sleeper Class are treated travelling in higher class and are subjected to higher penalty.
- (v) Disciplinary action is taken against the staff in proven cases of connivance.

Adolescent Girls Scheme

5090. PROF. SAVITHIRI LAKSHAMANAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified the areas and a special intervention has been devised to

meet the requirements of the adolescent girls scheme in Kerala and other States;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of blocks covered in each State;
- (d) the number of girls benefited under this Scheme, State-wise; and
- (e) the funds allocated under the Scheme during 1995-96 for each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OF THE (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI) :

(a) and (b). The scheme for Adolescent Girls has been introduced as a special intervention in 507 ICDS Blocks during 1991-92 in various States/Union Territories. In Kerala, the scheme has been sanctioned in 3 Districts covering 13 Blocks of the State. The scheme represents a special intervention institutionalised through the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) infrastructure to cater to the health, nutrition, recreation, awareness generation and skill improvement needs of adolescent girls in the age-group of 11-18 years in rural areas.

(c) and (d). A statement indicating the State-wise number of Blocks sanctioned and number of beneficiaries covered is given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) The allocation for each State/Union Territory is made as per schematic norms at the rate of Rs. 1.10 lakh per Adolescent Girls Block.

STATEMENT

Statement Statewise No. of Blocks Sanctioned and No. of Beneficiaries of Adolescent Girls Schemes (Scheme I & Scheme II)

(As on 30 April, 1995)

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Total number of Blocks	Achievement (Scheme-I)	Achievement (Scheme-II)	Total No. of Beneficiaries
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37(14)*	55410	12400	67810
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	-	-	-
3.	Assam	10	-	-	-
4.	Bihar	74	5578	0	5578
5.	Goa	1	250	166	416
6.	Gujarat	15	34269	8604	42873
7.	Haryana	4	2075	558	2633
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	2228	1141	3369
9.	J & K	2	-	-	-
10.	Karnataka	23	13305	4980	18285
11.	Kerala	13	11828	3719	15547

1	2	3	4	5	6
12. Madhya Pradesh	48	54217	10929	65146	
13. Maharashtra	39	20208	0	20208	
14. Manipur	1	-	-	-	
15. Meghalaya	1	300	0	300	
16. Mizoram	1	381	213	594	
17. Nagaland	1	-	-	-	
18. Orissa	24(14)*	42464	150	42614	
19. Punjab	3	1017	0	1017	
20. Rajasthan	24	3934	0	3934	
21. Sikkim	1	115	125	240	
22. Tamil Nadu	33	12321	10920	23241	
23. Tripura	1	-	-	-	
24. U.P.	99	-	-	-	
25. West Bengal	41	21599	7789	29388	
26. A & N Islands	1	25	75	100	
27. Chandigarh	1	41	60	101	
28. D & N Haveli	1	300	200	500	
29. Daman & Diu	1	272	175	447	
30. Delhi	3	2982	1968	4950	
31. Lakshdweep	1	-	-	-	
32. Pondicherry	1	1788	0	1788	
Total	507	286907	64172	351079	

* - Indicates World Bank Assisted ICDS Projects
 Blocks : ICDS - 479
 WBP - 28
 Total - 507

Market Intervention by NAFED

5091. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NAFED has taken any decision to intervene in the market to purchase Copra for the 1995 season;

(b) if so, the quantity of copra proposed to be collected by NAFED; and

(c) the proposed price for each quintal of Copra for the same year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (c). Central Government has nominated NAFED as the Central nodal agency to undertake purchase of Copra under Price Support Scheme (PSS).

Purchase of Copra under PSS for 1995 season will be undertaken by NAFED in consultation with State Governments and other concerned agencies on the basis of Minimum Support Price and other factors.

Renaming of Railway Station

5092. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation to name Raigiri Railway Station in South Central Railway as Sriyada Giri Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy Temple Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per extant policy, any change in the present name of a railway station can be made on the recommendation of the State Government concerned duly concurred in by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. No such proposal has been received by this Ministry.

High Yielding Paddy Project.

5093. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Rice Research Institute (C.R.R.I.) in Cuttack has recently developed a high-yielding variety of paddy for cultivation in rain-fed dry areas in collaboration and co-operation with the Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology in Bhubaneswar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Govt. has launched a special pilot Project for the aforesaid high-yield paddy in some dry and rain-fed areas in Orissa in April, 1995;

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

(e) whether the Govt. propose to try the aforesaid variety of paddy in the rainfed dry areas of other paddy producing States for increasing the production of paddy in the country?

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 recently high yielding varieties of paddy such as Annada, Kalinga-3, Vanapraba, Heera, Pathara, Subhadra have been developed for rainfed dry areas of Orissa. Two more varieties for similar situations developed by Orissa University of Agricultural and Technology are under release. These are OR-1055-5 and OR-1045-1-3.

(b) All the varieties listed above are early maturing and highly tolerant to drought. Among these Annada and Heera are resistant to blast. The maturity duration is around 70 to 75 days for Kalinga-3 and Heera while Annada and Vanapraba mature in about 100 days.

(c) and (d). No special pilot project has been launched in Orissa in April, 1995 for propagating the above varieties. However, through an ongoing centrally sponsored scheme on integrated cereal development programme in rice based cropping systems areas (ICDP-Rice) incentives are being provided to farmers to motivate them to use certified seeds of such varieties. Large scale compact block frontline demonstrations of the high yielding varieties with recommended package of practices are being conducted in rainfed upland areas of Orissa state in collaboration with Deptt. of Agriculture and OUAT.

(e) Most of these varieties are already under commercial cultivation in the states of Assam, West Bengal and Bihar which would help augment the production of paddy in the country.

Super Bazar

5094. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply given Unstarred Question No. 3295 dated April 25, 1995 regarding Audit Report of Super Bazar and state :

(a) the salient observations made in the Reports of Super Bazar for the year 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(b) the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Annual Reports of Super Bazar are laid on the Table of the House;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(e) whether there is any proposal to lay them now on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The auditors have made some important observations in their Audit Reports such as stock shortages, old outstanding balances, fixation of credit limit, fixed assets record, etc. The various steps taken by the management of Super Bazar include strengthening of security and vigilance machinery, reduction in norms of permissible stock shortages and incentive to staff to reduce shortages. To reduce the old outstanding balances, credit sales Department has been computerised and a credit recovery Cell has been set up and some of the very old debts have been liquidated. Regarding fixing of credit limit Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Delhi has already been approached. Super Bazar has started maintaining the fixed assets registers.

(c) The Annual Reports of Super Bazar are laid on the Table of Both the Houses every year. The Annual Reports have already been laid on the Table of the House upto the year 1992-93.

(d) and (e). Does not arise.

Stock of Edible Oil with NDDB

5095. MAJ. GEN (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has been holding "unauthorised" stocks of nearly 40,000 MTs of Edible Oils worth about Rs. 72 crores in its godowns at Kutch, Rajkot and Kheda;

(b) if so, the extent policy of the NDDB regarding stock holding and market intervention;

(c) whether the Government has fixed any norms to regulate stock holding by the NDDB;
 (d) if so, the details thereof; and
 (e) the action taken, if any, for breach of such norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). By amendment of the Storage Control Order, 1977 for Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oil the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution has exempted all the Corporations of the States and the Central Government and Statutory Board as well as State and Central level cooperatives from the stock limits imposed under the Pulses, Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oils (Storage Control) Order, 1977.

Executives working in Super Bazar

5096. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees from the level of Sales Assistants to Deputy General Manager in the Super Bazar belong to SC/ST/OBC/Minorities and Backward Classes;

(b) whether the number is in conformity with the Reservation Policy of the Government; and

(c) the efforts made so far by Super Bazar to fill up the backlog in each of these Categories?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). Sixty-two employees of the level of Junior Sales Assistants and above belonging to SC/ST categories are working in Super Bazar as on date. Super Bazar is a Cooperative Society registered under the Delhi Cooperative Societies Act and has its own recruitment rules approved by its Managing Committee which provides for reservation for SC/ST.

(c) Due to excess staff, Managing Committee has imposed a ban on recruitment, except in certain technical categories, since the last five years.

Foodgrains

5097. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state the quantity of foodgrains distributed through the Public Distribution System, sold in open market in India and exported during 1993-94 and 1994-95 from godowns of Government, foodgrain-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) :

The quantity of rice & wheat distributed through Public Distribution System, sold in open market in India and exported during 1993-94 & 1994-95 from Central Pool is as under :

	(In lakh Metric Tonnes)			
	1993-94 (P)*	1994-95 (P)*	Rice	Wheat
Public Distribution	88.84	58.63	79.76	48.28
System/Revamped				
Public Distribution				
System				
Open Market Sale	0.17	28.56	4.39	50.91
Exports	0.40@	0.00	0.02	0.02

(P)* - Provisional

(@) Including 10000 tonnes given to Nepal on grant basis as flood relief.

Educational Consultants India Limited

5098. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether University Grants Commission has taken the services of Educational Consultants India Limited for the evaluation of performance of Non-Government Colleges;

(b) if so, whether the evaluation Report has been submitted;

(c) if so, the main findings thereof; and

(d) the action 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) According to the information furnished by the UGC, the Commission has engaged the services of Educational Consultant India Limited to evaluate the Utilisation of grants paid to the private/non-Government Colleges under the College Development Schemes of the UGC during the 7th Plan period.

(b) No, Sir.

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

Contract Farming

5099. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are formulating any scheme for expansion of Contract farming in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the benefits/adverse impacts of Contract farming in regard to the food self sufficiency and future of agriculture sector;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the Government have also given sufficient thought to the whole issue of Contract farming for export; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b). The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is operating a scheme for strengthening of backward linkages for the fruit and vegetable processing industry for encouraging farmers and industry to come under the Umbrella of contract farming to ensure the off-take of raw materials by the processors at pre-determined price. The scheme envisages financial assistance upto 5% of the purchase price, subject to ceiling of Rs. 10 lakhs per unit/organisation for a period of three years. In the case of new units, in the first two years of commercial production, the assistance in the form of re-imbursement would be upto 50% of cost of extension, upto a ceiling of Rs. 5 lakhs.

(c) and (d). Contract farming is an arrangement between the farmer and the industry by which the industry assures market to the farmers' produce and if required, provides inputs to the farmers so that the farmer can grow the processable variety of raw material required by the industry. The scheme would help in the development of Horticulture sector, promote diversification of agriculture and help in the overall growth of the agriculture sector. The scheme would not affect food self-sufficiency.

(e) and (f). The scheme would help the processing units handling exports of horticultural/floricultural products have an assured supply of raw material and this would help in promoting exports of these products.

Subsidy on Foodgrains

5100. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMMAIAH :

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has urged the Union Government to enhance subsidy on rice at par with wheat;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have considered the request of the State; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

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

(b) and (c). The difference between economic cost of foodgrains and their issue prices is paid to the Food Corporation of India as consumer subsidy. The economic cost comprises procurement cost and distribution cost. The Central issue prices of foodgrains normally cover the procurement cost leaving the distribution cost which is paid to the FCI in the form of subsidy. Thus the quantum of subsidy on wheat and rice depends on the quantum of distribution cost. Since the distribution cost in the case of rice is lower than wheat, subsidy on rice cannot be enhanced to the same level as for wheat.

[Translation]

Railway Time Table

5101. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued any instructions to publish Railway Time Table in English and Hindi, simultaneously;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also taken any action to ensure the compliance of these instructions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. Instructions have been issued to the Zonal Railways to plan for and ensure simultaneous printing of English and Hindi versions of time-tables so that both are available in the market in time.

[English]

Fish Farmers Development Agencies

5102. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Freshwater and Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies established and proposed to be established, State-wise;

(b) the objectives thereof;

(c) the amount of Central assistance provided to these agencies during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95, State-wise; and

(d) the terms and conditions of this assistance?

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) Statement-I is enclosed.

(b) The major objectives of Fresh-water and Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs/BFDAs) are to : (i) utilise the ponds and tanks, brackishwater land for fish/shrimp culture; (ii) improve the productivity of the area covered under fish/shrimp farming; (iii) create a cadre of trained manpower for disseminating the aquaculture technology to fish/shrimp farmers; (iv) create adequate employment opportunities and faster rural development; and (v) make available the requisite quality and quantity of fish/shrimp seed to farmers by establishing hatcheries.

(c) Statement-II is enclosed.

(d) Central assistance for development of freshwater/brackishwater aquaculture through FFDAs/ BFDAs is released to the States on the basis of physical and financial performance of programmes under the schemes.

Statement-I

State-wise Establishment of Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) and Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BFDAs).

S.No.	State/UT	No. of FFDAs	No. of BFDAs
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22	6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	-
3.	Assam	23	-
4.	Bihar	49	-
5.	Goa	1	1
6.	Gujarat	17	3
7.	Haryana	16	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	22	-
10.	Karnataka	18	2
11.	Kerala	14	6
12.	Madhya Pradesh	45	-
13.	Maharashtra	29	4
14.	Manipur	8	-
15.	Meghalaya	1	-
16.	Mizoram	5	-
17.	Nagaland	8	-
18.	Orissa	27	7
19.	Punjab	14	-
20.	Rajasthan	15	-
21.	Sikkim	1	-

1	2	3	4
22.	Tamil Nadu	17	5
23.	Tripura	3	-
24.	Uttar Pradesh	56	-
25.	West Bengal	18	3
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	1
27.	Pondicherry	1	-
Total		414	38

Statement-II

State-wise Central Assistance Provided to Freshwater and Brackishwater Agencies during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95.

S. No.	States/UTs	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1.	Andhra Pradesh	95.12	48.00	78.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8.00	13.00	22.00
3.	Assam	12.00	82.00	23.00
4.	Bihar	39.00	59.00	49.00
5.	Goa	-	2.00	1.00
6.	Gujarat	26.50	53.16	23.00
7.	Haryana	21.00	36.00	24.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2.00	7.00	2.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.00	7.00	2.00
10.	Karnataka	11.00	13.00	47.10
11.	Kerala	14.00	75.00	51.50
12.	Madhya Pradesh	34.00	120.00	97.50
13.	Maharashtra	-	4.00	54.19
14.	Manipur	9.00	7.00	5.00
15.	Meghalaya	1.00	1.00	-
16.	Mizoram	5.00	8.00	14.00
17.	Nagaland	4.00	2.00	18.00
18.	Orissa	100.50	147.53	72.90
19.	Punjab	31.00	27.00	26.00
20.	Rajasthan	16.00	15.00	18.00
21.	Sikkim	2.00	1.00	3.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	77.00	23.00	18.00
23.	Tripura	13.00	16.00	48.50
24.	Uttar Pradesh	111.00	161.00	170.00
25.	West Bengal	79.00	143.00	275.94
26.	A & N Islands	-	5.00	-
27.	Pondicherry	1.00	1.00	-

Levy Sugar Benefits

5103. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have yet not decided to pass on the rise in the ex-factory price of levy sugar to the consumers;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c). The retail issue price of levy sugar distributed through the Public Distribution System is being continued at Rs. 9.05 per kg. for the present.

[Translation]

Dairy Development Projects

5104. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR :

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :

DR. VASANT PAWAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Dairy Development Projects going on with the assistance of the National Dairy Development Board in the country as on March 31, 1995, State-wise;

(b) the total assistance provided to the state for this purpose during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether NDDB proposes to set up more Projects during the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the locations identified for setting up such projects and the expenditure likely to be incurred in each case, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The details of Operation Flood-III Projects going on with the assistance of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in the country as on 31st March, 1995 state-wise is at Statement-I.

(b) The total assistance provided to states for this purpose during each of the last three years state-wise is at statement-II

(c) and (d). Apart from the projects mentioned in answer to part (a) above no new dairy development projects is likely to be set up in states during the current financial year.

STATEMENT-I

The Details of Operation Flood-III Projects Going on with the Assistance of National Dairy Development Board in the Country as on 31st March, 1995-State/Union Territory wise.

State	Provisional Processing Capacity (TLPD)
1. Andhra Pradesh	1912.00
2. Assam	60.00
3. Bihar	416.00
4. Delhi	1150.00
5. Goa	75.00
6. Gujarat	4555.00
7. Haryana	350.00
8. Himachal Pradesh	30.00
9. Jammu & Kashmir	10.00
10. Karnataka	1510.00
11. Kerala	386.00
12. Madhya Pradesh	1030.00
13. Maharashtra	3715.00
14. Orissa	125.00
15. Pondicherry	30.00
16. Punjab	1410.00
17. Rajasthan	900.00
18. Sikkim	15.00
19. Tamil Nadu	1866.00
20. Tripura	10.00
21. Uttar Pradesh	780.00
22. West Bengal	910.00
Total	21045.00

TLPD : Thousand litres per day.

STATEMENT-II

Total Assistance Provided to the States Under Operation Flood-III Project for the Year 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 State/UT-wise.

S. No.	Year Institutions	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
		(Provisional)		
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman Nicobar	0.06	0.44	0.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	703.00	994.78	359.34
3.	Assam	2.99	0.21	0.09

1	2	3	4	5
4. Bihar	191.82	191.73	114.53	
5. Delhi	182.39	89.27	279.48	
6. Goa	37.11	55.76	24.24	
7. Gujarat	3,479.42	14,014.86	7,764.27	
8. Haryana	479.92	557.62	360.53	
9. Himachal Pradesh	17.39	6.51	5.17	
10. Karnataka	2,082.42	1,097.67	518.20	
11. Kerala	416.06	327.09	234.06	
12. Jammu & Kashmir	8.46	4.02	0.02	
13. Madhya Pradesh	59.37	46.64	29.40	
14. Maharashtra	102.90	46.87	131.46	
15. Manipur	0.03	0.00	0.00	
16. Mizoram	0.00	0.44	0.00	
17. Nagaland	0.00	0.53	0.91	
18. Orissa	78.01	45.56	60.68	
19. Pondicherry	4.13	13.01	0.95	
20. Punjab	431.81	273.74	168.00	
21. Rajasthan	938.53	642.43	456.98	
22. Sikkim	0.27	0.72	0.00	
23. Tamil Nadu	1,058.80	1,754.29	522.13	
24. Tripura	0.00	0.60	0.00	
25. Uttar Pradesh	701.28	1,219.67	1,872.42	
26. West Bengal	312.31	1,707.90	2,475.14	
Total Release of States	11,286.72	23,092.36	15,414.00	

[English]

Operation Black Board

5105. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government propose to implement a system of concurrent evaluation on Operation Blackboard with the help of external agencies;
- (b) if so, the details of the proposal;
- (c) whether the modalities have been finalised; and
- (d) if so, by when it is likely to be operational?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. Concurrent evaluation by independent agencies would be in place during 1995-96.

Drop-Outs

5106. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY :
 SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
 SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
 SHRI M.V.S. MURTHY :
 SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL :
 SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
 SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
 SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :
 SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :
 SHRI AMARPAL SINGH :
 SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :

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

- (a) whether Government have launched any special scheme to check the drop out rate of school going children;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said issue was discussed during the Education Ministers' Conference of States and Union Territories; and
- (d) if so, the strategy likely to be adopted in this regard with special reference to Andhra Pradesh?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d). Reduction of drop-outs is an important element of universalisation of elementary education which has been assigned top priority by the National Policy 1986. The issue figure prominently in the Education Ministers' conference on 4.4.95 and it was jointly decided to formulate area specific action plans to reduce drop-out particularly among girls and disadvantaged sections.

[Translation]

"Pollution in Delhi"

5107. KUMARI UMA BHARTI :

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL :

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

- (a) whether the Government have conducted any special survey and/or pollution monitoring of the traffic choked roads, congested areas and suffocating factory areas of Delhi;
- (b) if so, the outcome of the survey;
- (c) the quantum of smoke being emitted by vehicles on an average, everyday;

(d) relative position of Delhi amongst India's and the World's polluted cities; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):
(a) and (b). Central Pollution Control Board has carried out survey of ambient air quality at major traffic intersections, congested areas and industrial clusters in Delhi. According to this survey, the sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen concentrations are by and large well within the prescribed standards but are showing an increasing trend. The levels of suspended particulate matter are mostly at times, beyond the prescribed limits. This is due to industrial and vehicular emissions besides natural dusty conditions.

(c) According to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, 1280 metric tons of pollutants are emitted by vehicles every day in Delhi.

(d) According to a World Health Organisation (WHO) report 1992, Delhi ranks 14th in respect of sulphur dioxide, 6th in respect of suspended particulate matter (spm) and 10th in respect of oxides of nitrogen among the most polluted cities in the World. Among the most polluted cities of India, it ranks second with respect to sulphur dioxide and suspended particulate matter (spm) and first with respect to oxides of nitrogen.

(e) A number of steps have been taken by the Government to control environmental pollution in Delhi. These include :

(i) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed.

(ii) A notification stipulating the ambient air quality standards has been issued.

(iii) Industries have been directed to instal necessary pollution control equipment on a time bound basis and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

(iv) Unleaded petrol has been introduced with effect from 1st April, 1995 to be used with cars fitted with catalytic converters.

(v) A High Powered Committee (HPC) was constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Environment & Forests, Government of India to draw up a comprehensive Action Plan on Environment and Pollution Control in Delhi which submitted its report on August 3, 1994. The Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) Delhi has accepted, in principle, the recommendations of the HPC report and an Implementation Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of NCT Delhi for implementing its recommendations.

(vi) Standards for emissions from vehicles both at the manufacturing stage and at the in-use stage have been notified under Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. A programme for effective compliance with these standards has been initiated. Stricter standards for vehicles at the manufacturing stage to come into effect from 1 April, 1996, have been notified.

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

(viii) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards.

(ix) Public awareness campaigns are being carried out from time to time to educate people about statutory punitive provisions and the health hazards related to vehicular pollution.

[English].

Gauge Conversion and Electrification

5108. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided that all the Meter Gauge Railway Lines in Andhra Pradesh be converted into the Broad Gauge;

(b) if so, whether programme of electrification of Railway Lines in Andhra Pradesh is also to be taken into consideration during 1995-96; and

(c) if so, the time by which the work on these projects is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir. Only the following lines in Andhra Pradesh have been identified for gauge conversion in the first phase of the Action Plan :

(i) Guntur-Guntakal and Guntakal-Kalluru (458 kms.)

(ii) Guntakal-Hospet (115 kms.)

(iii) Bolarum-Secunderabad-Dronachallam (298 kms.)

(iv) Mudkhed-Secunderabad (249 kms.)

(v) Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati (104 kms.) (Partly in Andhra Pradesh)

(vi) Mudkhed-Adilabad (162 kms.)

(b) and (c). As the electrification projects are capital intensive, only high traffic density broad gauge routes which qualify, based on the rate of return on investment are taken up for electrification at present.

Gauge conversion of Bolarum-Secunderabad-Dronachallam, Guntur-Guntakal, Tirupati-Katpadi and Mudkhed-Adilabad sections is already in progress. Gauge conversion of remaining sections would be taken up in the coming years.

Electrification of lines as get converted into broad gauge and qualify these norms will be considered for electrification at appropriate time.

Western Ghat Project

5109. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) assisted Rs. 84.2 crores western Ghat Project is under implementation in Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the districts covered under the project;
- (c) the amount so far spent on this project;
- (d) the land covered under this project;
- (e) whether ODA team has visited Karnataka to review the progress;
- (f) if so, when and the reaction of the team;
- (g) whether there is any proposal to cover more districts in Karnataka under this Scheme; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d). The Overseas Development Administration assisted Western Ghats Forestry Project is under implementation in the Uttar Kanara district of Karnataka since 1992-93 with a total cost of Rs. 84.20 crores. An amount of Rs. 16.98 crore has been spent and an area of 10,397 ha. has been covered upto September, 1994.

(e) and (f). An ODA team visited Karnataka and carried out the mid-term review of the project in February 1995. The team submitted an aide-memoire noting that the project has made good progress in many areas like JFM training, establishment of village forest committees and microplanning. The team stressed the need to develop effective management systems, operational plan and monitoring and evaluation system.

(g) and (h). It is proposed to extend the project to the Shimoga forest circle covering part of the two districts of Shimoga and Chikmagalur.

Mid-Day Meals in Kendriya Vidyalayas

5110. DR. SUDHIR RAY :

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARRA :

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

SHRI K. PRADHANI :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

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

(a) whether Government propose to launch Mid-day Meal Scheme in Schools throughout the country especially in Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme indicating the States where it is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether Government have constituted any Committee to chalk out ways and means for implementing the scheme;

(d) if so, the composition of the Committee and its terms of reference; and

(e) the estimated expenditure involved in launching the scheme and its apportionment between the Centre and the States?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (e). The Government has decided to participate in the phased expansion of the mid-day meals schemes being implemented by the State Governments. A Committee headed by the Union Education Secretary has been constituted to work out modalities. A copy of the notification constituting the Committee is enclosed as Statement.

STATEMENT

No. F. 17-14/95 PN.I, Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education) New Delhi, the 19th April, 1995

ORDER

Subject : Constitution of a Committee on Mid-day Meals.

In pursuance of the Finance Minister's announcement in his 1995-96 Budget speech of setting up of a Committee to work out the modalities of the Central Government's participation in a phased expansion of the Mid-day Meals Schemes being operated by some State Governments for school children, Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development has constituted a Committee to work out the modalities of phased implementation of a school nutrition programme.

2. The Committee shall consist of the following :

(i) Union Education Secretary	Chairman
(ii) Secretary, Department of Expenditure	Member
(iii) Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development	Member
(iv) Secretary, Department of Rural Development	Member
(v) Secretary, Department of Civil Supplies	Member
(vi) Representative of Planning Commission	Member
(vii) Director, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad	Member

(viii) Education Secretary (School), Government of Tamil Nadu	Member
(ix) Education Secretary (School), Government of Gujarat	Member
(x) Education Secretary, (School), Government of Orissa	Member
(xi) Education Secretary (School), Government of Uttar Pradesh	Member
(xii) Joint Secretary (Planning), Department of Education	Member-Secretary

3. The terms of Reference of the Committee will be to work out a scheme to operationalise the decision of the Central Government to participate in a phased expansion of the mid-day meal schemes taking note of, *inter-alia*,

- coverage
- identification of target group
- modalities of implementation
- implementing agencies
- contribution of state Governments
- role of local bodies
- role of community
- linkages with other programmes like ICDS
- infrastructural support at school level including staffing
- financial parameters with due regard to effectiveness, sustainability and replicability
- phased expansion, and
- mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation.

4. The Committee will submit its report within four weeks of its first meeting. It may also visit States as deemed necessary to have a first hand feel of the implementation of the existing schemes.

5. The Committee shall devise its own procedures and methodology of work.

6. The Committee will draw secretarial assistance from Planning and monitoring Division (PN I Section), Department of Education.

(T.C. James)
Under Secretary to the
Government of India

1. All Members of the Committee
2. Cabinet Secretariat, New Delhi
3. PMO (Attn: Shri N.K. Sinha, Joint Secretary)
4. Chief Secretaries of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh
5. PS to HRM/PS to DM
6. PS to ES/PS to AS
7. All Bureau Heads
8. E.I/CR/S and S/IFD
9. Guard File

New Railway Lines

5111. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total km. of new Railway Lines laid and the total Kms. of old railway tracks repaired during 1993-94;

(b) the amount spent so far on this work; and

(c) the targets fixed by the Government for this work during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) 211 kms. of new lines were laid and 2814 kms. of track renewal were done during 1993-94.

(b) The amount spent on new lines during 1993-94 was 239.29 crs. and on track renewal Rs. 1301.41 crs.

(c) During 1995-96, 697 kms. of new lines are planned to be opened and 2600 kms. of track renewal is proposed to be done.

[Translation]

Benefit to Consumer

5112. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :

SHRI RAM NAIK :

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK :

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

(a) the number of industries that have raised the prices of their products in spite of their being benefitted by the relaxations in excise duty;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have set up a mechanism to ensure that prices of these goods are actually brought down and pass on the concessions to the consumers; and

(d) If so, the nature of such mechanism?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) The information on the industries who have increased the prices of their products inspite of excise duty concessions is not compiled by this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Indian Public Famine Trust

5113. SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which Indian Public Famine Trust (Bhartiya Jan Durbhiksh Nyas) was constituted and the purpose thereof;

(b) the present composition of the trust; and
 (c) the programmes relating to famine undertaken by the trust during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The Indian People's Famine Trust was constituted in July, 1900 for providing financial assistance to various categories of people affected by famine. The Trust was later renamed as Indian/People's Natural Calamities Trust. The present objectives of the Trust are to provide assistance to victims of natural calamities such as flood, cyclone, drought, earthquake etc., who do not receive any financial assistance from other sources and to promote research, study and documentation activities for Natural Disaster Prevention, preparedness, mitigation and reduction.

(b) The present compositon of the Board of Management of the Trust is as under :

1. Minister of Agriculture, Government of India	- Chairman
2. Four persons appointed by the Central Government for a period of three years.	- Members
3. Five persons appointed for a period of two years by the State Governments taken in rotation.	- Members
4. Any person becoming life member	- Member
5. The Relief Commissioner in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India.	- Honorary Secretary
6. The Chief Controller of Accounts, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.	- Honorary Joint Secretary

(c) Grants to the extent of Rs. 10.20 lakhs and Rs. 2.10 lakhs were extended from the Trust during 1992-93 and 1993-94 respectively to the victims of natural calamities.

[English]

Sports Potential

5114. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have not been able to fully exploit the tremendous sports potential of persons in rural, tribal and North-eastern areas inspite of the National Sports Talent Contest and Sports Projects Development Area Schemes;
 (b) If so, the reasons therefor; and
 (c) the steps being taken in this regard ?

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

(b) and (c). A lot of talent has been scouted and nurtured from rural, tribal and north-eastern areas under National Sports Talent Contest Scheme, Special Area Games, Sports Project Development Area (SPDA) and Sports Hostel Scheme. However, within the limited resources available with the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports and Sports Authority of India, it has not been possible to exploit the tremendous potential fully.

[Translation]

Pollution in Maharashtra

5115. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the level of air, water and sound pollution has been increasing every year in Bombay, Nasik and other cities of Maharashtra;
 (b) if so, the level of pollution in these cities; and
 (c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to reduce the level of such pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b). The Bombay Municipal Corporation is monitoring ambient air quality in Bombay city over the past fifteen years. According to this monitoring data sulphur dioxide (SO₂), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and suspended particulate matter (SPM) levels are within the prescribed standards. Under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring programme, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring SO₂, NO_x and SPM in Pune, Nasik, Nagpur, Dombivali, Ambernath and Aurangabad. The monitoring data indicate that all these parameters are within the prescribed standards, although the oxides of nitrogen level is increasing in some areas because of vehicular pollution.

The CPCB had also carried out noise level survey at varlous locations in Bombay. The noise levels in sensitive areas were found to be lightly higher than the prescribed standards.

Under the Monitoring of Indian National Aquatic Resources System (MINARS), there are 39 water quality monitoring stations in Maharashtra. The monitoring results show that water quality in river Godavari from Nasik to Nanded; in the tributary Manzira from Latur to the Maharashtra State Border and in the tributary Wardha's confluence with Painganga to downstream of Sirpur has deteriorated due to disposal of sewage and untreated/partially treated industrial effluents.

(c) Government have taken the following steps to reduce the level of pollution in Maharashtra :

- (i) Effluent and emission standards have been notified for the major categories of polluting industries. Also, National ambient air quality standards including ambient noise standards have been notified.
- (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) For control of pollution from vehicles, emission norms for both petrol and diesel driven vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. More stringent norms for vehicular emissions have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules which would come into effect from April, 1996.
- (iv) Public awareness campaigns on the effects of pollution have been launched.
- (v) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of polluting industries from congested areas.
- (vi) Customs and Excise duty exemptions are provided to the industries for pollution control/ monitoring equipment.
- (vii) Lead-free petrol has been introduced from 1.4.1995 in Bombay for use in cars fitted with catalytic converters.
- (viii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.
- (ix) Scientific and medical institutions have been sponsored by the Government to take up environmental epidemiological studies in the identified critically polluted areas. Shembur is one of the seven cities where such studies have so far been taken up.
- (x) The Maharashtra Government has proposed a Bombay Sewage Disposal Project for discharge of waste water through marine outfalls.
- (xi) Code of conduct for control of noise pollution have been evolved and communicated to the States for implementation.
- (xii) Government has also prepared National River Action Plan (NRAP). Four towns in Maharashtra are proposed to be covered under this scheme. These are Nasik and Nanded in Godavari Basin and Sangli and Karad in Krishna Basin.

Minimum Level of Learning

5116. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a National Seminar was organised to evaluate the results of studies conducted to examine the efficiency of implementing the minimum levels of learning;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government on the recommendations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c). The NCERT conducted a National Seminar to review the studies taken up under DPEP in 1994. One of the studies, on learning achievement of Primary School children, brought out that the learning levels were generally low in Primary School in the 46 districts covered by the study.

The findings of the study have helped to define better and relevant strategies for interventions like integrated pedogy and teacher training breed on multigrade teaching requirements.

Concession to Old Age People

5117. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any change in the Government's decision regarding the concession in fares being given to those citizens in the country having attained the age of 65;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to extend the free travel concession atleast once in two-years to Retired Government servants who have opted to settle in places other than their Home-State; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Due to increasing cost of operations and resource constraints, Railways do not propose to extend the scope of concessions.

[Translation]

Consumer Movement

5118. SHRI LAL BABU RAI :

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY :

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated any

action plan to take the consumer movement to the rural areas with a view to benefit the rural masses;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the effective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (d). The Government are taking a number of steps to create consumer awareness in the country including the rural areas. Some of the steps are :

- (i) Encouraging formation of consumer organisations in rural areas.
- (ii) Giving preference for financial assistance to consumer organisations working in rural areas for undertaking programmes for creating consumer awareness.
- (iii) Distribution the Government journal "Upabhokta Jagaran" to the libraries upto block levels.
- (iv) Broadcasting of a weekly Programme " Apne Adhikar" from the commercial broadcasting stations of AIR and telecast of educational programmes on Doordarshan.
- (v) Giving preferences to the consumers organisations working in rural areas for the purpose of National Awards on Consumer Protection etc.

National Pulses Development Project

5119. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the total expenditure which have so far been incurred on National Pulses Development Project (NPDP);
- (b) the advantages of the project;
- (c) whether the project has helped in enhancing the productivity levels; 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) The total expenditure incurred under National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) during VIII Five Year Plan upto 1993-94 was Rs. 3824.00 lakhs while the allocation for 1994-95 was Rs. 4619.33 lakhs.

- (b) Under the Project assistance is given to the States for production and distribution of seeds,

distribution of sprinklers, improved farm implements, dal processors, demonstration etc.

(c) and (d). The productivity of pulses per hectare was 584 kgs. in 1993-94 against 533 kgs. per hectare in 1991-92.

Zonal Cultural Centres

5120. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of Human Resource Development be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Zonal Cultural Centres functioning in the country and the locations thereof;
- (b) the objectives for setting up Zonal Cultural Centres;
- (c) whether these Centres are satisfactorily pursuing the programmes and schemes for which they were set up; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) There are seven Zonal Cultural Centres functioning in the country at Patiala, Calcutta, Thanjavur, Udaipur, Allahabad, Dimapur and Nagpur.

(b) The Zonal Cultural Centres were set-up to achieve the following objectives :

- Promoting creative development of Indian Culture in the different regions and building up a sense of cultural cohesiveness in the Country.
- Projecting the uniqueness of forms and styles of the culture of the participating States as also their linkages with each other as part of the larger composite Indian Culture.
- Providing facilities for the creative development of performing arts, graphic arts and the entire spectrum of creativity from the ancient times to the present, particularly with reference to the traditions of folk and tribal arts.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Centres have been organising a number of cultural events every year, cutting across the territorial and linguistic boundaries, to achieve the objectives for which they were set-up. The activities of the Centres got further impetus after the launching in 1993 of the National Cultural Exchange Programme under which zonal exchange of artists, scholars, youth groups, artisans, craftsmen and exponents of cultural activities of all hues is being promoted.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

5121. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Narrow-Gauge Railway Line in Chhota-Udaipur tribal area of Gujarat has been lying unused till date;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating on any proposal for renovation of this line and run a train thereon;

(c) if so, the time by which this proposal is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir. The section is lying unused since August 1990.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) It has been decided not to restore this section for traffic due to extremely meagre traffic, heavy cost involved in repairing two damaged bridges on Bodeli-Chhota Udaipur Section, availability of alternative road transport services, Railway Reforms Committee's recommendation to close this line.

[English]

Brain Drain

5122. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the dangerous trend of Brain Drain in the country;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain the causes and the magnitude of Brain Drain;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to check the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d). Some Indian scientists, engineers, medical graduates do migrate to other countries for higher studies/work abroad and some of them tend to stay back. But it has not been possible to maintain a record of such migrants and of those who permanently settle there. In order to attract such personnel back to the country, the Government have taken steps which include increase in Science and

Technology outlays, creation of new Scientific Departments/Organisations, delegation of enhanced administrative and financial powers to Science and Technology Institutions, temporary placement of Scientists and Technologists under the Scientists' Pool etc.

Sugar Mills

5133. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the sugar mills set up in recent past have started functioning;

(b) if so, the number of sugar mills which have started their production, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons for delay in the remaining mills?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c). Seven new sugar mills have gone into production in the recent past, i.e., during the current 1994-95 sugar season (October to September) upto 30th April, 1995. Of these 3 are in Punjab, 2 in Uttar Pradesh and 1 each in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Normally, it takes about 3 years to set up a new sugar mill.

Committee On Sugarcan Pricing

5124. SHRI ASTBUJA PRASAD SHUKLA : DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to introduce a new consumer oriented Sugar Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Norms Committee, entrusted with task of fixing cane prices has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the recommendations contained therein and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay in submitting the same?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b). No change in the existing policy of partial control with a dual pricing system for distribution of sugar is under consideration at present.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The main recommendations made by the Committee are given at in the Statement enclosed. A Conference of Sugar Ministers of all the sugar producing States/UTs has been convened on 6th May, 1995 to consider the recommendations of this Committee.

(e) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Main Recommendation of the Committee of Sugar Ministers of State Governments Constituted to Make Recommendations Regarding the Pricing Policy for State Advised Prices of Sugarcane

- (i) that the Bhargava Formula existing in its present form in the Sugarcane Control Order, 1966 should be rescinded.
- (ii) that a National Pricing Board for Sugarcane should be constituted whose Chairman will be appointed by the Government of India and it should consist of the representatives of important cane growing States as also the Ministries of Food, Civil Supplies and Agriculture of the Government of India.
- (iii) the Board should each year before the start of the season call for from each State Government estimates of the cost of production of sugarcane based on the recommendations of the Agricultural Universities of their State or such other Institutions as the State Government may deem fit.
- (iv) taking into account the recommendations of the State Governments, the Board should compute the cost of cultivation of sugarcane which should form the basis for fixing a notional cane price to be utilised for the calculation of retail issue price of levy sugar.
- (v) the Board should take into account the Statewise cost of cultivation and the likely returns from competing crops, the price actually paid in the previous season price trend, realisations from sale of sugar during last season etc. and thereafter fix a realistic price of cane, Statewise/Zonewise, which shall be payable to the cane growers of that State/Zone after supply of their cane as first instalment. This price should be linked to basic recovery of 8.5% in the States in which such practice is in vogue, whereas in other State where lumpsum price is paid, the price could be fixed or lumpsum basis.
- (vi) the dual pricing system may continue which should ensure a specified quantum of sugar to be supplied through the Public Distribution System at a reasonable price to the Consumer.
- (vii) lastly, the Board after the close of the season should consider the average realisations achieved during that season Statewise/ Zonewise and fix a final cane price for each State/Zone so that difference could be paid as additional and final instalment of the cane price in that State/Zone.

The Committee also felt that the aforesaid provisions could be given statutory backing by suitable modifications in the Sugarcane Control Order, 1966.

National Institute of Adult Education

5125. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether National Institute of Adult Education is all set to be closed down;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the main objectives for which the institute was set-up;
- (d) whether the institute could not achieve the objectives; 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) to (e). It has been decided that the functions of the National Institute of Adult Education be merged with the Directorate of Adult Education. The matter is subjudice as a Writ Petition has been filed in the Delhi High Court by some faculty members of the Institute.

[Translation]

Railway Line

5126. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the works carried out in Chhota Nagpur of Bihar regarding expansion of Railway Lines and providing facilities to railway passengers during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to open a Railway Booking Office at Chatra headquarter of Chatra District; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be opened?

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

National Sports Talent Scheme

5127. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

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

- (a) the main features of National Sports Talent contest scheme;

(b) the amount provided by the Government under this scheme during the last three years; and

(c) the progress made in this regard during the above period in each State?

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) The main features of National Sports Talent Contest Scheme are :

- (i) To broadbase sports at grass root level and to bring sports consciousness among the people of various age groups for participation in sports;
- (ii) To identify the talented boys and girls genetically gifted with natural motor qualities and physical growth; and
- (iii) To impart scientific sports training to the selected children to achieve excellence in sports at National/International level.

(b) The Government provided the following amount under the scheme during the last three years :

(i) 1992-93	...	...	Rs. 407.84 lakhs. (includes expenses on Army Boys Sports Companies)
(ii) 1993-94	...	...	Rs. 292.00 lakhs.
(iii) 1994-95	...	...	Rs. 270.00 lakhs.

(c) The Scheme is implemented in the 59 adopted schools scattered in various States/Union Territories. The number of students admitted under the scheme during the last three years is given below :

1992-93	...	...	1200
1993-94	...	...	1380
1994-95	...	...	1249

A number of children admitted under these schemes have excelled at the national and international level in junior and sub-junior championships.

[English]

Simlipal Tiger Reserve

5128. SHIRMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

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

(a) the estimated number of tigers in Simlipal Tiger Reserve forest area;

(b) the expenditure incurred on the Tiger Project indicating the funds allocated for this purpose during each of the last three years;

(c) whether any plan has been formulated for its development and the time frame worked out therefor; and

(d) if so, the broad features and the capital outlay involved therein?

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

(a) As per the census carried out in 1993, the estimated number of Tigers in the Reserve are 95.

(b) The amount of central assistance released to Simlipal Tiger Reserve during the last three years is as under :

Year	Central Assistance Released
1992-93	Rs. 45.693 Lakhs
1993-94	Rs. 46.52 Lakhs (including Rs. 0.30 lakhs as central share for biannual census operation).
1994-95	Rs. 69.385 Lakhs

(c) and (d). A proposal seeking external assistance through the World bank, spread over a period of five years, for eco-development of eight sites in the country, which includes Simlipal Tiger Reserve as well is under final stages of preparation. The project envisages reducing the dependency of the local people on the protected area and strengthening the management capabilities of the park.

Gauge Conversion

5129. SHRI SOBHNADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Board has conducted any survey to lay a new broad gauge railway line to connect Kothagudem with Kovvuru;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) A survey for construction of a new BG line from Bhadrachalam Road to Kavvur was conducted in 1966, which revealed the project to be financially unremunerative.

However, keeping in view the aspirations of the people of the area, an updating of survey for construction of new line between Bhadrachalam Road (Kothagudem) and Kovvur has been included in Budget, 1995-96.

Further consideration of the project will be possible after the results of the survey become known, subject to availability of resources in the coming years.

(c) Does not arise.

Sugar Mills

5130. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the scheme of the Government regarding Modernisation and expansion of old sugar mills during 1995-96;

(b) the number of proposals received/under consideration for modernisation and expansion of sugar mills at present, State-wise;

(c) the number of sugar mills which received financial assistance from Sugar Development Fund for this scheme so far;

(d) the number of sugar mills where the work of modernisation and expansion has already been undertaken and likely to be undertaken in the coming years;

(e) whether the Government have any time bound programme for this scheme; and

(f) if so, the details of the work carried out under this action plan?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b). At present, there are eight applications of various sugar undertakings pending with this Ministry for grant of loans from the Sugar Development Fund for modernisation-cum-expansion of their plant and machinery. The State-wise position is as under :

Name of State	No. of Applications
Uttar Pradesh	5
Maharashtra	2
Karnataka	1
Total	8

(c) to (f). As on 31.3.95, in the case of 143 proposals of various sugar undertakings, loans amounting to Rs. 469.73 crores have been sanctioned from the Sugar Development Fund for modernisation-cum-expansion of their plant and machinery, since the inception of the Fund. Out of this, Rs. 417.26 crores have been disbursed for the aforesaid purpose. No specific target

has been fixed for sanction of loans to the sugar mills, as it depends, *inter alia*, upon the number of applications received from the sugar mills and the number of applications approved by the Standing Committee/Government.

Reforms in Science Education

5131. PROF. RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Academy of Science has released a blue print for major reforms in the field of Science Education in colleges to arrest declining standard, and resolve the controversial issue of reservation in education;

(b) whether the Ministry has taken any decision on the recommendations by the academy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

Shortage of Rolling Stock

5132. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation regarding the shortage of rolling stock for movement of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure proper supply of coal to Brick producers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). During busy season representations have been received from industries including cement, fertilizer, glass etc. for supply of more wagons for coal loading.

(c) Railways have already withdrawn the ceiling limits. It is proposed to supply wagons to different consumers, including brick producers, according to demand offer and laid down priorities.

[Translation]

Anganwadi Workers

5133. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to reply given to SNQ No. 2 on March 18, 1994 and state :

(a) whether travelling allowance/dearness allowance and all other facilities which are being given

to the Lower Division Clerks are given to the Anganwadi workers in all the States particularly in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing these facilities to the workers and female attendents of Anganwadis even after the lapse of more than one year; and

(c) the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI) : (a) to (c). As per instructions issued by the Government of India to all States/UTs the anganwadi worker in addition to getting a fixed amount of honorarium is also entitled to TA/DA based on actual Bus/Train fare (Second Class) and daily allowance as applicable to Lower Division Clerk as per State Government Rules. The anganwadi helper is also entitled to TA based on actual Bus/Train (Second Class) fare and daily allowance applicable to Grade-D employees of the State Governments. The other benefits to anganwadi workers include facility of maternity leave and 20 days casual leave in a year 25% of the posts of Supervisors are reserved for anganwadi workers, who are matriculates and have 10 years experience. Government is not considering any proposal to give any other facilities given to Lower Division Clerks to anganwadi workers.

[English]

Vacant Posts in NCDC

5134. SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of posts are lying vacant in NCDC;

(b) if so, the total number of posts of different cadres lying vacant and since when;

(c) the causes of such vacancies; and

(d) the immediate measures the Government propose to take to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b). As against the total of 795 sanctioned posts in different categories, 99 posts are lying vacant in NCDC. These vacancies mainly pertain to last two to three years.

(c) The reasons for existing vacancies in NCDC include :

(i) The posts have become vacant due to retirement/resignations;

(ii) Non-finalisation of seniority lists in some cadres due to disputes;

(iii) Need to include OBC vacancies in Service Rules which need to be amended accordingly;

(d) Measures proposed to be taken to fill up the vacancies include :

(i) Early finalisation of seniority lists of each cadre;

(ii) Early amendment of Service Regulations to include OBC vacancies;

(iii) Necessary action to fill up vacancies as per rules and regulations.

Heads of Educational Bodies

5135. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is true that posts of heads and administrative incharges of institutions like National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) are lying vacant;

(b) if so, since when these posts are lying vacant; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Directors of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) are in position.

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

Anti Hoarding Drive

5136. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

SHRI ANNA JOSHI :

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

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently given directions to implement the Public distribution System and enforcing anti-hoarding drive in the country;

(b) whether the directives of the Union Government are ignored by the State Governments;

(c) if so, the States from which reports regarding malpractices in Public Distribution System have been received;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the mechanism Government propose to evolve for enforcing anti-hoarding drive throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Prime Minister emphasises from time to time for strict implementation.

(b) The operational responsibility for implementing the Public Distribution System (PDS) is that of the State Governments and Union Territory (UT) Administrations. State Governments and UT Administrations have been delegated powers under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, for taking action against unscrupulous elements indulging in hoarding of essential commodities and other violations of the provisions and Control Orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Implementation of the PDS and enforcement of the Essential Commodities Act are reviewed from time to time with the State Governments. It is not correct to say that all State Governments ignore the advice of the Central Government.

(c) and (d). Many State Governments are reporting action taken under the Essential Commodities Act to the Central Government periodically. A Statement of Action taken during the year 1994, as reported by the State Governments is enclosed.

(e) Central Government does not have any separate machinery for enforcement of the provisions of Essential Commodities Act. Officers and Staff of the Food and Civil Supplies Departments in the State Governments and UT Administrations undertake inspections and raids as part of their functions to enforce provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and Control Orders issued thereunder. State Governments/UT Administrations are advised to undertake special drives for anti hoarding whenever it is felt that availability and prices of any essential commodity are adversely affected due to speculative hoarding by unscrupulous elements. Central Government advises the State Governments/UT Administrations in this regard from time to time through letters and through meetings to review the enforcement of the provisions of Essential Commodities Act.

STATEMENT

Action Taken Under Essential Commodities Act 1955 by States/UTs During the Year 1994 w.e.f. 1.1.1994

S.No.	State/UT	No. of raids made	No. of persons arrested	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted	Value of good confiscated (Rs in lakhs)	Reported upto
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12269	1460	16	4	277.66	December
2.	Assam	632	-	-	-	0.58	September
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	April
4.	Bihar	38	63	73	2	13.74	October
5.	Gujarat	8512	5651	82	-	296.79	December
6.	Goa	27	0	-	-	0.16	December
7.	Haryana	470	29	3	-	21.82	December
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	1	-	-	0.03	September
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	150	162	-	30	0.17	December
10.	Karnataka	3167	18	-	6	4.37	December
11.	Kerala	21683	4	29	1	3.9	December
12.	Madhya Pradesh	7618	41	35	13	44.17	December
13.	Maharashtra	2402	286	162	45	138.43	December
14.	Manipur	9	12	-	-	-	October
15.	Meghalaya	104	-	-	-	-	December
16.	Mizoram	242	-	-	-	-	December
17.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	December
18.	Orissa	890	5	78	11	1.02	December
19.	Punjab	38678	13	6	2	0.51	December
20.	Rajasthan	715	22	295	255	99.96	December
21.	Sikkim	4	4	-	-	-	October

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22. Tamil Nadu		10542	237	3479	3459	147.27	December
23. Tripura		9	5	-	-	0.06	December
24. Uttar Pradesh		1767	5	-	200	-	August
25. West Bengal		1804	962	538	-	494.76	December
26. A and N Island		1	1	1	1	0.03	December
27. D and N Haveli		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	November
28. Delhi		843	66	46	39	-	December
29. Daman and Diu		250	-	-	-	-	August
30. Chandigarh		3	5	-	-	0.03	December
31. Lakshadweep		-	-	-	-	-	December
32. Pondicherry		163	26	3	10	0.57	December
		112994	9078	4846	4078	1546.00	

Statement Showing Information Received Upto 31.03.95

Rail Link

5137. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to provide a rail link between Rajgir and Gaya to promote travelling in that area sponsored by Department of Tourism and ITDC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c). No such proposal has been received from Department of Tourism or I.T.D.C.

Research on Coconut

5138. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether research on coconut kernel and effects of its use by human beings has been conducted;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of institution/organisation which has conducted such research and when;

(c) the details of funds provided by the Government or by Coconut Development Board for such research;

(d) whether Bio-chemistry department of Kerala University is also conducting such research;

(e) if so, since when and the funds allocated for the purpose to the University;

(f) whether requests for more fund to conduct such research have been received; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Bio-chemistry, University of Kerala, Trivandrum has conducted study on effect of coconut kernel consumption on Serum lipid profile and thrombosis in March, 1992. The results indicated that consumption of coconut kernel alongwith coconut oil actually caused lowering of serum cholesterol level.

(c) The Coconut Development Board has provided a fund of Rs. 7,88,218 to the University for this research project.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Since, March, 1992, funds allocated for the purpose was Rs. 7,88,218.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The University of Kerala has requested for additional funds of Rs. 3,28,264/- for extension of studies to other districts of Kerala. The Board has requested the University to limit the study to Trivandrum district alone.

Evaluation of Text Books

5139. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN :

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

(a) whether NCERT has set up some special task force to review the text books and revise them;

- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the main findings of the task force so far;
- (c) whether the views of the State Governments have also been taken into consideration in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether revised text books would be available for the next academic session; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (f). The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has taken up a programme for conducting a comprehensive research study covering all aspects of textbooks evaluation through an internal task team. The textbook evaluation will be conducted by the respective NCERT departments jointly with the four Regional Institutes of Education. The textbooks will be made available after the revision is completed on the basis of the evaluation report. Schools affiliated to the various State Boards use textbooks prescribed by the respective State Boards. The State Governments have their own mechanism for designing, publication and printing of textbooks.

Performance of Railways

5140. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the performance level of Indian Railways has been declining over the last three years;
- (b) if so, the factors responsible therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the performance of Railways?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps taken to improve the performance include, amongst others, increasing the reliability and utilisation of assets, improvement in punctuality and safety in train operation, reduction in energy consumption, innovative marketing strategies, reduction in working expences etc.

Ecologically Fragile Area

5141. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether his Ministry have decided to review the notification No. SO/416 (E) dated 20.6.1991 declaring Dehanu Taluka in Maharashtra as Ecologically Fragile Area;

(b) whether his Ministry have constituted a Committee to examine the issues including the necessity of providing a Buffer zone of 25 kms. free of industries;

- (c) whether the above Committee has furnished its report;

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) if not, the time by which it is likely to be submitted?

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

(c) and (e). The Committee has prepared the draft report to be submitted to the Government shortly.

(d) Does not arise.

Import of Sugar

5142. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to import sugar under OGL to meet the possibility on sugar scarcity and keep the prices in control; and

(b) if so, the details and its impact on the sugar inudstry and on cane growers?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b). With a view to ensure adequate availability of sugar, State Trading Corporation of India Limited (STC) and Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited (MMTC) have entered into forward contracts for import of about 4.05 lakh tonnes of sugar.

Since the distribution of sugar is controlled by the Government, it is expected that it would not have any adverse impact on the sugar industry or on the cane growers.

Assistance for Female Education by U.S.A.

5143. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United States of America has set up a 100 million dollar 'Girls and Women Education Fund' as stated by US First lady, Mrs. Hillary R. Clinton during her recent visit;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes to be financed from the said fund; and

(c) the steps so far 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) While delivering an address at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation on March 29, 1995 Ms. Hillary Rodham Clinton *inter alia* stated that India would be the first country to benefit from a new ten year USAID \$ 100 million Girls' and Women's Education Initiative. USAID would provide an initial grant to support US and Indian NGOs to expand girls' education in India.

(b) and (c). The Government has not received any specific communication from the US Administration in this regard.

Computer Education in Kendriya Vidyalayas

5144. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN :

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

DR. SUDHIR RAY :

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

(a) whether Computer Education is being introduced in Kendriya Vidyalayas soon; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b). The Government has approved a revised strategy to implement Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) for 8th Plan for imparting instruction through the public or private sector agencies. The agencies will provide a full time instructor, maintenance of hardware, provision of selected software, consumables, textbooks to the students and imparting training to teachers in the schools. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has selected 105 Kendriya Vidyalayas for procuring PC-80 (386) DX. Preferences have been given to the Kendriya Vidyalayas having Secondary and Senior Secondary classes.

[Translation]

Maintenance of Zoos

5145. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

DR. RAMAKRISHNA KUSMORIA :

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

(a) whether the Government are considering to hand over the maintenance of zoos to the private-sector;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c). The Central Zoo Authority in its meeting considered various options to improve the management of the National Zoological Park, Delhi. These options included granting financial and/or managerial autonomy to the National Zoological Park by establishing a Society or a Trust for this purpose. The Central Zoo Authority has set-up a sub-group to prepare a detailed paper on the options available. It is only after a thorough consideration of all aspects that Government will take a decision in this regard.

Agricultural Implements

5146. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that agriculture implements are being manufactured and used unabatedly in some States without adopting appropriate safeguards and without having their insuring them as per rules; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of Agricultural Labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b). The Government of India have enacted the Dangerous Machines (Regulation) Act, 1983 in terms of which power threshers are classified as dangerous machines. Other machines can be classified as dangerous machines by Notification in the Official Gazette. The Act provides for implementation of Bureau of Indian Standards specifications for power threshers so that only safe power threshers are manufactured and sold. The State Governments are required to implement the Central Legislation.

[English]

Death of Peacocke

5147. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Mystery over peacock deaths" appeared in "The Hindustan Times" dated March 14, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware about the mysterious deaths of peacocks in and surrounding area of 'Thakur ki Garhi' in Alwar Distt. of Rajasthan;

(c) if so, whether the Government have sought any report from the Government of Rajasthan in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). According to the information furnished by the State Government of Rajasthan, the case was investigated by the Police. The post-mortem report of the dead peacocks revealed that these birds were already suffering from viral/backterial infection and their untimely death occurred due to consumption of insecticide mixed food.

[Translation]

Indian Veterinary Research Institute.

5148. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether about one hundred posts have been lying vacant under various categories for the last two years in Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izzat Nagar;

(b) if not, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the working and progress of this institute has not been affected by this; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHANA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Working and progress has been affected slightly.

(d) The institute has been asked to take urgent steps to fill up the vacant posts. It has been intimated by the Institute that expeditious steps are being taken to fill up the vacant posts.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

5149. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hubli-Vasco gauge conversion project is languishing far behind the original time Schedule;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the progress made so far and the revised time schedule for completion of the project and restoration of rail traffic; and

(d) the estimated cost to be incurred on this work?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) i. Gauge conversion of Hubli-Londa section has been completed on 31.3.95.

ii. Work of conversion of Londa-Castle Rock is targeted for completion by 30.6.95.

iii. Work of conversion of Castle Rock-Vasco section is scheduled for completion by 31.12.95.

(d) Rs. 225 crores.

Cultivation of Banana

5150. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a great scope to increase areas under banana cultivation in the coastal States like Orissa;

(b) whether the farmers in such States need substantial financial support and also remunerative prices for cultivating banana and also for exporting this perishable fruit; and

(c) if so, the details of steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to help the farmers growing banana?

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

(c) Government of India is implementing a Centrally sponsored scheme on development of tropical, temperate and arid zone fruits. Under this scheme, programmes on area expansion and improvement in productivity through demonstrations, have been taken up on banana crop. Besides, assistance is being provided for setting up of nurseries and tissue culture units for supply of quality planting material to the farmers.

Government of India is also implementing a market intervention scheme in collaboration with the State Governments to protect the interests of farmers when the prices fall below a reasonable level.

In addition, the National Horticulture Board is providing assistance in terms of soft loan for development of infrastructure for post harvest handling and marketing of produce both for domestic and export market. The State Governments are also providing assistance for the development of this crop.

[Translation]

Over Bridges

5151. DR. SAKSHIJI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of over bridges under construction in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the extent of progress made so far in completing construction work of each of these over bridges;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the construction work; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) 19.

(b) The details are as under :

S.No.	Name of Work Road over bridge at	Progress		Remarks
		Rly's portion	State Govt's portion	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Badshahnagar - Lucknow	60%	75%	
2.	Kanpur - Anwarganj	Nil	Nil	Work will be taken up after finalisation of drawings (Plans) and estimates.
3.	Ballia	100%	40%	
4.	Deoria Sadar	100%	80%	
5.	Between Mau-Indara at Sikatia	Nil	Nil	Work included in 1995-96 Works Programme.
6.	Hardatpur (on deposit terms)	60%	Nil	Work on approaches not yet started by State Government.
7.	Ramnagar (on deposit terms)	40%	Nil	Work on approaches not yet started by State Government.
8.	Phaphamau	Completed	95%	
9.	Ahraura Road	Completed	92%	
10.	Shahjahanpur	Completed	100%	
		Bridge Commissioned.		
11.	Subedarganj (Allahabad)	50%	Nil	
12.	Hardoi	55%	10%	
13.	Lucknow (Deposit Work)	2%	Nil	State Government has made only part payment.
14.	Rai Bareilly	Completed	62%	
15.	Faizabad			
	3 Road over bridges on bye pass : (on deposit terms)			
	(i) On Faizabad-Lucknow side	Nil	Nil	State Government has made only part payment.
	(ii) On Faizabad-Allahabad side	Nil	Nil	- do -
	(iii) Faizabad-Varanasi side	Nil	Nil	- do -
16.	Etawah (Road under bridge)	Nil	Nil	Work will be taken up after finalisation of drawings and estimates.
17.	Partapur	Nil	Nil	Work included in Railway Works Programme 1995-96.

(c) and (d). Railway construct the bridge across the tracks and the State Government constructs the approaches. Railway complete their portion of work either before or alongwith completion of work on approaches. Regular efforts are made to get the work progressed by the States.

[English]

Guest Control Order

5152. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have directed State Governments to repeal Guest Control Order;

(b) if so, whether all the State Governments have taken the decision;

(c) whether the order was due to the good stocks of wheat and rice with the Government Pool;

(d) whether in view of the good position of wheat and rice, the Government propose to increase the quota of rice and wheat per member in the ration card also; and

(e) if so, to what extent the increase will be made and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) So far, 13 States have informed that they have repealed the Guest Control Order.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). Monthly allocations of foodgrains are made from Central Pool for Public Distribution System (PDS) for the State as a whole. The operational responsibility of implementing Public Distribution System

including decision on eligibility criteria, scale of ration to be issued per head per month etc. vests with States/UTs. However, for RPDS areas, Central Government has advised States/UTs Administrations to ensure availability of 20kg. of foodgrains per card per month.

Catalytic Converter

5153. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any kind of dispute is unresolved between the automobile manufacturers and his Ministry about the waiving of duty on import of catalytic converters for four-wheelers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

NCDC Assistance

5154. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NCDC has approved drawal of funds by the Kerala Government during 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of assistance provided by the NCDC to the Kerala Government during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95?

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

(b) and (c). Details of assistance provided by NCDC to Kerala during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95 are given in the Statement enclosed.

STATEMENT

Scheme-Wise Releases made by NCDC to Kerala Government During 1993-94 and 1994-95

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Type of Scheme	Amount released					
		1993-94			1994-95		
		Loan	Subsidy	Total	Loan	Subsidy	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES							
1.	EEC Coconut Development Project in Kerala	737.81	-	737.81	984.72	453.93	1438.65
2.	Integrated Cooperative Development Projects in selected districts	-	36.12	36.12	-	22.26	22.26
3.	Share Capital participation in Sugar Factories	-	-	-	26.00	-	26.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
CORPORATION SPONSORED SCHEMES							
1.	Margin Money assistance to MARKFED	125.00	-	125.00	198.00	-	198.00
2.	Strengthening of share capital of Primary Co-operative Marketing Society	12.00	-	12.00	39.50	-	39.50
3.	Student Cooperatives	2.03	0.22	2.25	4.59	0.51	5.10
4.	Integrated fisheries development project in selected districts	544.15	16.69	560.84	822.86	9.14	832.00
5.	Coir & Sericulture Cooperatives	222.86	-	222.86	547.69	-	547.69
6.	Integrated Cooperative Development Project in selected districts	557.54	-	557.54	314.26	-	314.26
7.	Other processing Plantation Crops Fruit & Vegetable	63.16	-	63.16	50.09	-	50.09
8.	Cooperative Storage	-	-	-	10.80	-	10.80
9.	EEC Coconut Development Project in Kerala-Counterpart	-	-	-	275.60	-	275.60
10.	Distribution of consumer articles in rural areas	-	-	-	0.68	0.07	0.75
11.	Agriculture Inputs Manufacturing and Allied Units	-	-	-	20.00	-	20.00
12.	Tribal Cooperative	-	-	-	2.95	0.45	3.40
13.	Handloom Cooperatives	-	-	-	5.93	-	5.93
14.	Assistance for Computerisation.	-	-	-	3.00	3.00	6.00
15.	Assistance for feasibility/Management studies/Consultancy Report	-	-	-	-	0.99	0.99
Grand Total		2264.55	53.03	2317.58	3312.32	492.23	3804.55

Decontrol on Sugar

5155. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

- (a) whether requests have been received to decontrol sugar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government have taken any decision on these requests; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), one of the Apex bodies of the sugar industry, has represented for decontrol of sugar whereas the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd. (NFCSF) has been pleading for the retention of the present system of partial control.

(c) and (d). The Government has decided to continue the policy of partial control with a dual pricing system for the distribution of sugar.

(e) Does not arise.

Social Forestry

5156. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of Social Forestry Programme; and
- (b) the steps being taken to create awareness among the people about Social Forestry and need to develop the forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Afforestation and tree planting, including Social Forestry, are continuing activities, undertaken in the States, subject to the allocations in the Central and

State Plans. The main programmes include the Externally-Aided Forestry Projects, Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests, Strip Plantations, Farm Forestry, Production Forestry, Control of Shifting Cultivation, Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Schemes, Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme, Desert Development Programme, Drought Prone Areas Programme, etc.

(b) Creating a massive people's movement with the involvement of women of the development, protection and management of forests is one of the basic objectives of the National Forests Policy (NFP 1988). The Ministry of Environment and Forests has issued guidelines dated 1st June 1990 to the State Government to evolve mechanisms for the involvement of village communities and voluntary agencies in the protection and development of degraded forest areas based on usufruct sharing.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has schemes of Parayavarai Vahinis and Eco-Clubs. Under the former, campaigns and activities for environmental awareness generation have been undertaken in about 183 districts of the country. The scheme of Eco-Clubs targets school children for afforestation and general environmental awareness raising activities. Publications, Short Documentaries and Films are also funded by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for dissemination of information and awareness generation in this regard. Besides, celebration such as Van Mahotsav, Wildlife Week, Earth day etc. in the country also help in generating awareness about environmental and forestry issues.

Borivali Caves

5157. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the controversy about the character of Borivali caves in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the exact status of the caves at the time of their declaration as a protected monument of historic importance; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the controversy?

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

(b) At the time of declaration as monument of national importance, the Caves, Watch-Tower and Old Portuguese Church were under the occupation of the Government as these monuments have been shown in the Printed List of Protected Ancient Monuments in Bombay Presidency including Sind as owned by the Government and rarely worshipped. The land appurtenant to these monuments has been shown as Gurcharan in the revenue records of 1883.

(c) The Government has filed a case in the Court of Law for settlement of the dispute and establishing ownership rights which the Archaeological Survey of India has claimed to be theirs since the monument is under central protection.

Medicinal Plants

5158. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale destruction of Medicinal Plants in Orissa;

(b) whether the Government have also received reports in this connection from other States;

(c) whether it is due to the defective policy of the Government; and

(d) if so, the steps taken for the proper preservation of medicinal plants particularly in Orissa?

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

(a) to (d). The information is being collected, and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Firms Cry Foul Over Railways

5159. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Firms cry foul over Railways' awarding of tenders" published in 'The Economic Times' dated April 15, 1995;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to set matters right?

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

(b) and (c). An open Tender for supply of High Tensile Steel wire was floated by the Railway board with the specific condition that only the entrepreneurs holding ISI certification may participate. Counter offers to 22 parties holding requisite ISI certification out of the 41 participants were made. Issues mentioned in the news item are presently subjudice in the High Court of Delhi.

(d) Court verdict is awaited.

Import of Spices

5160. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the spices are being imported at present;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, Spices-wise together with the reasons for their import;
- (c) whether self sufficiency can be achieved in these spices;
- (d) if so, the efforts made so far in this direction; and
- (e) the result thereof?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The import of spices like cloves, nutmeg, mace and cinnamon is permitted to meet the domestic demand.

(c) to (e). During the 8th Plan a Central Sector Scheme "Integrated Programme for Development of Spices" has been launched with a view to take measures like production of planting material, establishment of scion nursery centres and demonstration plots so as to achieve self sufficiency in spices.

Regional Colleges of Education

5161. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the places where Regional Colleges of Education have been established;
- (b) the details of the objectives for which these colleges had been set up and whether these objectives have been achieved;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the N.C.E.R.T. has recently converted the aforesaid R.C.Es. into the Regional Institutes of Education;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether there is any change in the objectives with the change of name; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (g). The Regional Colleges of Education (RCEs) of the NCERT are located at Ajmer, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar and Mysore. Initially the Regional Colleges of Education were set up to provide teachers of quality to the multipurpose schools scheme of the Ministry of Education. The objectives with which the RCEs were set up, have been reviewed from time to time and necessary correctives were applied towards the achievement of the basic objectives of qualitative improvement in teacher education. RCEs were converted into Regional Institutes in April 1995 to provide academic and technical resource support to State and sub-State

level institutions entrusted with the responsibility of implementing the programmes of universalising elementary education including District Primary Education Programmes in addition to offering in service and limited pre-service programmes for preparing teacher educators and improving the quality of in-service teachers. The Regional Institutes will continue to cover the entire spectrum of school education at all stages.

Reservation in Medical and Engineering Colleges

5162. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :

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

(a) whether any minimum qualifying norms/standards have been laid down by the UGC and other Central Monitoring Bodies e.g. Indian Council of Medical Research and All India Council for Technical Education for admission of SC/ST and Backward Class candidates to Medical, Engineering and other professional courses;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether any State Government has dispensed with these minimum qualifying norms/standards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d). The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has issued Guidelines vide GSR 320 dated 15th June, 1992 prescribing minimum qualifying norms/standards for admission of SC/ST students to Engineering Degree and Diploma programmes. These guidelines have been circulated to all State Governments for implementation.

The information in respect of Indian Council for Medical Research and UGC is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Use of Fertilizers

5163. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a fall/drop in the use of fertilizers resulting in the deterioration of soil quality and fall in the agriculture productivity;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (c). After decontrol of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers during 1992-93 there had been a fall in their consumption which had however, picked up subsequently. The consumption of nitrogen has steadily increased during

this period. While there is no specific information on the deterioration of soil quality, there had been steady increase in the agriculture productivity. For increasing the consumption of potassic and phosphatic fertilizers, Government has taken up a scheme on Concessional Sale of De-controlled fertilizers.

Super Bazar

5164. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to revise the pay scales of the Super Bazar employees particularly, the Sales Assistants working under his Ministry on the lines of Government employees;

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

(c) the criteria for revised pay scales of super bazar employees and by when their pay scales were revised last by the Government according to Dearness Index and the announcement of IIIrd and IVth pay commissions;

(d) whether there are any specific guidelines formulated by the Government for the revision of pay scales and which were not adopted by the General Manager of Super Bazar;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government have conducted an inquiry into this; and

(g) if so, the outcome thereof and the action/measures taken by the Government in the matter?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Super Bazar the Cooperative Stores Ltd., Delhi is a cooperative society registered under the Delhi Cooperative Societies Act. Super Bazar has its own pay Structure and does not follow the pay structure of the Government or the recommendations of the Pay Commission. However, instalment of ADA are released to the employees of Super Bazar based on increase in consumer price index as notified by Bureau of Public Enterprise, National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Modification of Coaches

5165. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether RDSO (Research and Design Standard Organisation), Lucknow has given any suggestion for modification of coaches;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to introduce new type of passenger coaches during 1995-96; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Yer, Sir. RDSO has developed new design of coaches with a speed potential of upto 160 KMPH. Prototype testing and trials are programmed during 95-96.

Flour Millers Association

5166. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Flour Millers Association of India has opposed the decision of Food Corporation of India to enter foodgrain export market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is acute sickness in this industry and a number of mills are at the verge of closure; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b). Government keeps on reviewing stock position of foodgrains with it in the Central Pool and decision to import or export foodgrains on Government account is taken keeping in view the production of foodgrains, stock position, requirement for Public Distribution System, Open Market Price, etc. Government has recently decided to release an export ceiling of 2.5 million tonnes for export of non-durum wheat from the open market without any MEP during 1995-96. In view of the comfortable stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool, Government has also authorised the FCI to export/sell for the purpose of export non-durum wheat from Central Pool within the ceiling of 2.5 million tonnes and also authorised FCI to export/sell for the purpose of export upto 2.00 million tonnes of fine and superfine rice during 1995-96 at prices as may be decided by the High Level Committee constituted for the purpose. Exporters of wheat products are also eligible to purchase wheat from FCI stocks for export of wheat products. Flour Millers are free to purchase foodgrains from the FCI under the Open Sale Scheme or from the Open Market. Government is not aware as to whether the Flour Millers Association is opposed to the decision of exporting foodgrains by FCI.

(c) and (d). The Government has neither received any representation from the Industry nor from the Association regarding the sickness of the Roller Flour Mills in the country due to any reason.

[Translation]

Consumer Law

5167. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

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

- (a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding misuse of law relating to Consumer Protection;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard and taken action against the guilty persons;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government propose to take stringent action to check the misuse of Consumer Protection Act?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (e). Instances have come to the notice of the Government where frivolous or vexatious complaints have been filed in the Consumer Courts set up under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The Central Government, however, does not compile such information. In such cases, the Consumer Protection Act provides that the complainant shall pay to the opposite party such cost, not exceeding ten thousand rupees, as may be specified in the order of the Consumer Courts.

[English]

National Seeds Corporation

5168. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the loss suffered by National Seeds Corporation during the year 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94;
- (b) the reasons for the loss; and
- (c) the steps taken to make this Corporation viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE ON THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) During the year 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94, the National Seeds Corporation (NSC) had suffered losses in its working as per details given below :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Profit (+)/Loss(-)
1991-92	(-) 849.65
1992-93	(-) 587.26
1993-94	(-) 337.25

(b) Main reasons for the losses are as under :

- (i) Increase in input prices and procurement prices paid to the seed growers without corresponding increase in the sale price of seed;
- (ii) Under-utilisation of infrastructural facilities created under National Seeds Project Phase-I and Phase-II; and
- (iii) Excess staff.

(c) M/s. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) had undertaken a diagnostic review of the Corporation and identified areas of strength and weaknesses in order to improve the working of the Corporation. The study had highlighted the following major issues :

- (i) That the NSC were not efficient in most of the areas of their activities and were, thus, incurring losses; and
- (ii) That the staff level of NSC in relation to their turnover was very high.

The major recommendations made by the Consultants to improve the efficiency of the Corporation were as under :

- (a) To increase their production and marketing activities;
- (b) To revise their product mix; and
- (c) To adjust staff level to match the revised production marketing activities.

Appropriate steps to implement the recommendations of the Consultants have been initiated by the Management of the Corporation.

District Institutes of Education and Training

5169. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the target fixed for opening of District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) were not achieved during 1994-95;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of Institutes actually opened during the said year; and
- (c) the reasons for the shortfall in this regard if any?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c). Centrally Sponsored Programme of teacher education envisages establishment of DIETs in all districts by the end of the VIII Plan. So far, 394 districts have been covered. 46 districts were proposed to be covered during 1994-95 but because of lack of adequate proposals from Maharashtra, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh and Bihar, only 13 DIETs could be sanctioned.

Supply of Fodder*[Translation]*

5170. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a Contingency Plan for supply of fodder, minikits, cattle feed etc. in drought affected areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount released in this regard?

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

(b) A Contingency Plan for an outlay of Rs. 2.83 crore for supply of fodder, minikits, mineral mixture, life saving drugs and vaccines in the drought affected area was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh during 1993-94. The Central team which visited the State assessed the situation and recommended an amount of Rs. 1.47 crore for release. As there is no such scheme in the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying funds could not be released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Does not arise.

Foot-Over Bridges

5171. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have undertaken construction of foot-over bridges near Malleswaram and Benson town in Karnataka in the Bangalore City;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost of the project;

(c) whether the State Government has agreed to bear 50% of the cost;

(d) whether there is any proposal to construct similar bridges in other parts of Bangalore and Mysore; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The details are :

	Cost
(i) Foot over bridge near Clunis convent, Malleswaram, Bangalore.	Rs.14.95 lakhs
(ii) Foot over bridge for pedestrian crossing at Km. 350/15-17 between Bangalore Cantt. and Bangalore East.	Rs13.50 lakhs

(c) and (d). No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Cultivation of Swarna Paddy

5172. SHRI BHAWANI LAL VERMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cultivation of Swarna Paddy is being undertaken in the rice producing States on a large scale;

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

(c) whether the procurement price of Swarna rice varies in different States;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the demand of Swarna rice is increasing in foreign countries;

(f) whether the Government are considering to export the same; and

(g) if so, the details of steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b). The estimates of crop coverage are collected for the crop as a whole and not varietywise.

(c) and (d). The procurement price of paddy/rice is paid on the basis of the existing norms of its classification as "Superfine" "Fine" and "Common". Based on the length and breadth ration of paddy rice kernels obtained from the authenticated samples, in Madhya Pradesh the variety was classified as "Common" whereas in Orissa it was classified as "Fine".

(e) to (g). Government is not aware of any increased demand of swarna variety of rice in foreign countries. For promoting the export of rice as such the Government has removed all restrictions on the export of rice excepting paddy (rice in husk) which is subject to licensing.

*[English]***Employment Opportunities**

5173. SHRI MANJAY LAL :

DR. G.L. KANAUJIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted or propose to conduct a survey for creation of employment opportunities at the surplus land of Railways and at Railway Stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of licences given for shops, stalls, etc. so as to create job opportunities at the sites under Railways during the last two years, year-wise;

(d) whether the Government are considering to constitute any Committee to identify the possibilities for the creation of additional jobs at Railway Sites in larger public interest;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) There is no surplus land with the Railways.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Nil, since shops, stalls, etc. are usually not required at vacant railway lands where there is no traffic.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Railway premises are primarily required for Railways operational and related uses. Use of railway premises for other purposes may adversely affect the safety and security of railway operations, besides causing inconvenience to genuine railway users and coming in the way of future expansion.

[Translation]

Sports Events

5174. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of important Government Departments, Public Sector Undertakings, Banks, Universities which are organising competitive sports events at their own initiative;

(b) if so, whether such organisations have representation on the apex bodies of the different sports disciplines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : (a) The names of important Government departments, Public Sector Undertakings, Banks, Universities which are organising competitive sports events are as follows:

Government Departments : Services Sports Control Board (SSCB), Police Sports Control Board (PSCB), Railway Sports Control Board (RSCB), Electricity Sports Board (ECB), Power Sports Control Board (PSCB) and Central Excise & Customs Sports Board (CE&CSB).

Public Sector Undertakings and Banks : Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, Indian Telephone Industries, Food Corporation of India, Life Insurance Corporation Limited, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Petroleum Sports Control Board, and Banks Sports Control Board.

Universities : Association of Indian Universities and Universities affiliated to it.

(b) and (c). Some of the Apex Level Federations have given affiliation to the Public Sector Undertakings, Sports Boards and Association of Indian Universities. The details are given below :

ATHLETICS	: SSCB, RSCB, All India Police Sports Control Board, Food Corporation of India and Life Insurance Corporation.
BOXING	: RSCB, SSCB, YMCA and TATA.
BADMINTON	: RSCB and Banks Sports Control Board.
FOOTBALL	: TATA, RSCB, All India Police Sports Control Board.
VOLLEYBALL	: RSCB, SSCB, ALPSCB, Electricity Sports Control Board, Customs and Excise Sports Board, Banks Sports Control Board.
WEIGHTLIFTING	: Hinduja Foundation, RSCB, SSCB, Food Corporation of India.
HOCKEY	: RSCB, SSCB, Electricity Sports Board and Banks Sports Control Board.

Railway Lines

5175. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposal regarding Railway Lines sent by Maharashtra Government during the last three years, till date;

(b) the total length of these railway lines as per the proposals, district-wise;

(c) the details of the proposals approved for implementation;

(d) the progress made in allocation of funds for the implementation of these approved proposals; and

(e) the reasons for rejecting some of the proposals of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (e). The details are given as under :

Name of Project	Cost	Outlay 1995-96 (Rs. in Crores)	Position
1	2	3	4
I. NEW LINES			
1. Wardha-Yavatmal-Pusad -Nanded (182 kms.)	250	-	Could not be considered owing to constraint of resources.
2. Ahmednagar-Beed- Parli Vaijnath (250 kms.)	353	1.00	Work included in 1995-96 Budget. Actual construction will be taken up after necessary approvals have been obtained.
3. Manmad-Malegaon- Dhule-Nardana (132 kms.)	300	0.002	Construction of Manmad-Dhule via Malegaon new lines cannot be considered at present, due to constraint of resources. However, reconnaissance survey for construction of new line from Dhule to Nardana (37 kms.) is in progress. Further action will depend upon the results of the survey and availability of resources in the coming years.
4. Amravati-Narkhed (138 kms.)	120.90	2.00	Work is already in progress. Land acquisition work is going on. Actual construction will be taken up once land is available.
5. Khamgaon-Jalna (155 kms.)	228	-	The project would be taken up after obtaining necessary clearances from the Planning Commission, Expanded Board and the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.
6. Pandharpur-Lonand (145 kms.)	300	-	This line cannot be considered at present owing to constraint of resources. However, after gauge conversion of Miraj-Latur section, work of which is on hand, Pandharpur which is on the alignment would be connected to BG. Intending passengers from Pandharpur wanting to go to Lonand can come to Miraj and then conveniently reach Lonand, which is on the existing Pune-Miraj section.
7. Kolhapur-Ratnagiri (115 kms.)	300	-	
8. Solapur-Beed-Aurangabad- Chalisgaon (300 kms.)	600	-	
9. Pune-Nasik (190 kms.)	300	-	Not being/could not be considered at present due to constraint of resources.
II. GAUGE CONVERSIONS			
1. Parbhani-Mudkhed-Adilabad (246 kms.)	188.01	37	
(i) Parbhani-Purna (29 kms.)			Completed
(ii) Purna-Nanded (32 kms.)			Completed
(iii) Nanded-Mudkhed			1995-96
(iv) Mudkhed-Adilabad (162 kms.)			1995-96

1	2	3	4
2 Gondia-Chanda Fort (242 kms.)	158.83	34	
(i) Gondia-Wadsa (104 kms.)			Completed
(ii) Wadsa-Chanda Fort (138 kms.)			1996-97
3. Solapur-Bijapur (109 kms.)	180.00	5.00	Approval of the Planning Commission to the Project has been received. Preliminary arrangement for taking up the work are on hand.
4. Miraj-Latur (359 kms.)	225.00	10.00	
5. Daund-Baramati (42 kms.)	15.90	0.52	Completed

National Women Fund

5176. SHRI LALL BABU RAI :

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY :

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :

SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE :

PROF. RAM KAPSE :

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

(a) whether the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh scheme envisages the involvement of apex voluntary agencies in reaching the scheme to the small organisations or to the beneficiary population;

(b) if so, the total paid up capital of this Kosh;

(c) the names of the voluntary agencies selected for reaching the scheme to the small organisations in each State and the amount released to each one of them in financial year 1993-94 and 1994-95 till date; and

(d) the amount actually disbursed by these organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SMT. BASAVA RAJESWARI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh lends to poor women in the informal sector through intermediary NGOs. Further, RMK has also formulated an 'Umbrella Organisation Scheme' to provide credit

facilities to smaller NGOs for on-lending to poor women through larger state level NGOs.

(b) Rashtriya Mahila Kosh was set up as a registered Society with a Corpus fund of Rs. 31 crores contributed by the Government of India.

(c) and (d). RMK has so far sanctioned credit limit of Rs. 9.59 crores to 53 NGOs and actually disbursed Rs. 6.53 crores. A list of such NGOs is given in the Statement enclosed RMK has approved the following organisations under the Umbrella Organisation Scheme:

Name of the State	Name of Umbrella Organisations
Maharashtra	Annapurna Mahila Mandal, Bombay. SPARC, Bombay.
Uttar Pradesh	Shramik Bharti, Kanpur.
Madhya Pradesh	SEWA, Bhopal.
Andhra Pradesh	RASS, Tirupati.
Tamil Nadu	W.W.P., Madras. ASSEFA, Madras.
Kerala	TDFF, Trivandrum
West Bengal	MASS Education, Calcutta.
Bihar	Adithi, Patna.

However, no sanctions/disbursements to these organisations under 'Umbrella Organisation Scheme' have been made by the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of NGO	Date of Sanction	No. of Borrowers (approx.)	Credit Limit Sanctioned			Amount Disbursed		
				ST	MT	TOTAL	ST	MT	TOTAL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Adithi, Patna	18-11-93	2500	17.00	-	17.00	17.00	-	17.00
2.	Annapurna Mahila Mandal, Bombay	18-11-93	1575	18.00	21.00	39.00	18.00	21.00	39.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	SPARC, Bombay	18-11-93	2000	20.00	11.50	31.50	5.724	11.50	17.224
4.	Shramik Bharti, Kanpur	18-11-93	700	7.75	8.00	15.75	4.26	8.00	12.26
5.	SEWA, Bhopal	18-11-93	1050	6.50	2.50	9.00	6.5	2.50	9.00
6.	RASS, Tirupati	18-11-93	700	2.35	5.00	7.35	2.35	5.00	7.35
7.	ASSEPA, Madras	29-12-93	3500	22.50	42.75	65.25	22.50	42.75	65.25
8.	Working Women Forum, Madras	29-12-93	10350	40.00	-	40.00	16.50	-	16.50
9.	MASS Education, Calcutta	29-12-93	2000	30.00	-	30.00	30.00	-	30.00
10.	Trivandrum Distt. Fishermen Federation, Trivandrum	29-12-93	1600	16.50	4.50	21.00	16.50	4.50	21.00
11.	GRAMA, Chitradurga (Karnataka)	7-02-94	420	7.35	2.65	10.00	3.075	-	3.075
12.	Youth for Action, Hyderabad	7-02-94	1800	40.00	-	40.00	20.00	-	20.00
13.	Daridra Narayan Seva Sansthan, Balasore (Orissa)	7-02-94	580	6.30	-	6.30	3.15	-	3.15
14.	Prajashakthi Vidy Sangham, Krishna Dt.(A.P)	7-02-94	220	3.96	-	3.96	3.96	-	3.96
15.	GRAMA SIRI, Guntur (A.P.)	19-03-94	1528	15.34	9.36	24.70	15.34	9.36	24.70
16.	Social Action for Integrated Day (SAID) Trirupati	19-03-94	617	5.40	1.10	6.50	5.40	1.10	6.50
17.	The Dale View, Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)	19-03-94	1000	11.72	-	11.72	11.72	-	11.72
18.	Rani Laxmibai Mahila Mandal, Maharashtra	19-03-94	220	5.00	0.40	5.40	1.00	0.35	1.35
19.	Centre for Social Service & Research (CSSR), Dindigul (T.N.)	30-03-94	310	6.00	1.00	7.00	1.75	-	1.75
20.	Centre for Rural Reconstruction through Social Action (CRESA), West Godavari (A.P.)	30-03-94	1650	11.00	2.00	13.00	11.00	2.00	13.00
21.	Visakha Jilla Navanirmana Samithi (VJNS), Visakhapatnam (A.P.)	30-03-94	616	6.00	1.42	7.42	6.00	1.42	7.42
22.	Janamangal Mahila Samiti (JMS), Dt. Puri Orissa	30-03-94	200	4.50	-	4.50	2.25	-	2.25
23.	Organisation for the Development of People (ODP), Mysore (Karnataka)	30-03-94	600	10.00	5.00	15.00	6.501	3.96	10.461
24.	Meyer Trust, Madurai	30-03-94	1330	7.98	-	7.98	7.98	-	7.98

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
25.	Mitrniketan, Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)	16-05-94	600	9.00	2.25	11.25	9.00	2.25	11.25
26.	Subhodaya Educa- tional Society, Hyderabad (A.P.)	16-05-94	250	3.50	1.50	5.00	3.50	1.50	5.00
27.	League for Education & Development (LEAD) Tiruchirapalli (T.N.)	16-05-94	270	5.40	1.35	6.75	5.40	-	5.40
28.	Women's Multipurpose Co-op. Society, Nipani (Karnataka)	16-05-94	1000	11.35	5.65	17.00	5.25	3.25	8.50
29.	Indian Council for Child Welfare, Madras (T.N.)	16-05-94	420	3.20	1.80	5.00	1.60	0.90	2.50
30.	Rural Integrated Development Organisation (RIDO), Dharmapur (T.N.)	19-07-94	803	15.00	7.00	22.00	6.80	4.20	11.00
31.	Taj Mahal Gram Bikash Kendra, Howrah (W. Bengal).	19-07-94	1020	13.10	6.70	19.80	3.275	1.675	4.95
32.	Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), Lucknow (U.P.)	19-07-94	1050	24.25	5.00	29.25	5.00	5.00	10.00
33.	Akhil Bhartiya Samaj Sewa Sansthan, Manekpur (Banda) (U.P.)	19-07-94	197	6.00	1.65	7.65	-	-	-
34.	Vigyan Shiksha Kendra, Banda (U.P.)	19-07-94	150	1.80	0.45	2.25	0.26	0.45	0.71
35.	Women's Association for Development Action (WADA), Chittor (A.P.)	30-09-94	100	1.35	0.25	1.60	0.55	0.25	0.80
36.	Women Association for Knowledge Earning, Unity and Progress (WAKEUP), Chittoor (A.P.)	30-09-94	190	3.25	0.75	4.00	3.25	0.75	4.00
37.	Bal Rashmi Society, Jaipur (Raj.)	30-09-94	370	9.30	5.10	14.40	4.65	2.55	7.20
38.	Malikarjunna Sewa Samithi (MASS), Tirupati (A.P.)	30-09-94	800	7.50	2.50	10.00	7.50	2.50	10.00
RPT.	Rayalaseema Seva Samithi (RASS), Tirupati (A.P.)	30-09-94	607	14.52	3.68	18.20	10.06	2.305	12.365
RPT.	Trivandrum District Fishermen Federation (TDF), Thiruvanantha- puram (Kerala)	30-09-94	1300	25.00	9.00	34.00	12.50	4.50	17.00
RPT.	Prajashakthi Vidy Sangham (PVS), Avanigadda, Krishna Dt. (A.P.)	30-09-94	1055	5.50	-	5.50	5.458	-	5.458

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
RPT. The Dale View, Poovachal (Kerala)	30-09-94	1500	20.00	7.00	27.00	20.00	350	23.50	
RPT. Annapurna Mahila Mandal (AMM), Bombay (Maharashtra)	30-09-94	1900	34.00	20.00	54.00	34.00	20.00	54.00	
RPT. Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), Bhopal (M.P.)	30-09-94	1200	12.50	4.00	16.50	8.59	4.00	12.59	
39. Rural Development Organisation, Manipur	16-11-94	2000	40.00	-	40.00	20.00	-	20.00	
40. Vasavya Mahila Mandali, Vijayawada (A.P.)	16-11-94	470	7.50	2.50	10.00	-	0.88	0.88	
41. Raghudebbati Pally Unnayan Samity, Distt. Howrah (W.B.)	16-11-94	230	4.15	-	4.15	4.15	-	4.15	
42. Active for Collective Tribal Improvement & Vocational Education (ACTIVE), Khammam Dt. (A.P.)	31-01-95	250	5.00	-	5.00	2.50	-	2.50	
43. Society for National Integration through Rural Development (SNIRD) Ongole Distt. (A.P.)	31-01-95	400	8.00	2.00	10.00	-	-	-	
44. Institute of Rural Development and Service (IRDS), Tirupati (A.P.)	31-01-95	500	4.00	1.00	5.00	2.00	0.50	2.50	
45. Development Action for Rural Environment (DARE), Hyderabad (A.P.)	31-01-95	240	6.00	-	6.00	3.00		3.00	
46. Jan Shiksha E�am Vikas Sangathan (PEDO), Distt. Dungarpur (Raj)	31-01-95	550	11.50	3.80	15.30	3.17	1.83	5.00	
RPT. Association for Sarva Seva Farms (AESEFA), Madras (T.N.)	31-01-95	1000	30.00	-	30.00	10.00	5.00	15.00	
RPT. Visakha Jilla Navanirmana Samity (VJNNS), Visakha- patnam Distt. (A.P.)	31-01-95	1036	13.00	-	13.00	13.00	-	13.00	
47. Health Education Leadership Promoting Society (HELPs), Cuddapah Dt. (A.P.)	15-03-95	500	10.00		10.00	5.00		5.00	
48. Social Action for Social Dev. (SASD) Hyderabad (A.P.)	15.03-95	200	4.00	-	4.00	-	-	-	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
49.	Society for Integral Development Action (SIDA), Distt. Kottayam (Kerala)	15-03-95	670	12.00	3.00	15.00	5.00	2.50	7.50
50.	Advance Rural Technology Hyderabad Inputs Centre (ARTHIC), Secundrabad (A.P.)	15-03-95	250	5.00	-	5.00	2.50	-	2.50
51.	Centre for Urban & Rural Devp. (CURD), Tirupati (A.P.)	15-03-95	150	3.00	-	3.00	1.50	-	1.50
52.	Lupin Human Welfare & Research (LHWRF), Bharatpur (Raj.)	15-03-95	685	11.35	7.25	18.50	3.325	1.25	4.50
53.	Madhar Nala Thondu Niruvanam (MNTN) Cuddalore (T.N.)	15-03-95	600	5.00	-	5.00	2.50	-	2.50
Rpt.	GRAMA SIRI, Dt. Guntur (A.P.)	15-03-95	743	10.00	-	10.00	5.00	-	5.00
Total			62322	736.17	223.26	959.43	468.258	184.395	652.653

Protection of Plant Varieties

5177. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :

SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised the draft legislation for protection of the plant varieties;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay and the present status 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) to (d). The draft legislation for protection of plant varieties is under finalisation in consultation with Ministry of Law as per prescribed procedure. The legislation will be introduced after completion of due procedures required for the same.

Regional Museums

5178. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :

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

(a) when the scheme to promote and strengthen regional and local museums was started; and

(b) the progress made so far under the scheme in each State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Scheme of promotion and Strengthening of regional and Local Museums was approved during March 1994.

(b) Between March 1994 and March 1995, three Museums in Manipur, two Museums each in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, four Museums in Uttar Pradesh and one Museum each in Karnataka, West Bengal, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra and Delhi were covered.

[Translation]

Shortage of Teachers in Navodaya Vidyalaya

5179. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether an acute shortage of teachers in the Navodaya Vidyalayas located in the tribal areas of Gujarat causing an adverse impact on studies; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts of teachers in these schools which were lying vacant for many years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) As per information provided by the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, 67 posts of teachers are lying vacant in the Navodaya Vidyalayas in Gujarat, as on 30.6.1994.

(b) Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti has taken steps to accelerate the recruitment/promotion process for filling up of the vacant posts.

[English]

Human Resource Requirement

5180. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any projection of country's human resource requirement for the future;

(b) whether there is any mechanism to maintain a balance between the future requirement of skilled/qualified personnel and intake of students to various courses in the Institutions for Higher Education; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c). The Government have made projections for country's human resource requirement of qualified personnel in the areas of Engg. and Technology including Pharmacy at the degree and diploma levels in the country through its scheme of National Technical Manpower Information System (NTMIS). These projections are taken into consideration by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) while approving the new courses/programmes in these fields.

Diesel Loco Simulator

5181. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether country's first computerised Diesel Loco Simulator has been introduced at Tughalakabad, New Delhi in recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the procurement cost and source of procurement of the equipment;

(d) whether the equipment will provide advantages to railway passengers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the same is likely to be introduced in Kerala?

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

(b) Train operating conditions are simulated with Audio Video and Motion Effects in the simulator and thus assists in improving the quality of training of locomotive drivers.

(c) The equipment was procured through M/s Tata Electronic Development Services at a cost of Rs. 5.58 crore.

(d) and (e). It is for improving the quality of training of drivers in handling trains. It benefits the passengers by way of improvement in the enginemanship of train crew and would result in better train control and safer train operation. Simulators are planned to be installed progressively at selected training centres and the facilities will be used for training drivers from all Indian Railways.

Railway Stations

5182. SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Railway Stations in Maharashtra where electrification work was in progress during the year 1993-94 and till June 30, 1994;

(b) the details of the amount spent on this work; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) 22 stations.

(b) Rs. 22,00,356 were spent on this work.

(c) The work of electrification has already been completed at 21 stations. In the remaining one station, the work is planned to be completed in 1995-96.

Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme

5183. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

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

(a) whether 'Textile Technology and Textile Management' is an approved subject for postgraduate study/research under the Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to take steps for inclusion of this subject under the Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme in view of the importance of 'Textiles' in India's international trade; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d). Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education) in consultation with the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, allocates the limited number of positions on offer for Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships taking into account the facilities/courses available in the country and the United Kingdom. In view of a very limited number of scholarships/fellowships available only a few disciplines can be included. It has not been found possible to include Textile Technology and 'Textile Management'.

[Translation]

Facilities at Station

5184. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the facilities available to the passengers at the Gaya Railway Station have been curtailed particularly in reservation of berths from this station for different trains;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide facilities at the station?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). The reservation quotas by 1182/ 1160 Chambal Express and 1172 Shipra Express trains have been reduced w.e.f. 15.4.1995 due to poor utilisation of allotted quota.

(c) The reservation work at Gaya has been computerised w.e.f. 30.3.1995. In addition, works of improvement to circulating area and water supply, provision of retiring rooms and provision/extension of platform shelters have been taken up at a cost of Rs. 30.77 lakh.

Squash Game

5185. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

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

(a) whether the Government have made efforts to include squash game in the coming SAARC Games;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is the responsibility of Indian Olympic Association to take up the issue of including squash in these games.

[English]

Sugarcane Purchase Tax

5186. SHRI SOBHANDREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the details of sugarcane purchase tax per ton being collected by different State Governments as on February 1, 1995; and

(b) the details of such amount distributed to the cane growers during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b). As per the information furnished by the State Governments/Union Territories for the purpose of levy sugar price fixation for 1994-95 season, the purchase tax levied in different States/Union Territories is given in the Statement enclosed. Information regarding the mode of utilisation of the tax so collected is not available with the Ministry of Food.

STATEMENT

The Purchase Tax Levied in Different States/UTs for 1994-95 Season

Punjab	- Rs. 0.50 per quintal
Haryana	- Rs. 1.50 per quintal
* Rajasthan	- 2.5% on cane price
U.P.	- Rs. 2 per quintal
Bihar	- Rs. 1.00 per quintal plus 2% purchase tax and 1% additional tax (Purchase tax of 2% and additional tax of 1% not applicable to purchases through Cooperatives) plus 1% market fee).
Gujarat	- Rs. 2.40 per quintal
Maharashtra	- Rs. 2.5 per quintal
Andhra Pradesh	- Rs. 9/- per quintal w.e.f. 10.1.95
Tamil Nadu	- Basic rate 11% plus 15% surcharge + 2.5% additional purchase tax (effective rate 15.15%). Cess Ra. 0.50 per quintal
* M.P.	- Purchase tax 4.5% and mandi sulk 1%
Pondicherry	- 22.5% on cane price, cess Rs. 0.50 per quintal

Kerala	- Tax 6% + 10% surcharge (effective rate 6.6%)
Assam, Orissa, West Bengal & Nagaland	- Nil
Goa	- Nil
Karnataka	- 7% + 1.75% turn over tax on cane value effective rate 8.75%.

* Information was not available from the States of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Hence, previous year's figures have been adopted.

Sugar

5187. PROF. RAM KAPSE :

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the details of production, consumption, export and import of sugar during the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95; and

(b) the stock of levy sugar with Central Pool as on April, 1995?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) The required information is as under :

Particulars	Sugar Season (October to September)		
	1992-93(P)	1993-94(P)	1994-95(E)
Indigenous Production	106.09	98.12	133.00
Consumption	120.05	111.37 @	117.93 @
Imports	Nil	9.37(xx)	0.47 (xx)
	4.60(STC/	13.97	5.17 (STC/ 5.64
	MMTC	MMTC	
Exports*	3.97	0.75	0.40

(P) - Provisional

(E) - Estimated for the Entire Season

(*) - Including Nepal

(xx) - Imported by Private Parties

(@) - excludes consumption of imported sugar brought in by private parties.

(b) No Central Pool is being maintained separately for levy sugar by the Government, except pipe line stocks with FCI for further distribution.

Environmental Rent

5188. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has demanded that Western countries should pay "environmental rent" for the excessive emissions of Green House Gases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the West on this demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). India has not made any formal demand that Western countries pay environmental rent for excessive polluting emissions. However, at the First Conference of Parties to the Climate Change Convention in Berlin recently, the Indian delegation pointed out that the Northern countries emit green house gases far in excess of their per capita entitlements, should it be universally accepted that every human being has a right to and an equal share of, the carrying capacity of the planet. If a monetary value was to be put on these gaseous emissions, calculated on the basis of the approximate cost for neutralising their adverse impacts, then this monetary sum could be treated as 'environmental rent' and ought to be transferred to developing countries in lieu of the use of their 'environmental space'.

(c) In the multilateral forum that these observations were made, there was widespread appreciation concerning this point of view.

[Translation]

Decontrol of Molasses

5189. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV :

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of Gur is declining due to decontrol of molasses;

(b) whether the State Government has submitted any proposal seeking imposition of control on molasses; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) No survey/assessment in this regard is available with this Ministry.

(b) and (c). A Working Group under the Chairmanship of former Chief Minister of Karnataka and consisting of the Excise Ministers of various States have made certain recommendations regarding the molasses policy, which are presently being examined by the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers.

Translation of Holy Books

5190. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the Indian languages in which the Holy Quran, the Bhagvatgeeta, the Bible, the Zend Avesta and the Dhammapada have been translated;

(b) whether Government have financed some of the Translation Projects in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

Fertilizers

5191. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the severe scarcity of urea and other fertilisers DAP, SSP and MOP etc. in the State of Rajasthan;

(b) whether the consumption of urea and other fertilisers has increased in this State;

(c) if so, the approximate demand of such fertiliser annually in both Rabi and Kharif season;

(d) whether any steps have been taken to enhance the Central allocation of urea in order to cope with demand in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (e). The consumption of urea has been consistently increasing in Rajasthan. Due to sudden spurt in demand of urea in the State during Rabi 1994-95 season because of good monsoon, some constraint in urea availability was felt in some pockets of the State during the season. The allocation of urea to Rajasthan during Rabi 1994-95 season was increased by 50,000 tonnes and immediate steps were taken to rush urea to the State to avoid shortages. The availability of other decontrolled fertilisers in Rajasthan during 1994-95 was satisfactory.

The table below gives the season-wise consumption of major fertilisers in Rajasthan during the years 1993-94 & 1994-95 alongwith the percentage variation:

Year	Product	Kharif	Rabi	Total	%growth	(Lakh tonnes) over previous Year
1993-94	Urea	2.92	3.83	6.75		5.9
	DAP	1.20	1.30	2.50	(-)	3.1
	SSP	0.28	0.39	0.67		12.0
	MOP	0.01	0.01	0.02	(-)	52.8
	Urea	3.48	5.50	8.98		33.0
(Estimated)	DAP	1.08	1.40	2.48	(-)	1.0
	SSP	0.47	0.50	0.97		45.7
	MOP	0.02	0.03	0.05		129.2

An allocation of 4.29 lakh tonnes urea has been made to the State for current Kharif 1995 season.

National Land Use Policy

5192. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have any data regarding implementation of National Land Use Policy by the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details of achievements made so far for conserving soil and water, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

the progress of implementation is being coordinated by State Land Use Boards (SLUB) at State level and monitored at the Central level by National Land Use & Conservation Board (NLCB), Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) The State-wise achievements made so far for conserving Soil and Water are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

(Area in lakh ha.)		
S.No.	State/U.Ts	Area treated till the end of 1993-94 (Estimated)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15.77
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.37
3.	Assam	3.51

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The National Land Use Policy Outline (NLPO) and Action Points have been circulated to all States/U.Ts and concerned Central Ministries/Deptt. for adoption and implementation. The action points are being implemented by concerned depts. at State level and

1	2	3
4.	Bihar	16.51
5.	Gujarat	30.35
6.	Haryana	7.86
7.	Himachal Pradesh	4.38
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.62
9.	Karnataka	40.16
10.	Kerala	5.68
11.	Madhya Pradesh	58.10
12.	Maharashtra	111.13
13.	Manipur	1.36
14.	Meghalaya	1.39
15.	Mizoram	0.86
16.	Nagaland	1.24
17.	Orissa	12.51
18.	Punjab	10.10
19.	Rajasthan	25.45
20.	Sikkim	2.43
21.	Tamil Nadu	19.32
22.	Tripura	1.79
23.	Uttar Pradesh	44.28
24.	West Bengal	5.57
25.	Goa	0.19
26.	A & N Island	0.07
27.	Chandigarh	0.92
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	1.25
29.	Delhi	N
30.	Daman & Diu	-
31.	Lakshadweep	0.03
32.	Pondicherry	0.12
Total		425.36

N - Negligible (less than 1000 ha.)

Elementary Education

5193. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN :

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

(a) whether the Government are committed to achieve the constitutional goal of elementary education for all children;

(b) if so, the steps taken for achieving the goal;

(c) the target year by which the goal is likely to be achieved;

(d) whether in fixing the target year, the additional facilities required annually due to increase in population have been taken into account; and

(e) the latest estimates of number of children receiving primary education and the number of children of the relevant age group who are not enrolled in any educational institution?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d). The National Policy on Education 1986 as revised in 1992 states the resolve of the Government to provide free and compulsory education of satisfactory quality to all children upto 14 years of age before we enter the twenty first century. The targets have been fixed taking into account all relevant factors. The details of the step taken are enumerated in the Annual reports of the Ministry.

(e) As per the latest available statistics, the estimated number of children in the age group of 6-14 years is 162.4 millions; 148.1 million children were enrolled in classes I-VIII.

Small Scale Units

5194. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of polluting Small Scale Industrial units closed down in the capital and other States during 1993, 1994 and 1995 so far and categories thereof, State-wise;

(b) the number of units which were allowed to recommence operations after installation of pollution control systems bringing the effluents within admissible limits; and

(c) the special steps taken to revive the operations of small scale units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). As per the information by Delhi Pollution Control Committee, 1 (One), 226 and 26 polluting industrial units were shut down in Delhi under section 31 (A) of Air Act and 33 (A) of Water Act during 1993, 1994 and 1995 respectively. Main category of industries that were shut down were secondary lead processing, pottery, silicate, dyeing, electroplating, steel rolling mill etc. Of those closed, 16 have been allowed reopen consequent upon their installing the appropriate pollution control systems.

In 1994, Punjab State Pollution Control Board had ordered the closure of 18 small scale units of which 2 have been reopened. The units closed included units of dyeing, steel melting, foundry etc.

The Supreme Court has, in separate orders in respect of different writ petitions closed down the industrial units which were not conforming to the prescribed effluent/emission standards. These orders of closure have been passed based on the reports furnished by the different State Pollution Control Boards to the Court. As and when the Industrial units instal the pollution control device and conform to the effluent and

emission standards, the Hon'ble Court suspends the closure orders. These industrial units are located mainly in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. The industries which have not installed necessary treatment facilities are still closed. The Supreme Court is monitoring the status of the affected industrial units. As per the information available, the Hon'ble Supreme Court had, on different dates, ordered the closure of more than 500 industrial units in the Taj Trapezium Zone and in the Ganga basin. In a recent judgement dated 1.5.1995, Supreme Court had ordered the closure of 57 tannery units in Tamil Nadu.

(c) Assistance is provided for setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP) for clusters of Small Scale Industries. Under this scheme, an assistance of 25% or a maximum of Rs. 50.0 lakhs is provided from the Central Government subject to matching contribution of the State Government. The balance is met by IDBI through a loan contribution (soft-loan) and promoters' contribution. Government gives rebate on Custom and Excise duties for the procurement of pollution control equipment. A higher rate of depreciation allowance is given on equipment which are installed for pollution control. Further exemption on capital gains is given to the conforming industrial areas. 25% rebate is also given to the industries for Water Cess for complying with the prescribed standards. Apart from financial assistance given to small scale industrial units a programme of building awareness in the personnel associated with scale industries has been taken up. A project for setting up demonstration units in certain polluting sectors of small scale units has also been initiated.

[Translation]

Rail Engine

5195. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently started the production of rail engine "Chetak" with indigenous technique;

(b) if so, the speed limit of "Chetak" and the number of passenger coaches which it can haul up;

(c) the number of Chetak engines produced in the country annually; and

(d) the estimated cost to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) The first prototype 2300 HP WDP1 locomotive (named "Chetak") has been manufactured with indigenous technology.

(b) The locomotive has been designed for a maximum operating speed of 120 Kmph. However, the

actual speed potential will be determined after the results of oscillation trial are evaluated. The locomotive can haul 17 coaches at 100 Kmph and 11 coaches at 120 Kmph.

(c) There is a programme to manufacture 20 WDP1 locomotives during 1995-96.

(d) The estimated cost of the WDP1 locomotive is around Rs. 1.8 crores each.

Essential Commodities Act, 1955

5196. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

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

(a) whether the Government by making amendment in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 recently have exempted the public and cooperative sectors from their ceilings of storing pulses, oilseeds, and edible oil etc. in the country;

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

(c) the reasons for giving such exemption to public and cooperative institutions;

(d) whether any guidelines have recently been issued to these institutions in regard to their storage capacity;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Government has vide the "Pulses, Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oils (Storage Control) (Amendment) Order, 1995", has exempted corporations/companies owned or controlled by the Central Government or a State Government, Statutory Boards and Central/State level cooperative societies, engaged in the production, procurement, sales, purchase or distribution of pulses, edible oilseeds and edible oils from the stock limits prescribed in the Pulses, Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oils (Storage Control) Order, 1977. For granting this exemption, no amendment to the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 was necessary.

(c) Exemption from the stock limits to these organisations was considered necessary in order to enable them to procure oilseeds from the farmers during the rabi marketing season and to protect the interests of farmers.

(d) to (f). The Amendment Order mentioned above, stipulates that such organisations which have been granted exemption from the stock limits shall furnish information relating to purchase, sale and stock of edible oilseeds/edible oils held by them to the Central Government or, as the case may be, to the State Government.

[English]

Train to Madras from Orissa

5197. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that no express service is available to Madras from any point in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to introduce a fast express train from Puri, Bhubaneswar or any other point of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). Howrah-Madras Mail, Howrah-Madras Coronandal Express, Bokaro-Alleppey Express and Guwahati/Patna/Howrah-Bangalore/Cochin/Trivandrum Expresses pass through Orissa and serve Orissa-Madras passengers. There is no proposal at present to introduce any new train between Orissa and Madras.

[Translation]

Rail Coach Factory

5198. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Rail Coach factory in Maharashtra, particularly in its tribal areas;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The present capacity for manufacturing of coaches in the country is considered adequate to meet the requirements of Indian Railways and as such there is no proposal to set up any other rail coach factory.

Sanskrit and Other Classical Languages

5199. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the main recommendations of high powered committee for the Promotion of Sanskrit and other Classical Languages; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government on the recommendations made by the committee?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) The main recommendation of a committee for the Promotion of Sanskrit and other Classical Languages under Sri T.N. Chaturvedi was that a Rashtriya Commission under an Act of Parliament should be set up for Sanskrit and other Classical Languages.

(b) The proposal has been referred to U.G.C. for their examination. The report from UGC is awaited.

[English]

Green House Gases

5200. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK :

SHRI C. SREENIVASAAN :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the impending dangers due to increase of green house gases in the atmosphere;

(b) whether the Government has carried out any study in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the possible adverse effects of these gases on the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is seized of the problem.

(b) and (c). The India Meteorological Department has carried out studies based on extensive series of data collected from a wide net-work of observatories in the country over a long period. Analysis of long-term rainfall data for the whole country have not shown any systematic decreasing or increasing trend though there are year to year fluctuations. The Government of India has also conducted a preliminary Country Study on Climate Change Issues under a Regional Technical Assistance Programme from Asian Development Bank. The Country Study, interalia, covers aspects such as socio-economic impact of climate change and project options to cope with possible climate change. It focuses on the impacts of climate change on agriculture and coastal zones and also on possible mitigation efforts through strategies in the energy and forestry sectors. There are, however, several uncertainties associated with future predictions of climate change particularly with regard to the timing, magnitude and regional patterns of such changes.

(d) Under the provision of the UN-Framework Convention on Climate Change, to which India is a

party, there is no obligation on India and other developing countries to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions. However, Government of India, has sponsored research projects in academic institutions and national laboratories on monitoring and impact modelling studies in the area of climate change.

Kendriya Vidyalaya

5201. DR. SUDHIR RAY :

SHRI MUHIRAM SAIKIA :

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

(a) whether Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has any policy for teaching yoga; 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). Yes, Sir. Two periods per class per week are provided for yoga education in Kendriya Vidyalayas from Class VI to Class XII.

[Translation]

Soil and Water Testing Laboratories

5202. DR. SAKSHIJI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Soil and Water testing laboratories set up in Uttar Pradesh during the year 1994-95; and

(b) the estimated expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Sir, during the year 1994-95, no soil and water testing laboratories were set up in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Question does not arise.

[English]

National Youth Programme

5203. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had called a meeting of the Committee on National Youth Programme in the month of August, 1994;

(b) if so, the suggestions given by the Government on Youth Programme in the meeting; and

(c) the extent to which these suggestions are likely to be implemented alongwith the details of the concrete programme worked out in this regard?

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

(b) The Committee, being advisory in nature, the Government invited suggestions for consideration by the Committee. However, during the meeting, the following decisions were taken :

(i) Appropriate strategies for tackling problems for different types of youth viz. Urban youth, Rural youth, youth in the Tribal areas need to be developed and the Committee should adopt both analytic and synthetic approach in suggesting appropriate youth programmes.

(ii) Adequate steps should be taken to rekindle among the youths, the Gandhian ideals. Non-Governmental Organisations should also be given assistance to work in the field of youth.

(iii) Every youth programme should have a demonstrative as also a substantive aspect. Local people should be involved in the programmes and in the changed set-up, Panchayats will have to be associated.

(iv) Special strategies need to be adopted to tackle youth problems in North East area.

(v) AIDS being one of the major problems being faced by youth, suitable programmes may be undertaken.

(c) All these suggestions have been taken note of by the Department. The following concrete programmes have been taken :

(i) In its meeting on 13.1.95, the Committee has decided that henceforth each meeting of the Committee will be on a particular subject, so that any particular problem can be analysed in depth and concrete suggestions can be made. Several innovative programmes have been undertaken by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan for the rural youth.

(ii) Non-Governmental Organisations working in such areas are being assisted to the extent possible.

(iii) As far as possible, local administration are associated with programmes.

(iv) Special steps have been taken to increase youth activities in North East area. Apart from a meeting of North East Members of Parliament, a Conference of the Ministers of North East was also convened in Agartala on 24th February, 1995.

(v) Special programmes like "Universities talk AIDS" covering 158 universities had already been launched by the Department. Recently,

a separate programme of AIDS Awareness for North Eastern States has been launched in Agartala by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan in February, 1995.

[Translation]

Railway Projects

5204. SHRI KESRI LAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to start some new projects in collaboration with private sector on the railway land in Bombay and some major other metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the proper utilisation of unused railway land in major cities?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). Railways have proposals for commercial exploitation of space over railway land and tracks in metropolitan towns with active participation of private sector to provide modern facilities for passengers and to raise additional resources. Work would commence after necessary approvals are accorded.

(c) Railway lands in major cities are meant for expansion/development of the system in future. However, the space over railway lands is proposed to be utilized as indicated in (a) and (b) above.

[English]

Integrated Watershed Management Programme

5205. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the projects undertaken in various States under the Integrated Watershed Management programme during Eighth Five Year Plan till date;

(b) the total allocation made for these projects during the Eighth Plan so far, year-wise;

(c) the specific areas in Orissa where the Integrated Watershed Management Programme is being implemented; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b). Statement-I is enclosed.

(c) and (d). Statement-II is enclosed.

STATEMENT-I

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of Project	States Covered	Year-wise	VIII Plan	Allocations	Remarks
			1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRa)	All the 25 States and Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Island and Dadra & Nagar Haveli	115.20	197.85	161.18	188.00
2.	World Bank Assisted Integrated Watershed Development Project (Hills)	Punjab, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, and Himachal Pradesh	22.58	26.20	19.41	17.21
3.	World Bank assisted Integrated Watershed Development Project (Plains)	Rajasthan, Gujarat and Orissa	29.04	30.35	27.84	28.67
4.	Denmark assisted Comprehensive Water-shed Development Projects					
	(i) Tirunelveli	Tamil Nadu	1.80	2.59	4.30	4.72
	(ii) Ramanathapuram	Tamil Nadu	Nil	1.13	0.96	2.26
	(iii) Koraput	Orissa	Nil	Nil	0.81	0.85
	(iv) Karnataka	Karnataka	2.92	2.83	2.85	4.53

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	World Bank assisted Agriculture Development Project Tamil nadu (Watershed Development Component)	Tamil Nadu	3.19	3.75	4.96	8.94
6.	World Bank assisted Bihar Plateau Development Project (Watershed Development Component)	Bihar	Nil	0.34	0.72	0.94
7.	European Commission assisted Watershed Development Projects					
	(i) Doon Valley	Uttar Pradesh	0.03	1.24	3.25	9.61
	(ii) Bhimtal	Uttar Pradesh	1.24	1.95	2.31	1.96
	(iii) South Bhagirathi	Uttar Pradesh	3.52	3.70	3.19	Not finalised
8.	German assisted Watershed Development Projects					
	(i) Maharashtra	Maharashtra			3.25	Funds are being directly provided by NABARD to NGO concerned
	(ii) Karnataka	Karnataka	Nil	Nil	1.11	4.16
9.	Switzerland assisted Watershed Development Project	Karnataka	1.05	1.31	0.85	The Project has closed on 31.3.95
10.	Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects	Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh West Bengal, Damodar Valley Corporation	45.00	57.97	60.00	30.00
11.	Integrated Watershed Management in Catchment of Flood Prone Rivers	Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal	23.00	24.00	30.00	30.00
12.	Drought Prone Area Programme	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal	102.23	153.34	169.73	Not finalised

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	Desert Development Programme	Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and Rajasthan.	49.50	72.25	84.00	Not finalised
14.	Integrated Waste-land Development Projects	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and West Bengal.	15.99	44.48	53.04	Not finalised

STATEMENT-II

S.No.	Name of the Project	Districts/Catchments covered in Orissa
1.	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA)	One micro-watershed in each block of Bolangir, Balasore, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Gunjam, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Phulbani, Puri, Sambalpur, Sundergarh Districts has been taken up.
2.	World Bank Assisted Integrated Watershed Development Project (Plains)	Two Watershed in each of Phulbani and Gunjam districts have been taken up.
3.	Denmark assisted Comprehensive Watershed Development Project	Koraput
4.	Soil Conservation in Catchment of River Valley Projects	Hirakund, Machkund Sileru, Rengali.
5.	Integrated Wasteland Development Project	Kalahandi, Koraput, Bolangir.
6.	Drought Prone Area Programme	Bolangir, Kalahandi, Phulbani, Sambalpur.

Livestock Development Programme

5206. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount granted to Uttar Pradesh for the Centrally sponsored Special Livestock Breeding Programme and the amount spent during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount allotted during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) the amount sanctioned during the Seventh Plan and the amount spent during the above period for implementation of three Centrally sponsored programmes viz. the Poultry, Sheep and Piggery Development in Uttar Pradesh;

(d) whether these programmes are continuing in the State; and

(e) if so, the amount earmarked during the Eighth Plan for the above scheme, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (e) Information has been called for from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Production of Soyabean

5207. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a vast scope for the expansion of soyabean production in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to increase the areas and the production of soyabean and also to create marketing facilities for the sale of soyabean; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There is potential for area expansion under Soyabean Production in Kharif fallows in Madhya Pradesh.

(c) and (d). In order to increase the area, production and productivity of soyabean a Centrally Sponsored Oilseed Production Programme (OPP) is in implementation in the state. Under the Programme, financial assistance is provided for production and distribution of seeds, demonstration, distribution of sprinklers, improved farm implements, gypsum and pyrites etc.

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) procure the produce of soyabean growers on Minimum Support Prices (MSP) announced by the Government from time to time. In addition Oilseed growers federation and Soyabean Processors Association also make purchases of Soyabean.

[English]

Environmental Impact Study on Aquaculture

5208. SHRI SANT KUMAR MANDAL :

SHRI RABI RAY :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to include Aquaculture under the environmental impact study;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether environmental guidelines for setting up prawn/shrimp aquaculture units have been finalised in consultation with the Department of Acquaculture;

(d) if so, the broad features thereof;

(e) whether those guidelines have been circulated to the State Governments for strict compliance, and

(f) if not, the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). Aquaculture is known to have the potential of adversely affecting the water quality, biological diversity and soil characteristics. The Government has taken steps to include aquaculture as a project requiring mandatory environmental clearance. It has been proposed that aquaculture units over 10 ha. would need to be appraised from the environmental angle.

(c) to (f). Steps have been taken to finalise the guidelines spelling out the environmental safeguards to be incorporated in setting up prawn/shrimp aquaculture farms. After finalisation of the guidelines, these would need to be circulated to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for compliance.

[Translation]

Supply of Urea

5209. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding hoarding and black-marketing of urea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The Ministry of Agriculture has not received any complaints regarding hoarding & black-marketing of urea during recent past.

(b) to (e). Question does not arise.

Farmer Service Centres

5210. SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the location-wise details of the farmer service centres functioning in Madhya Pradesh at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up some more such Centres in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the districts in which these Centres are proposed to be set-up; and

(d) the time by which these Centres are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL SOURCES OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Government of Madhya Pradesh have informed that 56 Farmer Service Centres are functioning in the State. Location-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

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

STATEMENT		1	2
S.No.	Location		
1	2		
1.	Gwalior	45.	Narsinghpur
2.	Merena	46.	Balaghat
3.	Guna	47.	Devri Dadar
4.	Datiya	48.	Chhindwada
5.	Bhind	49.	Umra Nala
6.	Shivpur	50.	Sioni
7.	Indore	51.	Khawasa
8.	Khandwa	52.	Mandala
9.	Khargoun	53.	Rewa
10.	Dhar	54.	Shahdol
11.	Jhabua	55.	Satna
12.	Ujjain	56.	Sidhi
13.	Mandsour		
14.	Ratlam		
15.	Dewas		
16.	Shajapur		
17.	Raipur		
18.	Durg		
19.	Rajnandgaon		
20.	Jagdalpur		
21.	Kanker		
22.	Ahmedpur		
23.	Bilaspur		
24.	Ambikapur		
25.	Chainpur		
26.	Raigarh		
27.	Bhopal		
28.	Hoshngabad		
29.	Kesla		
30.	Alampur		
31.	Vidisha		
32.	Rajgarh		
33.	Sehore		
34.	Betul		
35.	Raisen		
36.	Gairatganj		
37.	Babai		
38.	Sagur		
39.	Damoh		
40.	Panna		
41.	Chhatarpur		
42.	Tikamgarh		
43.	Khurai		
44.	Jabalpur		

[English]

Cultivable Land

5211. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the total area of cultivable land in the country;
- (b) the area of irrigated land, semi-irrigated land and the land totally dependant on rain;
- (c) whether the irrigated and semi-irrigated areas has increased during the current plan; and
- (d) the target for the plan period as a whole in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) As per 1991-92, Land Use Statistics (latest available), the total cultivable land in the country is estimated as 184.34 million hectares.

(b) to (d). Out of total new sown area of about 142 million hectares, net irrigated area during 1991-92 (latest available) in the country was estimated as 48.8 million hectares. Net unirrigated area which is totally dependent on rain, during the same year was estimated as about 93.2 million hectares. With the implementation of the irrigation projects as per Target, the irrigated area during the current Plan period is likely to increase by about 13.61 million hectares.

Small Industrial Complexes

5212. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the World Bank has rendered technical and financial aid for pollution control in respect of small industrial complexes in the country;

(b) if so, the broad features of such aid and the total amount of assistance received so far during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the projects in respect of which the World Bank aid has been received during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):
 (a) and (b). Under the World Bank aided Industrial Pollution Control Project, technical and financial assistance is given for setting up Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in clusters of small scale industrial units. The financing pattern for the CETPs consists of 20 per cent promoters' contribution and a grant from the Central Government of 25 per cent or Rs. 50 lakhs, whichever is less, subject to a matching contribution from the State Government. The remaining amount is available as a loan from the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) which channelises the World Bank assistance for this component of the project.

A total of Rs. 108 crores has been provided by the World Bank along with counterpart funds from the Central and State Governments, Individual Units. The entire amount allocated for this project by the IDBI has been committed.

(c) The details of the project in respect of which the World Bank aid has been received consist of the following :

- (i) **Institutional Component** : This is designed to support a programme of strengthening of the State Pollution Control Boards in the States of U.P., Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu.
- (ii) **Investment Component** : This is designed to support projects by individual firms for pollution abatement. Funds are also provided under this component for financing Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs).
- (iii) **Technical Assistance** : This is designed to support projects pertaining to training of personnel and preparation of preinvestment studies for CETPs.

Common Agenda on Environment

5213 SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN :

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

(a) whether India and the United States of America have signed recently a Common Agenda on Environmental issues;

(b) if so, the broad features of the Agenda and the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(c) the aims and framework of the Agenda;

(d) the extent to which it would prove useful to India;

(e) whether U.S.A. has offered any loan/assistance to the Government to run their schemes in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):
 (a) to (d). The Government of India and the Government of USA have recently signed a common Agenda for the Environment for dialogue, exchange of information and cooperation on approaches to meeting both global and domestic environmental challenges. The Agenda seeks to share perspectives and positions on key global environmental issues such as global warming, ozone layer depletion, desertification, biodiversity conservation and hazardous waste, facilitate scientific technological research to address environmental problems of mutual concern, promote exchange of information on environmentally sound technologies, seek increased efficiency in utilisation and mobilisation of funds for meeting environmental challenges and finally support the implementation of India's Environmental Action Programme. The Agenda envisages a continuing process of cooperation between the two countries.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Edible Oils

5214. SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHY :

DR. SAKSHIJI :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

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

(a) whether transferring edible oil imports to OGL and reduction in import duty to 30 per cent has lead to a flood of imported oils;

(b) if so, to what extent this decision has helped in reducing edible oil prices;

(c) to what extent the reduction in duty has helped to check the rise in oil prices;

(d) whether the prices of edible oils have gone high despite tax exemption and other exemptions given by Government of Uttar Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) The import of selected edible oils has been allowed under OGL w.e.f. 1.3.1995. The quantum of imports will be dependent upon edible oil prices in

the country as well as in international markets. With the current levels of prices of edible oils in the country and in major international markets, excessive imports are unlikely.

(b) and (c). During the period 1.3.1995 to 15.4.1995, a stable or marginally declining trend has generally been observed in the price levels of various edible oils.

(d) and (e). Central Government has not received any such report from the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

12.02 hrs.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: If everybody speaks nothing will go on record. First Shri Ray.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, country is incurring loss inspite of new Economic Policy and new Industrial Policy. Heavy Engg. Corporation in Ranchi is the biggest public sector undertaking. There are news items in news papers in Ranchi that H.E.C. is to be sold. Advertisements are appeared in news paper for its sale, take over and merger and whoever wants to purchase it, can purchase this undertaking. I am raising this matter because Government of India is responsible for this. It was set up for industrialisation of the area. This undertaking has gone to such a pathetic condition that its oxygen plant is going to be sold to a private party. Similarly Russian Hospital and H.E.C. Plant Hospital is to be sold to an industrialist owner of Apollo Group which is running a hostel there. Government of India is not taking any action in this regard. I want that Government of India should make its stand clear in the House because Industrial Development Bank of India is going all this on the orders of B.I.F.R. Public sector Enterprises are heritage of the country, and we are proud of this. We used to call them temples of the country. But now these undertakings are being sold out. We want discussion in this House why these public undertakings are being sold one by one. HEC is one of such instance. I would like from the Government to tell us the truth.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : You have agreed to allow a discussion on this.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, this is a matter of very serious importance. We have been raising it from time to time. Very Very important public sector organisations, which have laid the foundation stone of our industrialisation and which have been described by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru as the modern temples and religious places, are being sent to the BIFR. The Government is not responding to BIFR's proposal. The operating agencies are not submitting reports in time. Only yesterday I have been told that the National Jute Manufacturers Corporation (NJMC) - where over 30,000 workers are engaged in six different

jute mills and only Rs. 343 crore is to be spent over three years - is becoming sick, remaining sick and is likely to be sent for winding up. This has a tremendous importance. The Government must make up its mind in this regard.

We have been asking for unit-by unit survey. I am happy to tell you that out of the list of 43 sick units, which the Government prepared soon after it came to Office, already four have been declared viable. They have been removed from the list because some individual attention was paid to them. They are, Bengal Chemicals, Biecco Lawrie, Bengal Immunity and Smith Stani Street. These are units which should be our flagships. They are our flagships and, therefore, the Government should seriously look into them unit-by-unit. We are very confident that most of them can be saved if they are looked into properly.

Thousands and thousands of workers are today under great mental agony. Their jobs are insecure. These big units can be protected. The new Economic Policy should not mean annihilation or closure of these units. The sick units which have become sick because of mismanagement should be revived and can be revived. We have been demanding for a discussion on this and you were kind enough to say that this is a matter on which a discussion should be held.

MR. SPEAKER : Let a proper notice be given.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We have already given the notice. I urge upon you to kindly fix a date for the discussion as it is a very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER : We will decide about that in the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : Sir, I have already given a notice and it was accepted also.

MR. SPEAKER : Date for No-day-yet-named-motion is decided in the BAC meeting. We will decide about it.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central) : I want to draw the attention of this House and of the Government to the fact that several textile workers from all over India, particularly from Bombay, have come to Delhi in a *marcha* and are sitting on a *dharna* at Janter Manter Road. They are protesting against the Government's delaying policy and inaction as far as the textile mills, and particularly the NTC mills are concerned.

From time to time the Minister of Textile has been telling us that the Textile Research Organisation has prepared a modernisation plan for 79 NTC mills at an investment of Rs. 2005 crore. According to him this modernisation would take place immediately. He was also to bring a Bill. For the last three Sessions he has been assuring this House and to me also that the Bill is ready for nationalisation of these mills at Bombay which would ultimately result into their modernisation and in turn making them viable.

Nothing has been done so far. Everything is being delayed from time to time and the protection is taken under the plea that some of these matters are pending with the BIFR. There also further complication is being made and this matter is being delayed for an indefinite period. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take some immediate step in this regard to solve this problem. The proposed modernisation plan, which was agreed upon in the Tripartite Conference, should be immediately implemented by the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question which I am raising... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Does it relate to this?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : My question is different.

MR. SPEAKER : Then I shall allow you later on.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Bombay South Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, raw material and money for working capital are not being provided to the mills in Bombay and for that I was on hunger strike with the workers of these mills. The matter was discussed in this House when I raised the issue in this August House and the hon. Minister promised that he would bring a Bill for modernisation but the bill is not yet introduced. Outstanding wages have not been paid to the workers of these mills. N.T.C. mills were taken over 15 years ago but these mills have not been nationalised and now these mills will have to be handed over to Mill owners. This is a very serious matter which I want to bring to your notice and I demand that raw material and working capital should be provided to these mills as early as possible.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Supreme Court had given a decision to this effect that 1654 workers of Kohinoor Mills be reinstated and their outstanding should be paid to them but the verdict of Supreme Court, which was given on 28 February, is not being honoured. I, therefore, demand that they should be reinstated and their outstanding wages should be paid to them.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support whatever Shri Rawale has said and urge the Government to bring an effective action programme in the House before the end of this session.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Petroleum had submitted a detailed statement in this House on 4th May about the question which I am raising now. But there is no response to that. Recently I went to U.P. on three days tour. But our programme could not be materialised as we were gheraoed at every petrol pump we came across. We could not sleep for two nights. A crowd of 5 thousand people gheraoed us at Mujaria Chowk. Diesel is being sold there @ Rs. 15-20 per litre. This is harvest season and crop is lying in the fields. People need 5 to 10 litre diesel. About five thousand people are waiting at petrol pumps for the

last three days without any food or water. At one place on 6th of May I was gheraoed for the whole night. In the morning at 6 O'Clock when I issued receipt at the police station, thereafter I could anyhow manage to come out from there. I had to cancel all my programmes. Action should have been taken on the Statement of the Minister which was given in this House. Diesel should be provided in U.P., Haryana, Delhi, H.P. and Rajasthan during the harvest season. If it rains the farmer will be ruined. Therefore the Government should call the Chief Minister and senior officers of these states here for solving this problem.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, at one petrol I saw that diesel was being sold @ Rs. 20.00 per litre and a police personnel was sitting there whereas there was plenty diesel in the drums. Had there been proper administration diesel would have been made available to every needy person.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a cognizable offence.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I had to intervene and stopped that black marketing... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISRA (Bilhaur) : Such position is not in U.P. only. This black marketing is going on every where. All this is happening in the name of 'Hallabole' in U.P... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : The situation is worst in U.P. There is no shortage of oil or diesel but the administration has got no control over the situation. The available oil or diesel should be given to the farmers on first priority. Unless police and local administration is involved in this job it is not possible to control the situation. Everywhere farmers are standing in the queue and some are going unconscious while the owner of the petrol pump has run away after locking the pump. About five thousand people are standing in queue at every petrol pump. There are 2-3 kilometre long queues in four districts which I came across. At Mujaria Chowk people laid down before my car and I had to distribute petrol during the whole night sitting on cot. This is the position throughout India. If it rains entire crop of the farmer will be destroyed. Hon. Agriculture Minister is sitting here and he knows the plight of the farmer who requires diesel on priority basis. I want that the Government should take action in this regard and make such arrangements so that diesel may be made available easily. The Government should start the work of distribution justifiably and involvement of police and administration in distribution of diesel to the people in disciplined manner is essential... (Interruptions) That is what I am saying.

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI (Nainital) : All traffic has come to stand still in our hilly areas and a situation of starvation has arisen there. Goods cannot be transported there by goodstrains in the hill areas. Truck transport is the only means for transportation there. But transport has come to stand still because of shortage of diesel... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : See whatever you want to say, he is saying the same so you please, sit down.

(Interruptions)

DR. P.R. GANGWAR (Pilibhit) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, ..(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is not going on record.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You should say such things so that this problem can be solved. What are you talking about.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : In the end I urge the Government through you that the Government should take effective steps in this matter and whatever diesel we have... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Will you sit or not?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I want whatever diesel we have now it should be distributed among the needy persons. Is there any action plan chalked out by Government to ensure proper distribution. I know that Government has constituted a team but that is ineffective. I want to know what the Government is doing.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJAPAYEE (Lucknow) : This matter has been raised earlier also and in reply to that the Petroleum Minister gave a statement but the situation is not improved. There is heavy crowd on petrol pumps. Petrol and diesel is highly inflammable, it catches fire. Shri Sharad ji was saying that the plight of farmer is very precarious which can be turned up in explosion. Though the Government will give another statement yet the position will remain the same. If the Government is facing any difficulty in supplying petrol and diesel it should take the House in confidence. Is the Government unable to manage the situation and can not supply diesel to farmer in time? The outcome of such situation will be grave.

Mr. Speaker, may I say to you that we raise a matter here and there is no solution thereto... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This may happen in such a situation. I will see.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJAPAYEE : Please, ask Minister of Petroleum in the House at once... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : See Vajpayee ji has said it and all of you have also said the same thing. There is no use of repeating it again and again.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIVR SINGH (Aonia) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I gave notice yesterday also... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, please have patience.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say..*

MR. SPEAKER : Dau Dayal Joshi ji it is not going on record. Joshi ji you spoil the matter while raising useless points.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a statement of Petroleum Secretary in yesterday's newspapers in which he has said that there is no shortage of diesel here... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please see, some one has said it and the other one has said that. Thus there is no need to poke one's nose into another's affairs. It will not serve any purpose. I would ask the Government that everybody has given importance to this matter and there is great demand of diesel and petrol for farmers and other people. I, therefore urge the Government to look into this matter. If any body is doing black marketing action must be taken against him and if police is not helping in this matter, it should be taken up with State Government, and if there is no stock... (Interruptions)

SHRI ASHTBUJHA PRASAD SHUKLA : No... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : O.K., now you yourself may please tell us.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You just want to mock at the things. You do not want to solve the problem. You have a pleasure in saying such things.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You, please sit down. This is all useless.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is useless. Just check the stock there and try to replenish the stock and hold a meeting of the authorities, Ministers and other concerned men and inform me within two days about the action taken thereon.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please just see. You are 545 and I am alone. I can't speak to all of you at a time. Ponder

* Not Recorded.

over it. Every one interrupts in between and therafter laughs sitting behind. Laugh while there are moments of laughter but do not laugh every now and then.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the House towards a very heinous incident. Incidents of grave murders have taken place in Eastern districts of U.P. which are connected with the border areas of Bihar during the last fortnight.

One such incident has taken place recently in which seven persons were killed. They were shot dead. Among them three people were police men, one soldier of army and three villagers. They were killed mercilessly. The most brutal aspect of this incident was that the hands of policemen were tied up at their backside and they were fired at. The soldier was at his home on leave from the army. He was also shot dead and three villagers were also shot dead. It has caused grave resentment and terror in the eastern districts.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this incident took place in the night of 6th of this month. After that incidence people of the nearby areas gathered there, police officers also went there. People informed the police authorities that this incidence had taken place with the connivance of...

M.L.A. of the area who is now Rural Development Minister in U.P. Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The name will not go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a.F.I.R. was filed only after the villagers insisted the police authorities. People say that S.H.O. of Dhina Police Station is a hench man of local M.L.A. or Minister. People are being terrorised because of him. He is also named in F.I.R.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say that in this incident which took place in Chandauli no action has so far been taken against anyone inspite of filing F.I.R. the same notorious Minister who had organised bicycle procession recently.

MR. SPEAKER : All such details are not required. If I have allowed you to speak use it properly. Speak in brief.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Rural Development Minister of U.P. started his bicycle procession by firing shots from his unlicensed fire-arm which is unlawful. But no action has been taken against him so far.

He started his bicycle procession on 2nd May and fired 28 rounds. I have his photograph of firing the shots. Various such incidents have taken place in

eastern U.P. 5 persons were shot dead on the polling day in Suriyama Block Development Panchayat elections in my Parliamentary Constituency. But the magistrate after taking bribe declared them elected and issued certificates in their favour. When these people went to register their complaint they were lathi charged and hundred of persons were injured. 5 men who were Dalits, were shot dead by the police. Many people are apprehending that all was done at the behest of the Minister of U.P.

MR. SPEAKER : You please stop it.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from you that as this incidence has occurred on the border of Bihar and U.P. states, which of the State Government will investigate this incidence? I would like the Central Government should intervene in this and get the incidence investigated by the C.B.I. There is no security of the people there; if they are living in terror and I should urge the Central Government to intervene in the matter and ask the Government of Uttar Pradesh to clarify and explain.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude it.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Mr. Speaker, you have given me an opportunity to speak, for this I am grateful to you. The incidence which occurred in Varanasi is very unfortunate. This news has been appeared in leading Hindi papers "Aaj" and "Dainik Jagaran".

MR. SPEAKER : You please do not mention it because it has been appeared in newspapers.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : I am speaking about the gravity of the incidence.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not required. I would keep the gravity of your words in my mind.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : This incidence is so serious that the people of 30 districts have became terror stricken. There were 3 police men, one Subedar of Army and 3 villagers among those 7 persons who were shot dead. The matter does not finish there. Two days earlier villagers were felicitating newly elected Panchayat Member Shri Ram Daras Yadav at 9.00 A.M. One person came there and shot him dead with his gun. Thus 23 persons have been killed so far in this manner.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a case of murder has been filed against a BJP Minister in U.P. Government, and Police Inspector and 5 other persons but they are roaming freely. No one has been arrested so far. How strange it is that case has been filed against a Minister. Whole House knows it what will it reflect in public. Besides this a procession was going on in Banaras. some anti social elements from the procession looted a wine shop. They broke hundreds of wine bottles and started drinking on

* Not Recorded.

the road. After drinking wine they started looting the people in the city...*(Interruptions)* A shop of an M.L.A. was looted. They looted 39 thousand rupees from one shop and 35 thousand rupees from another place. People of the whole city became terror stricken...*(Interruptions)** They were shouting communal slogans and communal riots were flaring up there in all the 30 districts of eastern U.P. 4 persons were shot dead in Suriyama. Sir, I urge through you that security arrangements may be made there. Special C.R.P. should be deployed there.

I would request the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, who is sitting here to make statement so that people may feel themselves secure there...*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister please give a statement on it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you might have listened, this is not a party affair.

MR. SPEAKER : No. Mr. Vajpayee, you also know, that I can not do so.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Incidents of large scale killings have taken place on the borders of Bihar. Whether naxalities or other criminal groups are active there or any political leader is involved in such killings. Who will reply to these questions?

MR. SPEAKER : The criminal procedure Code provides the procedure to deal with incidents of such crimes which are taking place on the border of two states.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Secondly, if we take up such matters here, there will be no end of such matters and it will become a one sided affair..

(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Even then I want that the Home Ministry should collect the facts and put before the House. *(Interruptions)* The incident of loot about which Shastri ji was talking about yesterday. A shop of BJP M.L.A. was looted...*(Interruptions)* It is necessary to bring the same to the notice of the House as to whether naxalite activities are infiltrating in U.P. or it was a nexus between a politician and naxalities. At least the Central Government should provide this information...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera) : This matter does not concern Bihar. This is the law and order problem of Uttar Pradesh...*(Interruptions)* Bihar is being dragged in this incident without any reason.

MR. SPEAKER : No body has said about Bihar. Why are you naming it without any reason?

(Interruptions)

* Not Recorded.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Please give some directions to the Parliamentary Affairs Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : If you will cross the limits, I will not say any thing. Thereafter do not tell that the Speaker dose not listen anything. Therefore do not say any thing and keep quiet.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the unlawfull and illigal activities committed on large scale, during the Panchayat elections through out U.P. were very grave and as a result thereof the tension is prevailing there you should take a note of it and some way out must be found. The Parliament and the Central Government cannot be mute spectators. Tension is prevailing there. The Home Minister should come with factual position and make a statement in the House. It will help in pacifying the situation.

[English]

SHRI R. ANBARASU (Madras Central) : I have already given a notice for breach of privilege against my dear colleague and former Union Minister, Shri Kumaramangalam.

MR. SPEAKER : You have given me a notice but I have not allowed you to raise it. I will hear what he has to say first and then decide. You have given me a notice. It is with me. I want to hear what he has to say and then I will allow or disallow your notice. Please, it is not at this time.

SHRI R. ANBARASU : So, has my notice been admitted?

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : What transpired between your honour and the hon. Member, I could not understand.

MR. SPEAKER : That matter is not before the House at present therefore you need not to understand.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : If Shri Kumaramangalam is involved anywhere in between then the House would like to know.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar) : And advance notice of a Cut Motion has been appeared in a news paper. It is, however, objectionable. If anybody objects about it, and give a notice to the new-paper, that is also objectionable as well.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. I am not allowing this to raise in the House.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : I know that.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (Sasaram) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, National Youth Policy has not been yet formulated in the country even after 48-50 years of independence. The youth of the country is frustrated, they are on the

path of agitation. Student organisations of National Front and Left Front have given notice to the Government that that if a National Youth Policy is not formulated by 31st October they will resort to agitation through out the country. Government of Janata Dal and National Front combine had declared at that time that Education and Employment would be brought under the fundamental rights of the citizen but that has been put in the cold storage.

I would request you, as you are our patron to direct the Government that a National Youth Policy be formulated before 31st October. Otherwise there would be a countrywide agitation.

MR. SPEAKER : What is there in agitation. If you want any policy, please bring forward here. I will ask them to give their comments on it. An agitation can not make a policy. The matter must be discussed here.

SHRI CHEEDI PASWAN : It is a long standing demand...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

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) : Sir, there is some misunderstanding about this question, whether we have a National Youth Policy or not.

[Translation]

The hon. Member has said that there was no National Youth Policy. But I would like to say that there is a National Youth Policy and my department is working under that policy.

MR. SPEAKER : Please send a copy thereof to him.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : I will send a copy to him. But I would like to say here that National Youth Policy was formulated in 1988. The National Front and Left Front Government started the process to bring changes therein. Now we have again started the same policy. I would also like to inform you that National Youth Policy has broad objectives.

[English]

But to have a detailed action plan, we have decided that there should be a National Perspective Plan for the youth of the country which will be dealing with youth programmes for a period from 1996 to 2025. For that we are preparing whatever is needed.

MR. SPEAKER : Take their assistance also.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not want to intervene, but since Shri Wasnik has said I would like to put one or two points. There is difference between National Youth Policy and Government's Youth Policy. You are saying about Government's Youth Policy not about National Youth Policy.

MR. SPEAKER : Who will frame National Youth Policy?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Government will frame National Youth Policy. But there must be the involvement of the Youth therein. Here the Youth have no involvement and no role in this context. I would like to know from Shri Wasnik the involvement, the contribution of the Youth in the Policy they have formulated since 1988. Whether the Youth have any right to take any decision?

MR. SPEAKER : There is no need to give details. Please send a copy to him.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, I would like to urge the Government through you, that since you referred National Front Government, at that time we wanted to make it a National Youth Policy in true sense.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is a matter of detail.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : There should be a council of the National Youths students and young persons. Government should have discussion with them and decide a policy. There is no such programme. So, please prepare such programme and decide a Youth Policy.

[English]

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : There are two things. One is the National Youth Policy and the other is the National Committee on Youth Programmes. The hon. Member is confusing between the two.

Previously when their Government was there, they had constituted a National Youth Council where there were 250 people. We decided that such a large body may not be able to function properly and therefore we have reduced the number to approximately 50. Nevertheless, there are representatives of various political parties, students and youth wings on that Committee and therefore the suggestion has already been taken care of.

[Translation]

SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring one thing to the notice of the hon. Minister in respect of National Youth Policy. Youth Policy was prepared in 1988. This policy has to be developed in the context of the policy of liberalisation which is in practice since 1988. There should be involvement of everyone in its development. I am saying this in support of the views of Shri Chhedi Paswan. There was a reference of Youth Councils. It was constituted during the Government of National Front. It was envisaged that youth councils would be formed on the basis of elections and constitutional powers would be given to these council on the basis of which youth Policy will be developed and implemented. But the Congress Government has changed this perception and

youth programme committee was formed instead of youth council. I am one of the members of this Committee, but not a single meeting was held during these four years. Only one meeting was held about which I was informed next day of the meeting. Youth Policy can be changed in future also. I would like that the Government should take it seriously. It is necessary in the present context that a broad youth policy should be prepared and Youth Council can be formed instead of Youth Committee.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that there is a philosophy first, then policy, then plan and then the project. They have a policy. Probably they may be having a philosophy also. Now, they are going to have a perspective Plan which will be in vogue for about 30-35 years and then they will have the project. Now, this Council relates to some project.

[Translation]

Please have a talk to implement the project. You have raised a good question. Such questions should be discussed here.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will request the Minister to call you and discuss with you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member was complaining that you have not called him for discussion during the last four years' time.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : In the last four years I was not in this Department.

MR. SPEAKER : The Government is a continuous process.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : I submit that the National Committee on Youth Programmes was constituted early last year. The hon. Prime Minister is the Chairman of the Committee and a meeting was held in August last year. After that, another meeting was also held in January this year in Bhopal. Therefore, it is not appropriate to say that the Committee did not meet. But, nevertheless, we will try to have the meetings as frequently as possible as the Member has suggested, so that we can consider their suggestions.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, this is a very good point that they have raised. I think we all should respect their feelings.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : We will go by their suggestions.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are three big dams constructed in my parliamentary constituency. Out of them the biggest one is Bhakra Dam,

which was constructed in the fifth decade. The problem of persons displaced at that time has not yet been solved. Pong Dam was constructed in fifties. 16 thousand families were displaced as a result thereof. The Government has not cared for their rehabilitation. Now a new dam, Ranjit Dam is being constructed. 468 families are being affected by this dam. Other states like Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab are also linked with this dam. Central Government should have talks with these State Governments because these State Governments have said that they are not concerned. They are absolving themselves from the responsibility of rehabilitating these displaced families. Himachal Pradesh's land has been taken for this dam but irrigation facilities have been given to other states. We cannot irrigate our land with its water. The land, roads and bridges of Himachal Pradesh have gone in this dam. No alternative provision has been made for them.

MR. SPEAKER : We are talking about taking water from Nepal and also negotiating for taking water from one other state.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : I am not talking of taking water from others. I am saying that people of my State have been displaced but the whole country has been benefited. Is it not the responsibility of the country to rehabilitate the families displaced because of these dams?

MR. SPEAKER : This is the responsibility of the State Government.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : Whatever I am demanding...

MR. SPEAKER : This is the job of the State Government. Sanction for small dams, medium dams and big dams is given by the Central Government but these schemes are executed by the State Government. Rehabilitation of the displaced persons is also the responsibility of the State Government.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the work has been done by the Central Government.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the matter of discussion here. First, you should understand this.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have the great privilege to belong to the most important elected body of this country, and I imagine that we should not do anything or say anything which might create tension and misunderstanding among the people of this country. But yesterday certain things have been said here which have created a lot of confusion and also tension. I believe, it is recognised everywhere that West Bengal is a State where generally complete communal harmony is there and peace has been prevailing. But it has been said yesterday on the floor of the House, obviously to create tension, that the whole of West Bengal has been turned into a slaughter house and that.

[Translation]

District administration, police and the people of the villages of West Bengal will start temporary butcher houses, where sacrifice will be allowed.

[English]

I submit, this has been the most irresponsible statement which has been made on the floor of the House, which is intended to create tension among the different communities in this country, when we have so many problems in this country to solve. The position is very clear. West Bengal has an Animal Slaughter Control Act of 1950. Long before the Left Front Government came into force, that Act has been prevailing there. It permitted that for religious, medicinal or research purposes, exemption can be given from the operation of the Act. What has been done for years together is that during Bakar Id because it was treated to be a religious function - generally exemption was granted only for one day. That was done under section 12 of the Act. This applies only to scheduled animals - bulls, bullocks cows, calves, male and female buffaloes, buffalo - calves and castrated buffaloes. With regard to these, an exemption used to be given and there has been no problem so far. But litigation has been taken up. It came up to the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court, in November, 1994, has said that grant of such general exemption was illegal and it should not be permitted. Can any State Government in this country, or anybody in this country, defy or disobey the Supreme Court's order? Therefore, the Government said : "We are sorry, we cannot do it. We are issuing public advertisements because people are there to create misunderstanding." There are demands also from some of the Congress party functionaries there to change the law or to make amendment to the law. They are saying that Mr. Jyoti Basu has not fought the matter properly in the Supreme Court. All sorts of allegations are being made. But we had to obey this order of the Supreme Court. The State Government has appealed to the people by public advertisements that this is the Supreme Court Order and we have to carry it out. We are appealing to them not to commit any breach of peace, to have a proper understanding, to observe their religious functions properly and not allow any misunderstanding to prevail. Now, Sir, what is the position in the law? I want to tell - because lot of people have been contacting me - what is happening in West Bengal and why such things are being said.

There is a very strict provision in the Act that if the President of the municipality or the panchayat as well as the veterinary surgeon jointly decide that some animal is sick, then only and for a very very special purpose and with the permission of these authorities and at a recognised slaughter house that it can be slaughtered. That has nothing to do with Bakrid or any other thing.

That is a provision under Section 4 and 5 of the Act. Any other animal, not mentioned in the schedule, which are not mentioned like goats and sheep, can be slaughtered and sacrificed anywhere.

Sir, what is happening? The only thing that has been done is different. There cannot be cow slaughter. We have not been giving permission and we cannot give it. We have a meatless day every week. That day is Thursday now. This year 11th of May falls on a Thursday. On that day even those animals cannot be slaughtered. Therefore the Government of West Bengal had decided that for that week only, that is only for this week, the meatless day will be on a separate day and not on Thursday. No other thing has happened.

A meeting has been held by the Chief Minister. I think it is the Chief Minister's duty to hold a meeting. When I was there the Khilafat Committee had made a request to the Chief Minister saying that they wanted to meet him because a lot of confusion has been created and they wanted to hear from the Chief Minister as to what was the real position. As a matter of fact, because some people had contacted me, I spoke to the hon. Chief Minister requesting to fix a time quickly so that he can hold the meeting. He did that.

That is being held as if a conspiracy has been hatched up with the minority community over a two-hour meeting and that street corner meetings have been held that 'gali gali mein butcher house' will be started and as if something has been done to convert the whole State into something and to defy the Supreme Court order in a way. In this way, a deliberate attempt has been made to create divisions amongst the people of different communities of this country.

I repudiate this. I hope this House will not be used for these narrow political, partisan purposes. This is a disgusting attitude. I am sorry to use strong words. Nothing can be other than this. This is the only objective. We have got so many problems. The other day also I appealed in the House that let this House be not polluted, not at least on the floor of the House. If we have to fight for our narrow political gains, let us fight them elsewhere. Let the prestige and dignity of this House be maintained. Can anything and everything based on unconfirmed newspaper reports be brought here which will have an effect when already tension is being created? People are trying to find out as to what is happening in Parliament, what has been said and what has been done by us. It is an irresponsible thing to say that every street corner of West Bengal has become a slaughter house.

Therefore, I wanted to make this clear. I am obliged to you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I have got the statement of Government of West Bengal and I can place it on the table of the House... (Interruptions)

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN (Amroha) : There was discussion for three-and-a-half hours. What is it

that Shri Somnath Chatterjee has been talking about? There was a discussion for three-and-a-half hours. Was it only on the basis of newspaper report?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, even a demand for action under article 356 of the Constitution has been made on the floor of this House. This is the sense of responsibility shown...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN : I am talking very responsibly...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want that...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chauhan, you did not raise the issue. Shri Mishra, you did not raise the issue. He who has raised it may be having some information. If he gets up and gives a reply I will allow him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lodhaji, the only question which Parliament should answer is how we should conduct ourselves in such delicate matters.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am constrained to say that before making an allegation of irresponsible statement, the hon. Member should have himself realised, as he himself has accepted, that in West Bengal, on this issue a lot of tension has been created and after the Supreme Court judgment...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : You are doing it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Please listen. We have not interrupted you. You must listen. We have not interrupted you...*(Interruptions)* If you do not have the patience to listen I cannot help it.

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN : Kindly listen to Shri Lodha. Why are you not listening to him?

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, the cat has come out of the bag. ...*(Interruptions)* The cat has now come out of the bag. He has admitted that on 11th they are going to lift the ban. So slaughter is there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is not for scheduled animals. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Please listen. You must have patience. If you do not have patience, you must not make wild allegations. After all what is being done in West Bengal?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Your leader has properly put it up. Do not confuse everything. It is not necessary.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down now. I did not allow others to do it. Otherwise, you go on talking to each other like this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, he is talking of communal tension. I would like to tell him that the Supreme Court has said that Babar, Humayun, Akbar and Bahadur Shah Zafar, they themselves, had prohibited cow slaughter, not only once, but there is a firman of Bahadur Shah Zafar which is written in a book.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, let him begin by defining as to what is "irresponsible". First let him say that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Lodhaji, I do not think that it is necessary to go into greater details in these matters. It is not necessary to refer to historical facts and produce a sort of dissertation before this House. Let us please understand that it is in the interest of all of us and the country not to take advantage of this situation in order to create some sort of misunderstanding in the minds of the people. It is in everybody's interest, in your interest, in your party's interest, in the interest of other parties, the Parliament and the nation. I would request you not to continue with that. Let us stop it here.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, I want to quote from this book.

MR. SPEAKER : What is that you want to do? I do not want to hear a dissertation.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, the hon. Member has made a wild allegation. I want to contradict him.

MR. SPEAKER : If you want to contradict and rebut what he has said, I will allow you. But I am not going to allow a dissertation.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, when he was speaking, did not interrupt him.

MR. SPEAKER : That is right. I called you myself, to be fair with you.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : I am thankful to you.

MR. SPEAKER : Then, be on this point only.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : I am on this point that he has made an allegation.

MR. SPEAKER : He has alleged nothing.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, he has made an allegation that by the process of political gains. This allegation has been made by him and I strongly refute that. *(Interruptions)* Yesterday also, I said that the Supreme Court, in its judgement, has said that right from the time of Mughal Emperors, from Babar, from

Akbar...*(Interruptions)* What is there, Sir? What is wrong with it, if I read something from the Supreme Court judgement? Am I prohibited not to read the Supreme Court judgement?

Sir, I am only saying what the Supreme Court has said. What I am saying is that in this book, it is written that Bahadur Shah Zafar proclaimed death sentence for cow slaughterers. The West Bengal Government came in appeal to the Supreme Court against the judgement of the Calcutta High Court. This judgement was given 10 years back and under Section 12 of the Act, Mohammad Shah himself had said that cow slaughtering is not a religious purpose. This is what the Calcutta High Court had said. The West Bengal Government of the Communist Party had come in appeal to the Supreme Court against this judgement and they asserted in the Supreme Court that it is a religious rite and that this judgement is against 80 crore people of India. It was asserted by them time and again. It is there on record. I can read it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Lodhaji, I will go through the record.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Sir, can he not read the Supreme Court judgement?

MR. SPEAKER : I am not arguing with you. I am talking to him. I do not want to talk to each one of you.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, this is the judgement of the Supreme Court. I am saying that in the Supreme Court, the West Bengal Government of the Communist Party came in appeal against the Calcutta High Court judgement...*(Interruptions)*

13.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Lodhaji, please take your seat. Many Members in the House have a feeling that what you are saying is really not going to be helpful to the country. You please respect their feelings.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, I was only pointing out, that the judgement of the Supreme Court says so.

MR. SPEAKER : They are not arguing it, please.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : They have challenged it for 10 long years. They continued to have this *Qurbani*. Is this your philosophy? You say that cow slaughter must not be allowed. You did not say this earlier. Why do you say it is not there? When the High Court gave a judgement, you should have accepted it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, it is over please.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : I contradict the allegations which have been made by Mr. Chatterjee. I submit that after the matter has been taken up now in this House and yesterday they made the commitment,

I would even now expect that they would implement the Supreme Court judgement, both in letter and spirit. Whatever I have said, I have said what had happened in Shri Jyoti Basu's meeting in the Writers' Building. There is nothing wrong in it and he also knows it. That is why, he said today that in Writers' Building, there was two hours conference for this purpose. I would, therefore, say that the Supreme Court judgement must be respected and if they respect it even now, I would thank them for this.

13.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India - Union Government (No. 4 of 1994) — (Commercial)

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) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Ajit Singh, I beg to lay on the Table : a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 4 of 1994) — (Commercial) — Central Warehousing Corporation, under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in library. See No. LT 7527/95]

Notification under Standards of Weight and Measures Act, 1976

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) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Buta Singh, I beg to lay on the Table : a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976 :

- (1) G.S.R. 303 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 1995 making certain amendments in the Notification No. G.S.R. 863 (E), dated the 14th December, 1994.
- (2) G.S.R. 304 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 1995 making certain amendments in the Notification No. G.S.R. 696 (E), dated the 20th September, 1994.
- (3) G.S.R. 305 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 1995 making certain amendments in the Notification No. G.S.R. 314 (E), dated the 12th March, 1994.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7528/95]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Kamal Nath, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Forest management, Bhopal, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, for the year 1993-94.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7529/95]

Annual Report and Review on the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal for 1993-94 and Statement Showing reasons for delay in these papers

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government Work (No. 2 of 1995) for the year ended 31st March 1974 (Civil) etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151(1) of the Constitution:
 - (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 2 of 1995) for the year ended the 31st March, 1994 (Civil).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7530/95]

- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 10 of 1995) for the year ended the 31st March, 1995 (Railway).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7531/95]

- (iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 8 of 1995) for the year ended the 31st March, 1994-Defence Services (Army and Ordnance Factories).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7532/95]

- (iv) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 9 of 1995) for the year ended the 31st March, 1994-Defence Services-Air Force and Navy).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7533/95]

- (v) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 11 of 1995) for the year ended the 31st March, 1994 (Other Autonomous Bodies).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7934/95]

- (2) A copy of the Appropriation Accounts, Indian Railways, for the year 1993-94, Part-I-Review (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7935/95]

- (3) A copy of the Appropriation Accounts, Indian Railways, for the year 1993-94, Part-II-Detailed Appropriation Accounts (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7936/95]

- (4) A copy of Block Accounts (including Capital Statements comprising the Loan Accounts), Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss Accounts of the Indian Government, Railways, for the year 1993-94 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7937/95]

- (5) A copy of the Appropriation Accounts, (Union Government) of the Defence Services for the year 1993-94 (Hindi and English versions)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7938/95]

Annual Report and Review of the Working of Maharashtra Agro-Industries Development Corporation Ltd; Bombay for 1993-94 and Statement Showing reasons for delay in laying these papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : Sir, on behalf of Shri S. Krishna Kumar, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the companies Act, 1956 :

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Maharashtra Agro-Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bombay, for the year 1993-94.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Maharashtra Agro-Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bombay, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7539/95]

Annual Report and Review on the Working of Regional Engineering College, Warangal for 1993-94 and Statement Showing reasons delay in laying these papers etc.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Engineering College, Warangal, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Engineering College, Warangal, for the year 1993-94.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7540/95]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Engineering College, Hamirpur, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Engineering College, Hamirpur, for the year 1993-94.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7541/95]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Engineering College, Durgapur, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Engineering College, Durgapur, for the year 1993-94.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7542/95]

- (7) (i) A copy the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, for the year 1992-93.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, for the year 1992-93.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7543/95]

- (9) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, for the year 1992-93, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7544/95]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Assam University, Silchar, for the year 1993-94.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Assam University, Silchar, for the year 1993-94.

- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7545/95]

- (13) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Assam University, Silchar, for the year 1993-94, together with Audit report thereon.

- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7546/95]

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tezpur University, Tezpur, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tezpur University, Tezpur for the year, 1993-94.

- (16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7547/95]

- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, for the year 1993-94.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, for the year, 1993-94.

(18) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7548/95]

(19) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for the year 1993-94, together with Audit Report thereon.

(20) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (19) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7549/95]

(21) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Banaras Hindu University (Volumes I and II) for the year 1993-94, together with Audit Report thereon.

(22) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (21) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7550/95]

(23) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, for the year, 1993-94.

(24) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (23) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7551/95]

(25) (i) The Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, for the year, 1993-94.

(26) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (25) above

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7552/95]

(27) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, for the year 1993-94.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, for the year, 1993-94.

(28) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (27) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7553/95]

(29) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, for the year 1993-94.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, for the year, 1993-94

(30) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (29) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7554/95]

(31) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 23 of the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 :

(i) Annual Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, for the year 1993-94, together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7555/95]

(ii) Annual Accounts of Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, for the year 1993-94, together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT No. 7556/95]

13.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

Twenty-eighth Report

[English]

SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat) : Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

13.03½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

Nineteenth Report

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, I beg to present the Nineteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

13.03½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS

Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth
Reports and Minutes

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Communications and the Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee relating thereto :

- (1) Fifteenth Report on Demands for Grants (1995-96) of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Post).
- (2) Sixteenth Report on Demands for Grants (1995-96) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- (3) Seventeenth Report on Demands for Grants (1995-96) of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunication).

13.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Reports.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISRA (Bilhaur) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English version) of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distributions :

- (1) Ninth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixth Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (1994-95) of the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution'.
- (2) Tenth Report on Demands for Grants (1995-96) of the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.
- (3) Eleventh Report on Action by the the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (1994-95) of the Ministry of Food'.
- (4) Twelfth Report on Demands for Grants (1995-96) of the Ministry of Food.

13.04½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Thirteenth Report

[English]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Bombay-South Central) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Thirteenth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce, on Demands for Grants (1995-96) of the Ministry of Textiles.

13.05 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) Need to grant statehood to Chhattisgarh Region.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN (Mahasamund) : The geographical conditions and other criteria of Chhattisgarh region fulfil all the criteria necessary for granting this region a statehood. The area is full of mineral and forest wealth but it has not been developed to the desired extent. The Government is getting adequate revenue from this region, but because of lack of development of this region, local people are leaving this area in search of livelihood and employment. Raipur district has an area equal to that of Kerala. There is a long pending demand to establish a bench of High Court in Chhattisgarh. The Jaswant Singh Commission also gave its recommendation for setting up a bench of High Court here but final decision has not been taken yet in this regard. It is pertinent to note in this regard that an official resolution was passed in Madhya Pradesh State Legislative Assembly for the creation of Chhattisgarh state and had been submitted to the Central Government, but the Central Government has not yet taken any step in this regard. Therefore, Central Government should take immediate action for creation of Chhattisgarh state, otherwise there is every possibility of a violent agitation would be started there.

Talks have been going on for the last 40 years to grant statehood to Chhattisgarh but no concrete result have come so far. It is, therefore, requested that Central Government may declare Chhattisgarh a separate State so that development of the tribals and local people of this region may take place there.

- (ii) Need to formulate a Permanent scheme for providing drinking water in water scarcity villages, particularly of Lunkaranear, Kolayat, Norva tehsils in Rajasthan.

SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH (Bikaner) : Hundreds of villages in the Tehsils of Lunkaranear, Lokayat, Norva

and Jayal in Rajasthan have saline water which is not potable. The villagers of these areas bring drinking water from far off areas on camel carts. The farmers are forced to saline water to their animals.

There is no permanent arrangement of potable water in these villages even after several years of independence. This is a matter which should be given a serious thought. Government of India bears almost the entire expenses for providing potable water in the States.

Therefore, I request the Government of India that a permanent scheme of providing potable water may be called for from Rajasthan Government and orders be given for its implementation.

(iii) Need to construct Air Strip near Kanha National Park, Madhya Pradesh

SHRI MOHANLAL JHIKRAM (Mandla) : Kanha National Park in one of the world famous National Parks which has its own identity under the Tiger Project. This Park is situated in the forest area of Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh. Thousands of Indian and foreign tourists remain keen to visit this Park but they cannot do so, due to lack of transportation facilities as there is no Air strip near Kanha. There is one Air strip in Jabalpur but it is not of much use and airoplanes cannot land there. Jābalpur is 200 kilometers away from Kanha. Other Air strip is in Kanpur which is 250 kilometers away from Kanha. Motorable road is there but it is in very bad shape. This road cannot be used in all seasons.

I, therefore, request the Central Government that an Air strip should be constructed near Kanha National Park with all the modern facilities for attracting tourists there. This will result in increase in foreign exchange earnings apart from providing transport facilities to the tourists.

(iv) Need to set up a high power television transmitter at Taragarh in Ajmer district, Rajasthan.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ajmer is in the Centre of Rajasthan and has cultural, religious, historical and educational importance. Ajmer city, Beawar, Kishangarh, Nasirabad, Pali and Nagaur have more than four lakh population each but the last few months, T.V. programmes are not clearly visible in these cities. As the programmes telecast from Delhi and Jaipur on National Network and Metro Channel are not very clear and at times are disrupted, the viewers of these areas are discontented and quite agitated. Programmes telecast from various channels are not visible on T.V. sets in the towns and villages. T.V. sets of many of the viewers have become unserviceable because of disturbance. The then hon. Minister had declared in the House three years back that a high power T.V. transmitter would be set up in Ajmer and that

the required funds had been provided for the same in the Eighth Five Year Plan, but nothing has been done in this regard. While inaugurating high power transmitter in Jaipur on 1st May, the hon. Minister had announced the names of the cities where high power transmitters were going to be set up but the name of Ajmer was not announced. Therefore, discontentment among lakhs of people of this area is natural. A road is being constructed for going to Taragarh hill area.

I, therefore, urge the Government of India to set up a high power T.V. transmitter at Taragarh in Ajmer which has already been sanctioned so that lakhs of viewers in this region be benefited.

(v) Need to open L.P.G. outlets and Petrol Pumps in Big Towns of Kaiserganj Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI (Kaiserganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my parliamentary Constituency of Kaiserganj belongs to Behraich and barabanki districts of Uttar Pradesh and is the most backward area. Risia, Shivpur, Mehro, Tejwapur, Pakharpur, Kaiserganj and Jakhali town and Ramnagar, Suratganj, Daryabad of district Barabanki are some of the big towns in my constituency. There is no L.P.G. outlets and Petrol and diesel pumps in these towns as a result of which people are facing lot of difficulties. I would request the hon. Minister of Petroleum that L.P.G. outlets and Petrol pumps may be opened in these towns.

(vi) Need to bring Sitamarhi District of Bihar Under Intensive Jawahar Rozar Yojana

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, draught conditions are prevailing in the most backward district of Sitamarhi in Bihar because of lack of rains. As a result, the farmers are in very miserable condition. Agricultural labourers are going to other states in search of employment. In order to stop migration of labourers and to provide employment to educated unemployed and semi employed persons, Sitamarhi district should be brought under intensive Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. Assured Rozgar Youana should be immediately implemented in every sub-division of the district so that people may get employment and improve their lot. Maximum amount of one lakh rupees can be provided to educated unemployed persons as loans to set up their small scale industrial units under the Prime Ministers Employment Scheme. District Industries Centre sanctions loans and complets its figures but due to lack of clear instructions to the local banks this scheme has not been sucessful to the desired extent. Therefore, clear and concrete directives may be issued to the banks so that this scheme is implemented. I, therefore, urge the Government that for providing employment opportunities, Sitamarhi district may be brought under intensive Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

(vii) Need to accord approval to the proposal of Sikkim Government for construction of a Stadium in the State

[English]

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim) : The attention of Union Government has already been drawn that Sikkim does not have a proper stadium with the required facilities to organise variety of sports activities. Every year, Sikkim hosts tournaments participated by teams from different parts of the country but organisation of these tournaments causes considerable inconvenience to visiting teams and the general public in the absence of required facilities for such tournaments. Availability of proper stadium not only will reduce the inconvenience and hardship of participating teams and the people but will enable the State Government of Sikkim to invite greater participation and encourage local talents also.

The State Government of Sikkim have also made a request to Planning Commission and also submitted detailed projects to concerned Union Ministry for construction of a modern stadium and a gym complex at Gangtok in 1987 but so far no action has been initiated in the matter although more than eight years have passed.

I urge upon the Union Government to consider the long pending request of Sikkim and accord necessary approval to the proposal made in this regard so that hidden talent in sports amongst youth of Sikkim could be exhibited in future National and International sports events.

(viii) Need to write off loans of Farmers of Indira Gandhi Canal Project area of Rajasthan

[Translation]

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Pucca Water Courses have been constructed in Indira Gandhi Canal Project area but for this, dual policy has been applied. For the first phase of construction of Pucca Water Courses, the farmers have been asked to bear the expenses in the shape of loans, whereas the expenses of the second phase have been borne by the Government itself. This dual policy is not pragmatic and justifiable.

In a short-period, Pucca Water Courses constructed in first phase have got damaged due to water logging, whereas, in the meantime, the loans of the farmers have multiplied five times. I would also like to say that the cost of construction of water courses constructed by neighbour State Governments, has been borne by these State Governments and not by the farmers.

In view of the above facts, I request the Central Government to take necessary action for writing off these loans of the farmers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.15 p.m.

13.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.23 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty-Three Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

**GENERAL BUDGET-1995-96
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS**

Ministry of Defence - Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We shall commence our business. Shrimati Girija Devi.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI (Maharajganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is the third day we are discussing the budgetary provisions of the Defence Ministry. In the present circumstances, we cannot separate Defence Ministry from Finance and External Affairs Ministries. We can manage the affairs of Defence Ministry with the inter-relation of the other ministries. We have faced many wars. At that time, though it was not a peace period and though our foreign policy was not on sound footing, it became clear who was our friend and who was our foe. Despite our extending the hand of friendship, either through SAARC or by visiting foreign countries, we have not been so successful because of our faulty foreign policy. The Central Government has not formulated any policy regarding our defence preparedness. Our defence perceptions have been belied during the last three years. We relied on Russia but that country has been crippled. We have to go all alone in defence preparedness. We have to make our own defence strategy. All our agreements, whether these concern economic policy, commerce policy or our Finance, have failed our old conventional defence strategy. We have borders with Pakistan, Bangla Desh and China. There is large scale infiltration from these borders in India. We fought many battles but what benefit we got from these battles? We sent Indian Peace keeping forces in Sri Lanka and our jawans suffered heavy casualties but even then our relations became strained with that country. We should not consider any neighbouring country our friend or foe for ever. Instead, we should be so much strong that no country may dare to cross our borders. We fought for Bangladesh. We faced unprovoked wars in 1962 and in 1965 and we helped our neighbour also. But we should have a policy as to upto what extent we will extend our help to other

countries and such a decision should be taken in consultation with those ministries who directly affect Defence Ministry. This thing has not been done so far.

Foreign dignitaries have come here. Our Prime Minister also went to America. Our Defence officers too went abroad. But so far, we have not been apprised as to what is our policy on N.P.T. There was a statement by Shri Pranav Mukherjee in today's newspapers that we are firm and determined on this issue. Of course, we are firm but it is our army that is firm and strong. We have won because of our jawans determination. Government's contribution has not been much in that.

We have not provided sufficient funds for the defence services in the budget estimates. It is said that there is 8 per cent increase in defence budget but compared to this, the inflation rate is 12 per cent. Therefore, this does not reflect increase in the Defence Budget at all. What ever has been increased will not be sufficient even for the dearness allowance. Development of all the three wings of defence services is essential. We have six thousand and two hundred kilometre long coastal border. That is why the Chief of Naval staff once called India a country of islands. Then there are Andeman and Nicobar and Lakshdweep Islands also which have to be protected. Coco island, only 20 kilometre away from Andeman-Nicobar is very near to China. We have to keep a constant vigil on 1500 kilometre long coastal border around that. But the grants given for this purpose are just 13 per cent of the total grant. History tells us that the invaders have always entered our country from these areas and we have proved to be weak on this front.

We have 120 ships at present which have become old. We have not purchased any ship during the last 10 years. The average life span of a ship is stated to be 20 years. We shall have to acquire 8 ships every year in order to replenish the old ones. It is essential for the security of our coastal borders. We have to be more alert, particularly on the borders touching that of Myanmar, China and Pakistan because Myanmar and China are keeping eyes on us through the borders touching coco island. We find that our naval strength in totality is not sufficient. Our Navy has only 7 submarines, which are quite old. Even then, we have not planned to acquire any new submarine for our Naval force. With the present budget allocation, it has not been made clear from where new 'subs' would be acquired. The life span of our aircraft carrier is over. Vikrant is also going to be obsolete after one year. Inspite of this, there is no proposal to procure new aircraft carrier in place of Vikrant.

We have wasted seven years in the legal battle on Karwad Project in Karnataka. This project is still in its initial stage. Whatever amount has been spent on this project may be termed as destructive expenditure. There might have been delay because of Soviet Union at early stage of this project. Now we have to complete

this project on our own. The funds earmarked for Naval purposes are insufficient in order to modernize our Naval force, we should increase this amount.

Our Airforce is also not sufficiently equipped. Our enemies have modern warfares. We have been talking of purchasing an L.C.A. for several years; but that day has not come yet as to when we will acquire L.C.A. The air crafts of our Air Force are outdated. Funds are required for their maintenance. It is said that the maintenance of one Aircraft costs double the amount, which is required to purchase a new one.

We have 39 defence production units. 9 public sector undertakings are manufacturing defence material. Inspite of this we send our aircrafts to Singapore for their maintenance and repairs. Air accidents are increasing. The accidents involving Air Force planes have mostly taken place in India. What is the reason. It is because we have no Jet Trainer available in the Air Force. In the absence of an advance Jet Trainer we give training to the pilots on ordinary planes and after that they straight away practice on most sophisticated planes as a result of which large number of pilots have lost their lives. It seems we have no proper training arrangements for our pilots. MIG-21 and MIG-27 aircraft have become obsolete. This can be avoided only by modernising these aircrafts. Off and on we are told that these aircraft will be repaired in Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. but it will take at least five year's time to acquire such skill to repair them in the country. We have only 45 such aircrafts. About 10 to 15 years ago Subramanian Committee gave its report that minimum number of such aircraft should be 65. But now the conditions as well as the war techniques have changed a lot. In view of the changed electronic warfare the importance of such aircraft has increased and if we do not increase their number the life of our pilots will be at stake. A feeling of insecurity is being developed in the pilots as they are imparted training on gliders and asked to operate sophisticated aircrafts. In order to overcome all such shortcomings and to strengthen the organisation, we should provide them more funds.

I have all respect for D.R.D.O. but the fact remains that since its inception it has done very little towards developing technologies independently. Anyhow, DRDO is doing praiseworthy job. The country is grateful to DRDO for its commendable work. We can achieve self reliance through DRDO in the modern warfare. We can develop our electronic instrumentation, our engineering. We can increase striking power of our Navy and can develop L.C.A. in the country itself through D.R.D.O. But we are spending only a little more than 5 per cent on its 50 laboratories and 15 academies. We are not taking advantage of the genius of our scientists of world fame like Shri Abul Kulam who has formulated 10 year plan for the purpose. But merely praising will not do, for this we require more and higher allocation of funds.

Funds, high morale and brains are essential factors for attaining selfreliance in defence preparedness. We have intelligent scientists who are prepared to do every thing for the country. These scientist have developed 'Prithvi' missile. We are importing its fuel from Germany, why we are not able to manufacture it on our own, it will give rise to certain doubts in this regard like it is being said that its engine gets heated in the local climate and it loses its power on the mountains... (Interruptions)

Sir, since the matter of DRDO is of a very important nature we must provide higher allocations to D.R.D.O. even from other sources also. There are public undertakings which have earned profit of 2048.50 crores of rupees for you. Please encourage these undertakings to such an extent so that you may compete America.

Sir, the issue of Bofors is hanging since 1987. First of all, Radio Sweden provided some hints regarding Bofors in 1987. The next day those were denied in the Lok Sabha as being baseless. It was a deal of 14 thousand crores of rupees. 62 crores of rupees were given as Commission. It may be a meagre amount but a scam remains a scam notwithstanding the amount involved in it. And it becomes our duty to expose all such scams since it involves the defence of the country. In order to rouse confidence among our soldiers, we will have to break our country free from the web of the worldly illusion.

I will invite attention of the House to the incidence of Mangal Pandey, who sacrificed himself on the suspicion that Cartridges with cow tallow at their top were supplied to the army.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to inform the House that I belong to the same place to which Mangal Pandey belonged.

SMT. GIRIJA DEVI : Sir, we should not avoid taking notice of this problem but by exposing every thing we should make the people as well as army free from the web of worldly illusion then only we can command overwhelming influence over world. Sir, Sweden is prepared to handover the papers, but it wants an assurance from us that these papers will only be utilised for the purpose for which these papers are being provided. But we are able to face the reality. We are not making our policy clear. I want to know whether there are two faces of justice? On the one hand if a hungry person steals two chapatis to subside his hunger. You give him severe punishment and you say you have done justice. But on the other hand you do not even bring those persons to book who have taken kickback of 62 crores of rupees. You do not punish them but you must bring them to light before the world so that we may believe justice is there in the country.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Madam, kindly listen to me. There are many hon. Members who want to

participate in the debate. You have already spoken for more than 35 minutes. You must stick to the time. Please conclude.

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI : I will conclude in five minutes.

[Translation]

Sir, although we have a committee to engineer defence exhibitions but we could not exhibit defence preparedness in defence exhibition because of this Bofors; people say this and the newspapers have also published reports in this regard.

Sir, now I would like to draw your attention toward Ex-servicemen who retire from the army at an early age. Benefits being given to them are insufficient. They can not make both-ends meet properly after early retirement from the army. This aspect should be taken into consideration.

The other issue is about the widows of soldiers and ex-servicemen. For some time they get adequate pension but after some period the amount of their pension is reduced. They can not continue the study of their children and they can not bear the expenses of their families. When I go to villages these widows request us to get them any job. They are in most pathetic condition. I would suggest that these widows should get pension equal to the amount of last pay drawn by the soldier; like the benefits being given in the case of handicapped soldiers.

There are Central schools in cantonment areas. But when soldiers are posted on the borders, they leave their families in their native places where there are no facilities of Central schools. I urge that there should be two Central schools in each district headquarters where children of these armymen may get education. Early decision should be made with the help of Human Resource Development Ministry in this regard.

Sir, today is such a situation that a man go in the army only when he does not get any job elsewhere. This has been confirmed by a survey. People only belonging to lower strata of society join army. Our young folk do not opt for army with their own sweet will but circumstances compel them to join army. Therefore, they lack the feeling of patriotism. To overcome this problem N.C.C. was formed. The scheme of N.C.C. is not available in rural areas where youngmen are prepared to sacrifice their likes for the country, but there is no N.C.C. there. Moreover, in absence of higher education they are not able to face the Army Selection Board in order to join army. This deficiency must be removed.

Even today the management of our armed forces is based on British pattern and TA, DA is allowed to the Armyman upto 1450 kilometre of journey once in a year. If a soldier is posted beyond this distance from his residence he is allowed this benefit once in two years. This should be taken into consideration.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We are short of time. Please conclude.

SMT. GIRIJA DEVI : We should take such petty things into consideration for the security of our Armed forces.

Sir, I express my gratitudes to all my army men who sacrificed their lives for the country. But I will not support conditions not conducive for the benefit of the soldier, which do not provide adequate protection and leave them in precarious condition to fight for the country...*(Interruptions)* I am unable to support such demands.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, today, the 9th of May, 1995, as you know very well, happens to be the 50th Anniversary of the victory over Fascism. When the forces of Hitler-Germany surrendered in the city of Berlin, in that titanic conflict which raged throughout the world, we should remember the part which was played by the Indian troops. Of course, it is a fact that that army was not the army of an independent country; but that does not diminish, in any way the heroism and courage and the fighting skill which was displayed by large numbers of Indian *jawans* and officers in various theatres of that war. I think, that should be remembered - whether it was North Africa, whether it was the assault on Monte Cassino in Italy where other Allied troops failed or were beaten back time and again until the Indians made a final assault - and these things should not be forgotten. I am fully in agreement with my friend, Shri Jaswant Singh about whatever he has said regarding the need for having a proper war memorial and a war museum for our people, for those who sacrificed their lives after Independence also. I fully support his proposals there.

In this debate the general trend which I noticed on the part of Members is to criticise, legitimately perhaps, the downward trend which is being shown in the Budgetary allocation for Defence. Instead of increasing the allocation, the Government in fact is taking into consideration the inflation which has taken place. There is a downward trend and the Members are repeatedly asking for higher allocations to be made, whether it is for the Army, Navy, Air Force or for our DRDO. This is one way of looking at this problem. Of course, everybody would like that we would be in a position to spend more on the essential requirements of our Defence arrangements.

But here I find, that requires to be cleared up in my opinion, that there is some sort of a contradiction between what hon. Members are stressing and what the Prime Minister, who is also the Defence Minister, speaking on behalf of the Government has been saying. In my opinion, this matter should be cleared up once for all. The other day, on the 22nd of the last month, the hon. Prime Minister addressed a combined meeting of

the Commanders of Army, Navy and Air Force. I have, of course, got only the Press reports to go by. But according to that, if you will allow me to quote a few sentences from what he is reported to have said, the Prime Minister told the top brass of the Armed Forces that the resource constraint was a reality within which they have to learn to work. He said and I quote :

"It was always the Government's intention to make adequate allocations within limited resources to ensure that priority, modernisation and acquisition programmes did not suffer. But while the allocations have been stepped up, the Services needed to keep in mind that the resource constraint was a reality within which they had to learn to work. They need, therefore, to exercise particular care in ensuring that scarce resources were wisely spent and selection of equipment is made with discernment."

The latter part is a caution which was also mentioned by Shri Jaswant Singh in a different way when he said that if there were more rupees we would be happier but with the rupee at our disposal we want that every rupee is properly spent in terms of accountability, cost effectiveness, efficiency and quality. I fully agree with that, but the general outlook which has been enunciated here by the Prime Minister amounts to telling the Commanders that they have to stitch their coat according to the cloth. The Government is not in a position to give them more money. In fact the heading is that he rules out any increase in funding. This is important because this is the final word of the Government and from this also flows the strategy, the concept of national security which we have to keep in mind.

Are we preparing seriously for some sort of armed hostilities with our neighbours or with a neighbour, I do not know. On the same occasion, the Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao has said that our Defence and strategic perspectives have been consistently aimed at strengthening the forces of reconciliation, peace and stability so that tensions and conflicts are minimised and in the ultimate analysis done away with altogether. In this context we have to continue to build up friendly and cooperative relations with countries around the world. Of course, he has given later on a caution about Pakistan being one exception to this general assessment.

15.00 hrs.

Well, Sir, these are two positions. One is, a general criticism of the Government for failing to provide adequate funding for our defence requirements, and the demand that more and more should be given for the Navy hardware, hardware for the Army, more and more should be given for DRDO, missiles and so on. And, on the other hand, we have the Prime Minister and

Defence Minister's assessments that they cannot give any more and so the forces have to make do with what they can give, and within that framework the forces have to learn to operate.

(Shri Sharad Dighe in the Chair)

15.01 hrs.

Of course, I agree to this extent that I do not think that military capability is the only defence that we have got. I have here, an assessment made by the Foreign Minister of Australia, Mr. Gareth Evans, who by the way has said :

"India is the most underrated of the major powers of the Nineties. It has a huge population which is likely to outstrip China by the year 2010. It has a substantial land mass, an increasingly educated population, and a developed manufacturing industrial sector. It already has very significant military capabilities as the fourth largest force in the world in manpower with an increasingly effective Naval force which makes it unquestionably the predominant power in South Asia."

South Asia, he is talking about,

"but there can be no suggestions that India's capabilities have been developed for other than legitimate purposes."

That means, it is for defensive purposes primarily. "The country", Mr. Evans says,

"is self reliant in defence with the developing satellite and missile capability and its nuclear technology. India is certainly capable of defending itself against practically all comers. Its capacity to project power into South East Asia and the Indian Ocean is considerable but that should be understood as a function needed to protect a 7000 km coastline and to guard against possible threat from the North rather than constituting anything that should be perceived as a direct security threat to its neighbours."

Mr. Evans also says :

"For all its importance, military capability is just one among many instruments of an effective national security policy. Security in a regional context is best guaranteed when military capability is backed up by effective diplomacy, and trade and other contacts building up a sort of relationship and network of interdependence that will minimise the likelihood of a conflict breaking out. The most effective regional security policy is a multidimensional policy, one in which all the components of a country's network of

relations in the region work together to help shape a security environment which is favourable to everyone's interests."

I think this is quite a common sense statement with which I, at least, am inclined to agree. One does not measure security purely in terms of our military capability. That is, of course, the most vital part of it but it has to be considered in the context of our whole regional activity in the field of diplomacy, in the field of building up friendly relations with neighbouring countries, in the field of trade and commerce and so on. So, when the Prime Minister says that, at the moment, we are not able to give you more funds, you have to operate within this, then we have to content ourselves, as Mr. Jaswant Singh has said, with ensuring that every pie is being spent properly, that we are getting maximum out of whatever is at our disposal to spend. And that, I think, is the job of the people who look into the Defence Budget. This should not mean that we should buckle down under any sort of external pressure. I am afraid, although it is not being admitted, there is a pressure operating and that pressure is primarily against our missile technology, and our deployment and production of missiles.

We know where that threat and pressure are coming from, although the Prime Minister has said that we will continue with our Missile Development Programme and we are not going to buckle down under anybody's pressure. But it is a fact that Prithvi, according to Mr. Joseph Nye, who is the United States Assistant Defence, speaking to the United States Senate Panel said and I quote :

"Prithvi is in a state of hibernation while Agni, the Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile is in a state of suspended animation."

This, with great satisfaction, is what Mr. Joseph Nye had expressed. This is what Mr. Mallikarjun had said and I quote :

"Though the Missile, Prithvi, which he was talking about, had successfully achieved its objectives, and user trials are complete, we have yet to take a decision on serial production."

That means, we have advanced up to a certain stage of testing and the trials have been completed, but, then, there is some sort of a cut off. In the next stage of going into serial production, Mr. Mallikarjun is virtually confirming what Mr. Joseph Nye had told the American Senate viz., "Prithvi is now in a state of hibernation". We do not know how long this "state of hibernation" as far as Prithvi is concerned and "in a state of suspended animation" as far as Agni is concerned, will continue. All these things are known apparently to Mr. Joseph Nye. Such things are not revealed to us because they are supposed to be confidential. But the Americans know about it. They are

talking about it. I think, we have irritated or provoked Dr. Abdul Kalam to some extent - I do not know whether he is here - to say this which had been reported and I quote :

"India's defence preparedness is based on indigenous perceptions of national security. We cannot go by the suggestions of other countries in such matters."

So, something is happening in this field of missile development. I do not know whether the House will be taken into confidence on this matter. Nobody has said that we are abandoning or giving up our missile programme. But the question is of capping it; and the question of pressures from Americans who are saying that you have gone so far and no further now. Otherwise where from all these expressions *viz.*, hibernation and suspended animation, came? So, we are definitely worried about this and not about whether we are proceeding slowly or that we have abandoned something or the other. But we are worried about the fact that there is some pressure which everybody known. There should be no buckling down at all under such foreign pressure. I fully support the suggestion made by more than one hon. Member here. I still appeal to the Prime Minister - today being the 9th May, still there is three days' time - that this House should adopt a Resolution, which will, I am sure, be a unanimous Resolution. Nobody is going to strike a jarring note in it at all. We should adopt a unanimous Resolution, that can be moved from the Chair, stating in unequivocal terms what is already known to be India's national position on the question of NPT. This NPT thing is going on now. We are still being pressurised, to fall in line with those who wanted this to be continued; extended indefinitely, which is not our stand. We have got a very clear cut stand on the NPT. I think our Government's position will be further strengthened, if it is armed with a Resolution passed by this House. I do not understand what harm can be done by adopting such a Resolution which would be the voice of Parliament, speaking clearly and unambiguously, about the question of NPT.

Apart from this, I would like to raise one more point. The hon. lady Member here has said something about this. There are reports that Bofors is pleading for lifting the embargo which was imposed on it by us that no further dealing with Bofors will be permitted. Lengthy reports have appeared about the press conference which was held here in Delhi by the Vice-President of Bofors, Mr. Soren Jindal in which he was pleading for the lifting of the embargo and he was referring to the difficulties being faced by the Indian Army in the wake of the embargo. Mr. Jindal maintained that his firm was in a position to upgrade several other items that had been supplied earlier. He is trying to tempt us. If you lift the embargo, we can help you to upgrade several items. This upgradation for purposes of modernisation is a policy which the Defence establishment has gone in for now. I think it is a wise policy if you are really to function

within the resource constraints. You cannot go on purchasing and acquiring new materials from outside. It is too expensive to do so. Much more economical and practical way of doing things, wherever it is possible, is to upgrade, modernise and overhaul the hardware which we already have got and remembering that all these hardware, most of it in the old days came from one source, the Soviet Union. In between it was dislocated. My friend Mr. Amal Datta when referring to the upgradation programme for the Tanks, T-15 and T-52, said that this should have been done much earlier. How could it have been done much earlier? Since it was being done with Russian collaboration, there is no other way to get it. These Tanks were originally supplied to us from that country. Now, they have offered to upgrade these Tanks and we have accepted that offer. But it could not have been done earlier for the simple reason that they were not in a position to come and help us to do this because of the dislocation of their own economy. Now, if that is being taken up for lack of any other resource, that is a good thing. But we should not be tempted to seek the offer which is being made by the Vice-President of the Bofors. We already know once now they have treated us, how they have dealt with us and the elements of criminality involved in the Bofors deal. By the way Mr. Jindal says that Bofors have no information about the names of the people who gave or received kickbacks. The Swedish Government had given that information to its Indian counterpart, meaning the Indian Government. It is for the latter to analyse that and ask for more if necessary. We have been kept in the dark about this all along. We do not know what is going on. So, he said, newspaper reports make it clear that the Army was suffering from inadequate spares. While he was confident that India would make most of the components domestically, it would be quicker and cheaper to utilise this right to get technical support from Bofors. You have said paid for this. Somehow that does not make. So, I would like to sound a note of warning that we should not be tempted by the people who look after Bofors by offering some assistance by way of overhauling or upgrading and all that to lift the embargo on Bofors. Till the old matter which is still pending regarding the kickbacks, regarding the secret accounts in the Swiss banks and all that is cleared up, there is no question of lifting of embargo on the Bofors.

Sir, I support the hon. Members' demand for setting up a National Security Council. In fact a couple of years ago, it was virtually decided that there should be a National Security Council.

But nothing has come out of it. The Prime Minister has said the other day - I think, yesterday - that it was a deliberate decision of the Government to entrust the Defence portfolio to the Prime Minister because they feel that it is necessary for the Prime Minister himself to be in charge of this very important sphere of Government activity. Well, I have no objection to that provided, in the absence of another Cabinet Minister

for Defence, the Prime Minister has got the time and can give sufficient attention to all these complicated Defence matters. I have no objection at all to that. But there is no reason why, in order to assist him or in order to advise him, why there should not be a National Security Council. Sir, in formulation defence policy and defence strategy, as far as I know, what we have been told is that the Service Chiefs - the Chiefs of Staff of the Navy, the Army and the Air Force - hardly come into the picture at present. The planning for the defence, the policy that is worked out, the strategy and all that, are not done by any body in which the Army Chief or the Naval or the Air Force Chief is personally present. This is done by other people. Other people many be quite qualified and quite competent people. But I find it very strange that the Chiefs of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force and not directly associated with the whole question of defence planning and policy. I believe, if a National Security Council is set up, they would find a place in it definitely along with other people and, therefore, such a Council, whose functions, whose terms of reference, whose powers, all these can be defined. But certainly it would be a very valuable body for assisting, guiding and advising the Prime Minister in his handling of defence matters.

Then, Sir, I would say that in the Report of the Standing Committee on Defence, just now, we have devoted a paragraph or so to the question of the search which is going on for a suitable Advanced Jet Trainer for our Air Force. We have been informed reliably that in the absence of an Advanced Jet Trainer, a large number of accidents have taken place to our aircraft and quite a large number of our pilots have lost their lives in crashes and so on. And for the purpose of training, we are having to divert regular aircraft from our Air Force squadrons, which is not what is supposed to be done. This is a specialised Advanced Trainer Aircraft, which is required. Now, Sir, these things cost money. I am talking in terms of what the Prime Minister has said already about husbanding the resources carefully. Each one of these aircraft, I am told, may cost something up to Rs. 50 crore. And at present, the Ministry people have shortlisted two types of aircraft, one British and one French. The French one, as far as I know, is already out of production. This is not being flown or used by any Air Force. The British one is left, namely the Hawk. And apparently the Air Force wants 66 such aircraft costing Rs. 50 crore each. So, all that I am saying is that in view of the resource crunch - we have made a suggestion here also in our Report - in the meantime developments have taken place and ten years have already passed when we are looking for this AJT ten years have already passed - and we can profitably perhaps look for some aircraft, new aircraft, which have been developed in the meantime. And we have suggested that there is a Report on the Russian Advanced Jet Aircraft, Trainer Aircraft, whose price is half the price of this, whose price is 50 per cent of the price of the British aircraft.

We were told that it was still at a very initial stage. It is still not being tested, not being test-flown and so on. But those which are ready already, even after 10 years of negotiation, you see, we are not any nearer to acquiring those. So in view of the totality of the situation, we have suggested that they should also examine the possibility of acquiring this Russian jet trainer aircraft which will cost us half of what the other one will cost. It is a suggestion for action.

Then, I would like to speak just one word about the ordnance factories. We all know they have done very good work. We are quite proud of the performance of the ordnance factories. But what is worrying me is that this is one area in which, I hope, that for the first time a thin end of the wedge is not being introduced in the shape of declaring any ordnance factory sick, like we have so many other Public Sector Undertakings being declared sick and being sent to the BIFR for final disposal. This is not a thing which should intervene in our defence production area. There is one ordnance factory in Kanpur, the TAFCO, which was set up in order to produce boots and special type of footwear for the Armed Forces. Now I am told that this TAFCO company is supposed to be sick and it is being sent to the BIFR for examination and final disposal, and knowing the BIFR as we do, it is very likely to declare that it should be liquidated or wound up. Now my information goes that this TAFCO company has deliberately been made sick because the recommendations which were there previously, even of a Committee of Secretaries that a certain minimum percentage of production of boots and footwear from this company had to be earmarked for the Armed Forces were not implemented. They must be sold to the Armed Forces. But now the purchases which are being made from the open market, from private manufacturers are steadily being stepped up, though the quality is not obviously good. They are the famous makers of Flex shoes which everybody has heard of. Now we require various types of footwear including for the people who are serving at high altitudes and others serving in the deserts and so on. So by saying that the orders are not adequate or orders have gone down, the company should not be declared sick. I want the Prime Minister to think over one thing which is not always generally known that 80 to 90 per cent of the workers employed in TAFCO are either Scheduled Caste people or Muslims. It is a factory which deals with raw leather, having workers who have to handle raw leather and because of this, the overwhelming majority of workers belongs either to Scheduled Caste or Muslim community. If this factory is closed and these people are thrown out of their jobs, it will invariably have some political fall out which I think, he should be certainly bothered about also. So this is an additional argument by which I am opposing this whole business of declaring ordnance factories as sick.

Finally, Sir, I would like to say a word about these peace keeping operations. The United Nations

sponsored peace keeping operations have almost, always had an Indian contingent because our Indian troops are considered to be among the high quality armies which are available in the world. From the point of view of professional conduct and from the point of view of discipline, they are second to none. We should remember that and also their very humanitarian behaviour towards the local population in the countries where they have been sent. Just now, only a few days ago, yet another contingent has been sent to Angola. Earlier they had been in Mozambique, Somalia and in other countries.

The only aberration or exception to this — of course, the United Nations has to have its own parameters which these peace keeping forces have to operate, those are laid down, they have to be adhered to and not deviated from — I would say, was in the case of what was really a misnomer, the IPKF which was sent to Sri Lanka. That was not a United Nations project, that was something which was agreed bilaterally between the Indian Government and the Sri Lankan Government in the days of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. That IPKF which spent a long time in Sri Lanka, suffered heavy casualties, did not win any kind of support of respect from the local population and rather created an atmosphere of hostility, further hostility, among those whom they were meant to subdue, and whom they failed to subdue militarily also, that IPKF was a disaster in my opinion, and such type of adventures should not be indulged in and our troops and our Jawans should not be exposed to the kind of risk and the kind of disaster to which they were, at that time.

Finally, I would like to say that on the whole I do not share the view that we are terribly ill prepared, we have no strength, our strength is going down and people are talking generally about Pakistan, of course. I think the remarks made about China are really out of place, because with China our relations as a country have vastly improved and both of us are very much involved in the problems of development. The Prime Minister has noted in that speech to the Commanders that the border areas with China had been peaceful since the Agreement of 1993 and the expert groups were working for a fair reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the complex boundary question. Some withdrawal of troops on both sides has also taken place from the line of control. There is nothing on evidence to show that China — the New China — is harbouring any kind of aggressive designs against India. They may have a very big Army and they may be building up their Armed Forces as we would like to do here also. It does not mean that they are having aggressive designs.

With Pakistan the question is different. That has been admitted. But we should not have a kind of an inferiority complex. I think what has been stated here and the opinion of many other foreign experts and statesmen is that India is a pretty strong country and in South Asia, at least is the strongest military power of

all. That does not mean that we have done enough. I do not say that. But then we have to advance within our limits, within our resources, use our indigenous capacity much more than we have done so far. There is always this tendency to look abroad, to buy something from abroad. But our indigenous capacity can be much more fully utilised than it has been so far. I think that our scientists and our DRDO people who deserve a word of congratulation. If any increase at all in budgetary allocations can be afforded it should be allotted to them, to the scientific research and DRDO people who can really do something which will stand us in good stead, 10 or 15 years from now, not just now, only one or two years.

So, from all these points of view I think that we should not have an inferiority complex. At the same time, we should build up our country's resources and we should do everything possible to strengthen the morale of our people. The morale of our people is very important when it comes to any kind of conflict or hostility. We have seen that repeatedly in the past wars which had taken place. So, having more confidence on our own people, on our Armed Forces and looking after our men better — I have not gone the whole question of pensions and all that, which I was tempted to do — but I think our people still had a raw deal, I mean, the Ex-Servicemen who were supposed to get a substantial revision of their pensions — at least those who had retired after 1986.

They were disappointed and they have not got that. We are getting so many letters every day about the anomalies, contradictions and all sorts of discrepancies, discriminations between different ranks who have now retired and who have got hardly a miserable pittance to live on and to keep their families alive. This must be looked into more carefully. That is my last request.

Thank you.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the very outset, I must admit that when I participate in this Debate I do so with no special knowledge of Defence matters but as one who is interested like many many others in this subject of vital national importance.

Unlike Shri Jaswant Singh, I can do no arithmetical or analytical examination of the Defence expenditure or strategy. But I must with all humility say that I find it extremely difficult to agree with his view that India has no Defence Policy or that for the last eight years we have imparted no serious training to our men in the uniform. Equally difficult I find to accept his view about purity of the spirit of the Armed Forces being sullied by the corrosive consequences of the highly politicised civil service. I must say that in his immaculate style he used very high sounding words. But with all respect I would say, use of an expression like this would really do no good to the Armed Forces.

Defence Policy by its very nature cannot be a policy like that on Health, Agriculture, Water Management, Forests etc. This is a Policy which cannot and, I think, need not be specifically enunciated in any public document.

We have come a long way since the year 1962 when our lofty ideals of peaceful co-existence received a severe battering. Since then we have faced and won two wars thrust upon us in 1965 and 1971. Through the decisive victory in 1971, we could give a clear message that the peace loving people of India cannot be vanquished through the use of arms. But, at the same time, I must admit that it sent home message to us that fighting as we may be against the scourge of disease, illiteracy, malnutrition, over population etc., top on the national agenda must be Defence.

I would take this opportunity to say that since then Defence has continued to be the sedor on which the greatest part of the expenditure of Central Government has gone over the years. During the last many years, it has been 13 per cent. We have a resource crunch. Despite that fact, an allocation of 13 per cent is no small amount. I would wish that there should be no dearth of resources, no dearth of equipment or anything whatever is required by the Armed Forces. But as Shri Indrajit Gupta referred to the statement of the Prime Minister, we have our difficulties.

And given those premises, we have got to see how best we make use of our resources. I would not differ with Shri Jaswant Singh Ji on that account that each paisa spent has to be accounted for, that our expenditure on Defence has to be cost-effective. But I often find here - maybe for the sake of criticising the Government - that if there is greater expenditure on something, we question that, and if we find that the expenditure is not enough, we are still not satisfied. I would say that today our level of defence preparedness is such that we need not really worry about anything. It is because of our military capability. I would taking it as one of the determinants referred to by Shri Indrajit Gupta say that our military capability, our defence preparedness, besides the new strength acquired by the Indian economy over the last four years, has made the people to realise the world over about India's importance in the international arena.

We stand firm in our opposition to a discriminatory treaty like NPT. There need not be any doubt about what has been the unambiguous and well-articulated stand of India on this subject. I would not oppose the suggestion of any resolution being moved by this House. But yesterday, hearing Shri Jaswant Singh Ji, I was wondering whether he was really advocating nuclear proliferation. If I am not mistaken - of course, he was supporting India's stand - he wanted us to go further to say that we should make nuclear weapons but declare that we will not be the first to use them. This is what precisely every nuclear power has been saying, and

that struggle goes on. That is the difference that India would like to convey about its policy. We have repeatedly said that we cannot be a signatory to a treaty like NPT, but, at the same time, options would always remain open to us. I think that should be enough for us on the subject and there is no occasion whatsoever for us to express any doubt thereon. Our approach is clear and unambiguous and I would, with all the emphasis at my command, like to say that no outside power - there was a doubt expressed about this also - can determine India's policy, India's response to any development anywhere.

The other day, the Prime Minister assured the House that we are continuing with the 'Prithvi' missile programme as per schedule - I would like to underline the words 'as per the schedule' - And we have moved beyond the stage of user-trial of the short range surface-to-surface missile. This was commented upon yesterday and today. This achievement of ours was sought to be underplayed yesterday saying that a payload of one tonne would lead us nowhere. Again I would hasten to add that I am not an expert on the subject but I think it is an occasion for us to feel proud of having shown our capability of producing missiles of that nature. And today when an objection was raised to our not undertaking serial production of the missiles and this was sought to be buttressed by some comment in the United States to say that our programme was under hibernation, I would find it extremely difficult to agree with that also. It is we who have to see as to what is needed by us and when. If others comment on that, it should give in flutter and we should not be unduly worried about that.

All that is important for us to ensure is that we maintain our military capability, that our state of defence preparedness is enough to hold us in good stead at the time of need.

Sir, to face any challenge from our potential adversaries we, as you know, undertake a regular exercise in modernisation of our forces. I think that is not a point on which there is any difference of opinion. As far as our D.R.D.O. is concerned, they have done a commendable job despite the fact that perhaps the resources are not available in that ample measure as we would want.

With this I would also join hon. Members of this House and the grateful citizens outside to express our sense of gratitude for those valiant soldiers of ours who have maintained strict vigilance on our borders and have safeguarded the territorial integrity of our country and contributed immensely in generating a new feeling of optimism in the country. They have won admiration in their contributions to the United Nations peace-keeping efforts.

Though Shri Indrajit Gupta referred only to the I.P.K.F. about an aberration as he termed it, I was surprised to find some of the Cut Motions about which

notices have been given by some hon. Members from the other side even criticising our contribution or participation in those peace-keeping endeavours of the United Nations. I do not know whether really our friends on the other side entertaining those ideas want India to be isolated in the world community today.

India, as we know, has played a very major role in the United Nations peace-keeping endeavours, of course, reserving the judgement to decide about our participation from case to case on the merits thereof. And we should really be proud of the fact that keeping in tune with the international obligations we have participated in such endeavours.

Defence is a subject certain aspects of which must always be kept beyond the pale of controversy. And I would respectfully say that the expressions that we make on different aspects thereof should not be blurred by narrow political considerations at any point of time.

Sir, Shri Jaswant Singh - a distinguished ex-soldier and a very senior Member of this House - referred to the 'deleterious' effect that divergent concepts of nationalism and consequently patriotism could have on National Defence and on our capacity to meet national challenges'. I welcome this statement of his. Taking him to be a very senior representative of the Bhartiya Janata Party, I welcome this change on the part of the Bhartiya Janata Party also. So far stridently aggressive postures and dubious claims to *Hindutwa* by the Sangh Pariwar have had a telling impact on our polity and as he rightly said, consequently on the morale of our forces our capacity to meet our national challenges.

Much of the violence that has racked different parts of the country in the past and exerted pressures even on our Armed Forces could have been avoided if we had all believed that India belongs to all Indians irrespective of their religious faiths or forms of worship practised by them. Sir, encouraged by Shri Jaswant Singhji's observations, I only hope that his co-travellers do not let him down on that score.

Sir, perhaps, in an effort to criticise the Government, there is another aspect which we have taken upon ourselves to comment upon without really weighing the consequences thereon, that is, about the equipment with the Armed Forces and in this context, I refer to Bofors. Girija Deviji referred to the ghost of Bofors. I really fail to understand, Sir, why that ghost still continues to haunt our friends on the other side. There was a time when a concerted effort was made to mislead our jawans and to mislead the countrymen at large that the Bofors gun was not the best thing available to us. I am happy that that has not been said today. But when we wake up those matters knowing very well that the Government of India over the years, whether it was our Government of a non-Congress Government, has tried its best to find out what happened in that matter and as to who were the persons who received the kickbacks in that case, if we continue raking up that matter again

and again, I, with all humility, must say, Sir, that we are perhaps still creating a lurking doubt in the minds of the people about what goes on in the Armed Forces and that is what precisely we have to stop. Shri Indrajit Gupta, while referring the need to inject Advanced Jet Trainers, also referred to the cost of such aircraft and therefore, ventured to suggest an aircraft which could be available to us at half the price. That is exactly what happened there also in the case of Bofors. It was not disputed by anybody; admittedly that was the cheapest gun system available to us at that time and it was obtained after a very hard bargaining. Sir, sometimes you have to leave certain decisions to the people at the helm of affairs and if we repeatedly keep talking about those things, I would, for the sake of laying emphasis, only repeat that it does no good to us.

Sir, not really wanting to take more time on this. I must say that what really prompted me to participate in this debate on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Defence was a report which has been referred to earlier by some of the hon. Members about the stuff that is now available for recruitment in the Armed Forces. Sir, I remember, I was at school in 1962 when a large number of students, bright and sturdy, opted for the Armed Forces and that was their first option. Today, we find that 80 per cent of the candidates going to the Service Selection Boards had earlier tried and tried unsuccessfully for jobs elsewhere. Today's socio-economic scenario and the role that money plays in life make a young man prefer even a Class II job to a career in the Armed Forces. Defence Services no longer hold the promise of glamour or adventure.

Fighting and dying for the country leaving the surviving children and young widows to the mercy of the hostile materialistic world, also no longer motivates young men to join the Forces.

It is the money in the pocket that determines one's status today, that determines the course of preference and obviously it is the banking, it is the hotel management, it is the big corporations, it is even the public sector and the civil services that relegate Armed Forces to a low place of preference by the youth.

What do Defence Services offer today? Unsettled life, difficult living conditions, risk of war and early retirement with slender prospects of rehabilitation elsewhere. With 20 years service in the Police or in the civil services, the incumbent occupies high position and here in the Armed Forces he stagnates as Lieutenant Colonel to retire thereafter.

Something has got to be done about it. With sophisticated weaponry that has to be inducted to maintain our defence preparedness, the cost referred to by Shri Indrajit Gupta was as much Rs. 50 crores per aircraft. We just cannot afford to recruit those officers who are forced to go to the Air Force, to the Army and to the Navy, only because of high level of unemployment. We, in such circumstances, cannot even do with the

second best. It is the sick of the youth, as one of the distinguished Army Generals has referred to, that we need to serve the Armed Forces.

For this, we must make sufficient improvements in their service conditions. Salary, housing, lateral entry into Services like para-military forces to Rashtriya Rifles, Border Security Forces etc., adequate posts with retirement benefits and enhancement of pensions to war widows, are some of the aspects that need to be attended to.

The soldier returns home with small pension, at an age when sometimes his children are still at school and having treated them already as a class by themselves as far as their age of retirement is concerned, we grudge treating them as a class by themselves when they raise the question of one rank one pension.

I would humbly join other hon. Members to say that we must treat them as a class separate from others, grant them one time pension and this should have no snowballing effect on other Services. We must all understand the gratitude that we owe to the Defence Forces. We must understand the genuineness of this demand and we must also appreciate that the measure adopted by us some time back regarding one time increase in the pension is really no substitute for the demand.

An ex-soldier's grouse is that he is treated unfairly by others who frame the rules or the law governing his career, affects the morale of those in the active service and if this is what Shri Jaswant Singh really meant when he talked of corrosive influence, I would agree with him. This does affect the morale of the people in service, of those, who are engaged in preserving the freedom and security of the nation, its unity and integrity.

I want to emphasise that aspect.

To conclude, I would urge the Government that we must consider all these issues for the ultimate good of the nation. A reference was made today to the defeat of Fascism fifty years back. I would conclude by saying that those war veterans who fought for us fifty years back are getting a paltry amount of pension today, that is, Rs. 300/- per year. This is at a time when the Government otherwise, as a measure of welfare for the general public is giving a monthly pension of Rs. 100 to the aged and to the widows. Why should we not raise the pension of war veterans to at least Rs. 200/- per month? These are some of the suggestions that I would like to put before the hon. Minister for the consideration of the Government.

With these words, I would support the Demands.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing today a very important subject. At the very outset I would like to make it clear that the history of Indian Soldiers is a story of valour

itself. We have no doubt that the country is well protected in their hands. But we shall have to equip our army with modern and sophisticated arms, keeping in view the evil eyes and preparedness of our neighbouring countries. We have to keep the morale of our army high. We have to pay rich tribute to our defence forces and acknowledge them as highly competent and dedicated best combat force so that our young generation is attracted towards defence services. Last time while speaking on the demands for grants on the Ministry of Defence and I repeat the same today that there was a time when defence forces personnel were held in high esteem and they were prepared to sacrifice their lives for the country. They used to induct their children in the army. But now they hesitate. People do not want to join defence forces. They like other sectors. We have to think over this aspect seriously. My leader has spoken on this aspect in details. We have to do something so that people are attracted towards, Army, Navy or Airforce; they get their due respect after their retirement from defence service.

Sir, keeping in view our relations with our neighbour countries, such as Pakistan, China, direct involvement of Pakistan in Kashmir, its infiltration in Kashmir and the conditions regarding North-East we have to equip our forces with the most modern and sophisticated electronic warheads equipments or armaments. We must obtain upto date information about the kind of armament, with which their armed forces are equipped.

[English]

We will have to keep parity with those with whom we can have confrontation only.

[Translation]

We have 2-3 options or conditions. Full scale war with Pakistan, support of China to Pakistan through Tibbet and infiltration or insurgency of Pakistan in Kashmir and North-East. We have to face all such things and make our forces capable to rebut China.

16.00 hrs.

Third, to deal sternly with Pakistan which is creating problem by sending its trained infiltrators in Kashmir. Pakistan is giving training to these ultras and sending them in India. We are to keep up our relations with.

Fourth, our other neighbouring countries Sri Lanka and Maldives. We have been sending our soldiers as Peace Keeping Force for their help. We have to see our position in this context.

Pakistan has acquired most sophisticated modern arms. They have surface to surface missiles H-1, H-2 and M-11 missiles which can carry nuclear war heads also. All these have been acquired from China. I would like to give my complements to Dr. Kalam, who is sitting here, for the commendable work he has done for the country. As Shri Jaswant Singh ji was saying.

[English]

The product has preceded the concept and that is true.

[Translation]

On the other hand we have come under pressure of foreign powers and are not in a position to deploy 'Prithvi' which has been put in a coldbag. In our country such informations have been kept secret from us whether we are member of Standing Committee on Ministry of Defence. Those are not supplied to us as these have been termed as sensitive and classified in nature but these secret informations have been published in foreign print media. When such modern arms have been deployed on our borders then why should we not deploy our own weapons which we have developed in our country. Decision must be taken about Prithvi. We have to equip our defence forces with such weaponry. Last defence allocation was 25500 crore rupees. I am not satisfied with this allocation because of the increase in the rate of inflation because of the increase in the rate of inflation which is now 11 per cent whereas the increase in budget allocation is only 8.3 per cent. 70 per cent of the arms required to be replenished are from U.S.S.R. But due to disintegration of USSR the prices have inflated there manyfold. Now we shall have to make them cash payment. My contention is that budget allocation for Defence Ministry is depleted. We are not spending adequate amount on D.R.D.O. in relation to its commendable work. We are proud of our scientists. They are scientists of world fame. Whatever they have done within their limited resources is really praiseworthy. I demand for increase in the allocation for D.R.D.O.

[English]

It should go up to ten per cent of the Defence Budget.

[Translation]

which is 5.5 per cent at present.

[English]

I will not go into the figures because I thought that the time allocated to me is limited. I will try to be very brief on one or two subjects.

[Translatioin]

We have to increase allocation for DRDO because our priorities are pinned on this organisation. As per our estimate we cannot go beyond 60 per cent. Keeping in view the internal and foreign crisis of the country. Defence outlay must have to be increased. It is also necessary for acquiring modern weapons and re-equipment of the Defence forces and also to boost the morale of jawans. We have to provide maximum possible facilities to the forces. Our neighbours whether it in China or Pakistan, they have evil eyes on us and with this intention they acquire every sopisticated weapon

from anywhere they can. History is witness to the fact that inspite of our extending the hands of friendship their intentions have always been malicious towards us. Inderjit Singh ji were saying that we have no danger from China. We had no danger from China even in 1962 when Chau-En-Lai came here and said loudly Hindi-Chini Bhai-Bhai. But we were caught unawares when they attacked us. The deceived us and invaded us. Our Prime Minister Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru could not bear that shock. Therefore we must be careful and utmost alert and prepared to face or counter their assault. There must be automatic 15 per cent increase in Defence Budget allocations every year because the price inflation equalises the increase.

55 thousand defence personnal retire every. The burden of their pension is also on Defence allocation. Our armed forces must be young and sturdy. Major Sawant is also of this view. We should retire a army personnel when he attains the age 35 or 40 years. These retired jawan may be reemployed in para military forces. In this way these forces will get already trained personnel inducted into it and the burden of the pension will be decreased. I do not find any difficulty in this provision.

Coming to N.P.T., as Shri Jaswant Singh ji has said, we should pass a resolution, adopt a firm policy in this regard as we have unanimously passed a resolution on Kashmir. We should be crystal are clear in this regard and country must know that we independent and not under any pressure from any corner of the world. This message should go loud and clear from India. Government should consider this in this House and send this message by tomorrow.

We have two or three projects pending with the Government. One project is about manufacture of Advanced Light Helicopters. I had an opportunity to go to H.A.L. in Bangalore. There I was informed about the prototype of this Helicopter having been manufactured. Test Trial had also been undertaken. We should go in for regular production of it. It has been displayed in Paris in the Paris Air Show and probably next month again we are going to have a air show.

Much in detail has been said about Advanced Jet Trainer. We have taken decision about two options, one British Hawk and the other is French Alfa Jet. So far as Alfa Jet is concerned we are not sure whether we would be able to acquire it because its cost is 50 crore which is very high. A Russian Trainer may be taken into consideration because we would require 66 Trainer Jets. I urge to take decision in this regard as early as possible. Our pilots shall have to acquire this Advanced Jet Trainer. LCA project is also pending decision for a long time. We hope we will be able to provide this Trainer to our pilots by 2003 AD. But there is great difference between its present cost and cost in 2003 AD. So there should be a time bound programme. We have not been able to acquire this because of resource crunch. But this should be accorded priority.

We have been able to complete the manufacture MBT 'Arjun'. Test Trials are going on. I have also seen it. It is an indigenous up-lay component. Its indigenisation percentage should be increased and this is the job DRDO, but adequate funds should be provided to DRDO.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have been calling army to assist civil administration to maintain Law and Order in the event of any internal riots or any other such emergency. But it was decided some years back not to call army in this manner. So Rashtriya Rifles was raised. But all its expenses are borne by Ministry of Defence. Ministry of Home Affairs should bear the expenses of Rashtriya Rifles. Its funds should be separate from that of Ministry of Defence. Similarly the budget allocation for DRDO should be separate from that of Ministry of Defence. I have been in army I have fought battle. I know how much respect public give to Jawans. When Jawans sacrifice their lives in battle, people make them hero, pay him rich tributes but they forget their widows their children, nobody cares for them. So I oppose use of army in assisting civil administration in the event of riots. Army men is given instruction that his cartridge should kill army but in civil riots he is ordered to fire but not to kill or injure any person. Such is the plight of armymen. Army should not be used in civil riots. For that purpose other forces like BSF, CRPF, R.R. are there. Army may be deployed during natural calamities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Cantonement areas were developed by the British. A civilian could not enter the cantonment area easily. But now the position is that they are within the civilian population. Cantonement territory is such that civilians or Government officers living there were exempted from payment of any tax. This is the decision of the Central Government. Two or three day back I was in Kanpur. There are several defence establishments in Kanpur. These defence establishments have to pay 4 crore rupees to cantonment. Civilians have encroached upon the cantonment land. So I would urge the Government to reacquire this encroached land and handover the same to Development Authorities so that sources of income of Cantonement administration may increase and Cantonement facilities may be provided to the civilian population also. Moreover any building in cantonment area would not go beyond a certain height because it would be dangerous for security reasons. A building was being constructed in Kanpur it was very high building. If a person see around with binoculars from that building he could see Chakeri Airforce Station and aerodrome and the activities there. It is a security risk. But the cantonment authorities expressed helplessness. A very high Minaret is being built in the name of religion. That is also a security risk. We all should oppose this.

An army man retires at the age 35 or 40 years from the army. His children are not adult at that time. He is honest and when he returns and enters civilian life he

is faced with corruption every where. He does not get his pension unless he gives money to the concerned officials. This is my information. We should do something for their rehabilitation. But they are not getting any facility. When he is in army he gets a licence for his personal arm from the authorities at his place of posting. But after retirement when he goes to his native town which very far off from place of his posting he is required to present his arm for verification in the city where he was posted. This process takes five to six months time. After retirement his tenant does not vacate his house which he requires now. He has to go to the court for relief. He is not getting medical facility. His children should be given admission in engineering, medical and other professional courses in colleges. Although some seats are reserved for wards of Exservicemen but those should be increased.

There is need to keep the morale of our defence forces high. Their fighting ability should compete with that of neighbouring countries. The present Budget provisions are not quite enough. These should be increased. Mr. Chairman, I do not support these demands for grants.

[English]

MAJ. GEN. R.G. WILLIAMS (Nominated Anglo-Indian) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demand for Grants for the Ministry of Defence, 1995-96. At the very outset, I would like to pay rich and well-merited tribute to our defence forces who are acknowledged throughout the world as highly competent and dedicated and amongst the best professional fighting forces within the limitations of the present equipment. Their exemplary performance abroad on various peace keeping missions of the United Nations has further enhanced their image and upheld the honour and prestige of the nation. Our defence forces have also rendered invaluable assistance in the time of national calamities and in maintaining law and order during periods of political unrest.

I would like to welcome the induction of lady officers into our defence services and compliment them on their competence and dedication. I would like to dwell almost exclusively on the subject of defence equipment, which, in this modern world of fast advancing technology, forms the backbone and teeth of any fighting forces. As time progresses, the defence services are becoming more and more equipment-oriented. As reported, the security scenario in our region has not shown any significant improvement; and acquisition of latest sophisticated weaponry, arms technology and modernisation of armed forces by our potential adversaries have raised long-term security concern for India.

As to whether the budgetary estimate of the defence services for the year 1995-96 would be sufficient to enable the Government to take adequate measures that are necessary to ensure our territorial integrity in

response to this menacing security scenario in our neighbourhood calls for a detailed and a close examination. An amount of Rs. 25,500 crore has been provided for the defence services in the Budget Estimates for the year 1995-96.

While allowing for an inflation rate of 11 per cent over the previous year, this does not, in fact, reflect an increase in the Defence Budget at all. I wish to point out that equipments currently in the hands of our Defence Services are now 20 to 25 years old and although not completely out of date certainly need early replacement in a phased and deliberate manner over the remaining few years of this century.

16.26 hrs.

(Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee *in the Chair*.)

Based on these limitations, the services had prioritised a number of areas for modernisation, upgradation and re-equipment of their equipments during the Eighth Plan which spans the period 1992-97. Some of the major prioritised items are as follows. For the Army, they are acquisition of battle field surveillance tactical control radar, remotely piloted vehicles, self-propelled artillery, induction of attack helicopters and modernisation of T-72 and T-55 tanks. For the Air Force, they are procurement of Advanced Jet Trainer, acquisition of multirole combat aircraft with deep strike capabilities and a number of systems of force multiplier. For the Navy, they are replacement of ageing aircraft carrier, replacement of ageing submarines and acquisition of six additional frigates.

In the implementation of this formidable Defence Plan, it is very essential that our support services are geared up fully to meet the challenges. I refer particularly to our DRDO and Defence Production Organisation. The DRDO is doing an excellent job especially in the fields of missiles, aircraft development and electronic warfare equipments which are revolutionising modern warfare. I wish to caution that the likely revival of chemical and biological weapons once again rears its ugly head especially in the hands of terrorist prone organisations and nations. Heavy concentration of population which are unprotected are sitting ducks for this type of mayhem or mass killing by a comparatively small number of militants. There is no doubt that these proxy wars are psychologically demoralising and devastating and that determined elements are capable of penetrating the most sophisticated security arrangements.

Due to resource crunch and budgetary insufficiency, it has not been possible to accommodate all the schemes projected by the Services. However, effort has been made to ensure that defence preparedness does not suffer. A further pruning of the modernisation schemes programme, adopting various economy measures to restrict expenditure, and steps to initiate internal resources generation should help very considerably the services to manage.

The minimum inescapable requirements of the Services have, therefore, been worked out. The Ministry of Finance, it is hoped, will provide sufficient budgetary support during the current Eighth Plan Period. Notwithstanding the resource constraint, efforts have been made to ensure that urgent maintenance and modernisation priorities will not suffer. Out of Rs. 6,945 crore provided in Budget Estimates for 1995-96 for modernisation of the three Services, approximately Rs. 2,000 crore are for new acquisitions. This amount reflects the cash outflow in 1995-96 on modernisation schemes and not the total value of the schemes implemented. The amount provided, it is hoped, will be sufficient to look after the combat worthiness of our Forces.

In the Budget Estimates of 1995-96, only 60 per cent of the amount projected by the three Services for modernisation has been provided. I have to point out that the modernisation, upgradation and reequipment projects are heavily capital intensive and are still in an infancy stage even in the fourth year of the Eighth Plan period, 1992-1997. I have doubts whether any of these prioritised schemes would be completed during the current plan period. I wish to stress that failure to acquire new equipment each successive year will only result in an accumulation or backlog which can become prohibitive and unaffordable, necessitating panic buying or taking on lease equipment from abroad as a last resort. It must also be borne in mind that delays in procurement result in a higher cost of acquisition from abroad due to sharp depreciation of the rupee. Similarly, in respect of items of indigenous manufacture, these also escalate due to inflation. I am firmly of the view that while planning the modernisation of our Armed Forces, it is very essential to look at least fifteen to twenty years ahead. I would stress once again that having made a plan, adequate allocations should be earmarked each year and purchases should be made accordingly and not deferred for any reason whatsoever.

Now, let us have a closer look at the reequipping of our Defence Forces. The Army is being equipped with a new range of small arms such as a new fully automatic rifle, a new light machine gun and a new carbine. These weapons will fire a new superior performance type of ammunition which has also been fully developed by the DRDO.

As the overall number of weapons required is extremely large and may result in logistic problems, it is imperative that an all out effort must be made by our defence production organisation to re-equip our front line units by the turn of the century.

Another equipment which is causing some anxiety is our long awaited Main Battle Tank, 'Arjun' which is still to complete its troop trials in this hot weather. It is disappointing to note that no production of this major equipment is scheduled during the current Eighth Defence Plan. In order to expedite its introduction into

Service, I would recommend that series production of the tank, its weapons and ammunition should be planned or even commenced in anticipation of its final design clearance; presumably, no further major modifications will be necessary. Modernisation of the existing tank fleet of T-55 and T-72 which have become very essential should not, in any way, interfere with the production of our Main Battle Tank.

A few days ago, our hon. Prime Minister had assured this august House that there were no pressures, external or internal, against the development and series production of indigenous missiles to meet the Services' requirements. Surface-to-Surface missile 'Prithvi' has been successfully completed all user's flight trials and presumably its production is already in hand. However, no provision is reflected in the 1995-96 Budget. It would be a great advantage to the Army if some supplies of 'Prithvi' missiles are made during the current Eighth Defence Plan period.

Similarly, our DRDO has completed the development of three other state-of-the-art missiles, the surface-to-air missile 'Trishul' and 'Akash' and the anti-tank missile, 'Neg'. In view of the hon. Prime Minister's assurance, the series production of these missiles will hopefully also be undertaken during the Eighth Defence Plan period. The deployment of the 'Prithvi' missile alongwith the Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher which is under development by DRDO should give a big advantage in range and fire power to our ground forces.

As regards the Air Force, they have been pressing over the last several years for an Advanced Jet Trainer aircraft so as to speed up and give better training to our young pilots. There have been an abnormal number of accidents due to pilot error and inexperience and we have lost an unacceptable number of first line aircraft in the process. It is heartening to note that commercial negotiations are in progress with the short listed suppliers for the acquisition and indigenous production of a suitable AJT.

The upgradation of Mig-21 BIS Squadrons in the current financial year will greatly enhance the combat capabilities of the Air Force.

Similarly, the proposed upgradation of MIG 27 aircraft is most encouraging. Although there is a demand for a multi-role combat aircraft with deep strike capabilities, it is appreciated that the acquisition of the large numbers required would be unaffordable at the present moment. However, good progress is reported on the development of our own light combat aircraft and every effort should be made to expedite its early development. In order to enhance the capabilities of our existing equipment, a number of systems of force multipliers are required. The most essential of these to my mind is Air-to-Air or inflight refuelling and the early development or acquisition of an effective Air borne warning and control system. The provision of this latter equipment will give us a commanding platform in space

to look deeply into enemy's territory so that early warning is available to intercept hostile aircraft approaching our borders. It is also most essential that our ground radar is upgraded to make it gap free.

Turning to the Navy, I find that the Naval demands have been particularly neglected over the past years. The planning for construction of new ships too has been rather haphazard even though there is idle capacity in our shipyards. We have also successfully established the indigenous production of modern warships such as, Frigates, destroyers and submarines and a number of smaller Naval crafts. Since the lead time required for production of Naval warships is several years, it is, therefore, essential that advance planning, at least 10 years in advance, should be resorted to and firm orders placed on our dockyard. The sudden need for urgent replacement of aging aircraft carriers and submarines fully illustrates this point. Perhaps it is not too late to draw up a comprehensive plan for the regular supply of five or six warships annually so that the operational strength of our Navy is not depleted, as appears to be the case at present. Apart from adequate production capacity of warships, we have a highly competent design and development organisation in this specialised field. Perhaps an Aircraft Carrier or Air Defence Ship carrying a limited number of aircraft should have been designed to meet our own special requirement and also offered to neighbouring friendly countries.

The modernisation of ordnance depots and the computerisation of ordnance inventories is long overdue and when converted should result in very appreciable savings by way of reducing the procurement process to the barest minimum and at the same time disposing of large surpluses of Army stores, particularly those which are occupying limited covered storage accommodation, especially in the case of sophisticated items like ammunition and explosives.

Finally, a word about the Coast Guard which was constituted in 1978 and which is the latest complement to the Defence Services. The protection of maritime zones, maritime environment and anti-smuggling operations are assuming major international importance, particularly with the increasing number of offshore oil drilling rigs. Persistent efforts continue by unfriendly neighbours to smuggle explosives, weapons and narcotics into the country for augmenting terrorist and anti-social activities which have assumed menacing proportions. The Coast Guard which is being expanded with addition of modern equipment such as fast patrol vessels, interceptor boats, Dornier aircraft, rescue and light helicopters, apart from being complimentary to the Navy, also play a vital and increasingly important role in the security of the nation.

Madam, Chairman, I thank you, for giving me this opportunity. I once again reiterate that I strongly support the Demands for Grants for Defence for 1995-96.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur) : Madam Chairman, I oppose the Demands for Grants, neither on the issue of any policy nor any problem be it technology or the functioning of the Defence Ministry but in regard to some cases in the Department of Defence and particularly in the Army, which I have not been successful in resolving outside this august House. These cases with solid proofs also appeared in newspapers but there is no clarification or denial from army authorities. The matter was taken up with the Minister of Defence, the Prime Minister as well as the Commander-in Chief but nothing has happened so far. I would like this August Parliament to come forward to the rescue those who put their 'lives in danger, fight the enemies and ultimately, became the victim of corruption prevalent there.

I would like to raise two big issues in this House. Now-a-days, the discussion is underway on Cut-Motions. I had thought of giving notice of Cut Motion but in this regard, we go by certain rules. However, I oppose these Demands for Grants. Yesterday, the Hon'ble Prime Minister gave reasons for retaining the Defence portfolio with him but I was out of station. First of all, I would like to raise the issue of Army Welfare Housing Organisation. There are retired officers of the rank of General holding positions in the Organisation. This Organisation was set up for construction of houses for an ordinary jawan to General or the widows and children of the officers and jawans killed in war or military action. They contribute money for construction of their houses. The organisation has branches spread all over the country and earlier its Managing Director happened to be a Major General in the Army. I do not know about the set-up today. When I took up this issue with the Minister of State for Defence in December, then Major General M.M. Sharma was its Managing Director. This issue came up first in 1990-91. 242 houses were constructed by this Organisation in Sector 47-C, Chandigarh. After completion of construction, the members made payment to this organisation as demanded. The organisation runs on no-profit, no-loss basis. There were three categories of houses. It is said that amount ranging from Rs. 4 lakh to Rs. 4.70 lakh per house was collected from the members. When the houses were handed over to the members, they found that substandard material was used in the construction of these houses. The condition of the houses was the same as are constructed in Delhi, which become dilapidated and even collapse after one rainy season. After occupying the houses they took up the matter with the officials of the organisation time and again but to no avail. Then the house owners took up the case in the Consumer Forum, Chandigarh. On the complaint of Lt. General, Sartaj Singh the case was investigated and it was found that the construction of the houses was not according to specification and the agreement was violated. In this regard, 42 cases of omissions and commissions came to light. The Forum had sent the entire report to the Managing Director,

Army Welfare Housing Organisation three years ago but nothing has been heard from him till date. This is the state of affairs that an Ex. General sends a complaint through Consumer Forum but the Army does not pay heed to it. Thereafter, the matter was taken up with the Chief of the Army Staff in writing but there was no response. They should have understood that the flat owners were none other than ex-servicemen or widows. The matter was then taken up with the Building Contractor M/s. Rajaram and Sons; who filed a written affidavit in the Court that an amount of Rs. 2.25 lakh per flat was paid to them. Whereas, Rs. 4 lakh to Rs. 4.70 lakh were charged from each member. The members then told that the balance amount be returned to them but again there was no reply. The matter was again taken up with the Defence Minister, the Prime Minister as well as the Commander in Chief Armed Forces. But there was no reply. Today, the hon. Prime Minister himself holds the charge of Defence portfolio. Earlier, we thought that this portfolio has been reserved for a particular person but now, the Prime Minister has made the things clear. I am, however, in no agreement with his approach. If he had the will, he would have looked into this matter.

Thereafter, this matter appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 10th September 1991. However, there was no denial from the Public Relations Department of the Defence Ministry. 'The Tribune' published this matter on 29.6.92 and 'Indian Express' on 19.8.93. Then again this matter appeared in 'The Tribune' on 21.12.93, but nothing happened. When such newspapers of world fame reveal this kind of corruption, it is raised in the House and discussions are held for hours together. But in this case nothing such happened. It is a corruption case involving 5 crores of rupees. The names of army personal are being mentioned in this scandal. Despite that, there is no denial.

This matter was raised in the House on 19th August, 1993 but despite lapse of more than one year, nothing has happened. 32 members went to consumer Forum but Army Welfare Housing Organisation got a stay from Punjab and Haryana High Court. Now, they are not in a position to take up the matter again in consumer Court.

This matter did not end there. One thousand rupees were taken from each of the 242 members of the society, formed in October, 1991, for maintenance of their houses even before allotment.

17.00 hrs.

However, it remained unutilized. Four garages were constructed for the members of the society through special contribution but they were kept locked and the members were denied use of these garages since they had unveiled this scandal. When no positive response came forth. I myself took these persons to the hon. Minister on December, 22. The Minister gave them another date and assured them that something will be

done. When these persons returned to their houses, they received threatening calls that if they dared go to Delhi, they will return as a corpse to Chandigarh. They rang me back. I took up this matter with the Home Minister and the P.M. I got a letter from the Home Minister on the 5th, which reads as under :

[English]

"Dear Shri George Fernandes,

Please refer to your letter dated 29th December, 1994 written to my colleague, Shri Mallikarjun, Minister of State for Defence, with a copy to me, regarding security arrangement for Lt. Col. Ajit Singh.

We have examined the matter. The Government of Punjab has been requested to take an appropriate action in the matter."

[Translation]

At least the Government examined the matter and reached the conclusion that the complaint was genuine. Since there was danger to the life of Col. Ajit Singh, the Government ordered for immediate action. So, with the instructions from the centre, security has been provided to Lt. Col. Ajit Singh and he can find himself safe. But, Sir, how this case would be resolved? This is not confined to Army Welfare Housing Organisation only. Such corruption is also prevalent in the societies of the Air Wing and Naval Wing of the Armed Forces. In one such case, news appeared in the newspapers. The matter was discussed in every forum and even went to the court. Then in January, 1993 issue of News Letter of the Air Force, Naval Housing Board, Bulletin No.22, a news-item appeared that the outstanding amount of Rs.6.29 crore would be returned to the members. Thus, when the matter reached its extreme, Rs. 6.29 crores were returned. I have got a proof to this effect.

Madam, I would like to know from you, what our Parliament is doing about it, because the Government is not in a position to set the things right. This case was referred to a higher official of the military but he did not respond. This matter is pending with the Government for the last four years. Hundreds of ex-servicemen and widows are unhappy over the inaction. Therefore, I seek the protection of the House. We should not confine to the requirements of the Armed Forces only but we should also think of the welfare of those people in whose hands the security of the nation rests. What can we expect of the system in which there are such elements who are bent upon looting their brethren or war-widows?

In another case, Lt. S.S.Chavan came to me when Shri Sharad Pawar was the Defence Minister. Today, I am very much ashamed because that man could not get justice from us. Shri Chavan was posted in Kashmir. On one night, during routine search of the houses, he found gold from one of the houses. He handed it over to his Search Unit Officer, who in turn said that the gold

should be given to the Unit Commander. I am not disclosing their names. I am mentioning the names of those who have now retired. I have got all names with me. Next day, when Lt. Chavan asked his Search Unit Officer about that gold, he at once denied of having received any gold. Shri Chavan produced the written evidence that he had handed over gold to the officer. That officer told him that he had gone mad. Then he was beaten up mercilessly. He was taken 25-30 kilometres away from Srinagar, where he was shot at and the bullet hit his abdomen. He fell down. Then he was taken to hospital for treatment. He was asked to forget about gold. But he did not relent. He was court-martialled and was sent to Kanpur jail. He was not allowed to meet any body. But somehow, he managed to write a letter to the then General Rodrigues. The letter reached the General.

17.10 hrs.

(MR. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

On the basis of the complaint, General Rodrigues ordered immediate release of Lt. Chavan. But, he was not released. When pressure was exerted from higher-ups, he was at last released from the jail. Then he came to Delhi but was not allowed to see General Rodrigues and other officials. When he failed to meet anybody, one of my colleagues sent him to me. He came to my residence with tears in his eyes. He was dismayed over the state of affairs. He told that three generations of his family have served the nation. His grandfather and father were also in Military. Where should they go now? I talked to the Defence Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar. He heard the plight of Shri Chavan and ordered thorough enquiry into the case. In the meantime, Shri Pawar was sent back to Maharashtra and now God knows the fate of the case. Sir, I tried my level best that justice is done to Shri Chavan and the culprit is punished, but in vain. The culprits are still at large. When we do not pay attention towards such injustices, then what this Parliament is meant for? In the beginning, my hon'ble friends had asked me if I would speak on the demands for Grants of the Defence Ministry, I had said to them that I would take up only two cases. Before concluding, I would only say that if this House is not able to give justice to our jawans or their widows, I feel that it would not be able to protect the country. With these words, I oppose the the Demands for Grants.

[English]

SHRI R. NAIDU RAMASAMY (Periyakulam) : I rise to speak on the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Defence for the year 1995-96. I would like to point out that the Centre has let down the Defence interests of Southern India.

The Sethusamudram project has been hanging fire for a long time. I want this government to make an unequivocal commitment to the country on this issue.

I also demand that the strategic island of Katchativu Island ceded to Sri Lanka 20 years back should be taken back. The inaction on the part of the Indian Government has so far led to a large number of innocent fishermen being made captives at the hands of the Sri Lankan Navy.

For effectively checking the LTTE infiltration a foolproof coastal force has to be raised for which the Tamil Nadu Government has requested for funds. The refusal to grant the requisite funds exposes the central Government's sincerity in tackling the extremist group which was responsible for the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. I want the Government to urgently provide funds to the State for checking the infiltration of LTTE in the State.

I must place before the House a fact that today under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi, there is not a single LTTE cadre left in Tamil Nadu undetected.

I also urge upon this august House and also urge this Government to bring a law for compulsory military training to all those aged between 12 to 18 years.

I am deeply pained to point out that the country under the present Central Government is being led to the path of disaster. The country's defence is being destroyed by the Congress Government. It is not the Congress Government, but the millions and millions of soldiers on the front and elsewhere who patriotically defend the country for whom the Parliament has all laurels and for whom the Parliament would gladly vote the Grants.

In the recent Assembly Elections, the people of various regions rejected the Congress and its policies. It show Assembly Elections were a referendum on the Congress Party's continuance in power. Despite the party's rejection only for the purpose of sticking to power this Government continues. This is a very bad situation.

There is a Government which enjoys massive majority in Tamil Nadu. The Government of Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi is a Government of the masses. A person who enjoys a Minister's rank and who is the Chairman of a Commission on trade related matters is employed by some forces to destabilise the democratic Government in Tamil Nadu. The aim is clear. The designs are clear. Tomorrow it will happen in Andhra Pradesh. In West Bengal, some disgruntled communist party leaders have been chosen to launch the attack on the democratically elected Government. This will be enacted in BJP ruled States also.

I appeal to the Opposition Benches here to join the battle against the Congress and to attack this Government.

SHRI R. NAIDU RAMASAMY (Periakulam)* : Sir, in Tamil Tirukkural

Thiruvalluvar say :

Uru Pasium Ovappinlym Servpagaiyum
Seradhu iyalvathu Nadu"

(A country state shall be in goodstead only when it is rid of hunger, disease and enemies that pose threat to its sovereignty)

A country can live in peace only when its people are having self-confidence, self-respect and a cherished hope that their country can live longer as a better place for their off-springs to live in peace. We must put an end to the problem of hunger. We must ensure that people are provided health facilities to overcome the problem of diseases. We must also ensure that there is no threat to the territorial integrity of the country from across the border. There should not be enemies both from within and outside the country. We should put an end to the terrorist menace. We should not allow the militants or the terrorists to take control of any place in the country. We must also ensure that they do not get patronage, help and support from across the border.

Now we are discussing the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Defence. Before we could guard our borders from our enemies, we must ensure that our territorial integrity is intact and our national integration is preserved. There should not be any room for civil strifes in any part of the country. We must curtail those who are trying to create dissensions both from within and across the borders. We must ensure that such outfits are banned and controlled effectively.

The problems we face due to the terrorists who have the support from some neighbouring terrorist states are known to all of us. Though the Union Government has got under its control the Armed Forces, it could not contain effectively the threats posed by the terrorists in Kashmir, Punjab and Assam. The problems we have been witnessing in these States are yet to be resolved, even though centre taken it upon itself to curb this national menace. The Centre has the Army at its command. About 3,00,000 of our defence personnel and security men have been deployed there. But even the officials who go there are not free from danger. Security is not there even for our security men. Even a defence personnel or an Army officer cannot move from one place to another without adequate security cover. We find such a situation is prevailing over there. But in Tamil Nadu, the LTTE movement has been curtailed effectively.

The LTTE menace took its ugly head in Tamil Nadu from 1989 when DMK came to power. It grew rapidly as a result of which we had to lose one of our promising young leaders and the former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. But our revolutionary leader effectively curtailed the presence and the movement of the LTTE in Tamil Nadu within six months from the day she came to power. Even without the help of the Centre and the help from they Army, she has managed to put an end to the LTTE

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

menace. She could manage it with the help of police who are armed with obsolete weapons which were fit to have been used during Tipu Sultan's period. It has been acknowledged by one and all that she has completely wiped out the existence of LTTE in Tamil Nadu. Controlling LTTE is not that easy a task but she has accomplished this task. It is effectively enforced in Europe that shopkeepers and markets cannot sell anything the LTTE men. Initiating such bold steps, our revolutionary leader has wiped out from Tamil Nadu the world renowned national terrorist outfit LTTE. The task that ought to have been carried out by the Centre and the task that could not have been accomplished by the Government at the Centre was taken up by our leader. The mission that cannot be handled even by an Army has been successfully handled by our Chief Minister and that too with the help of police force. So our Chief Minister who functions so effectively should be congratulated by all of us here. She is administering the Governance of Tamil Nadu ushering in an era of peace. We must all come forward to appreciate her. Instead, a contrary is happening because of the jealousy in the minds of some people. If she is disturbed unnecessarily, it will only endanger the integrity of this country. At this moment her hands need to be strengthened to overcome the threat from the terrorists.

When this Congress Government came to power as a minority Government, we extended our support to it. When this Government faced No Confidence Motion in this House, all the AIADMK members extended their support to save this Government from falling. Why did we extend support to the Congress Government then? Because we thought that a minority Government should not fall at that critical juncture. Our leader with farsightedness thought that that may destabilise the country. She also thought that the election that might have followed would not have provided any party with the majority. It would have led to a situation where another coalition Government to come to power which might have further weakened the stability of the country. Our leader thought that that would harm the integrity of the country and would have created a situation where in the country might be divided. That is why our revolutionary leader thought that the minority Government of the Congress should be saved.

Our leader who has been accepted by all the Tamil people and the lakhs and lakhs of AIADMK cadre, extended her support to all the members who represent Tamil Nadu in this House now. All of them know that it is only with her support that they could win and enter this House.

While our valiant leader is contributing to the integrity of this country in a mighty manner, hindrance to her rule is being created by certain people. Congress which has lost power in many States, is trying to put spokes to other parties who have replaced them. Congress is extending support both covertly and overtly

to such people who are trying to cause hindrance to the AIADMK Government in Tamil Nadu. All MPs here from Tamil Nadu had obtained the support of Tamil people only through AIADMK, i.e., only through our dynamic leader Purachithalaivi.

SHRI R. ANBARASU (Madras Central) : Not all MPs.

***SHRI R. NAIDU RAMASAMY :** Now there is a concerted effort to mar the image of the Governments in States which have won the support of the entire masses. Certain forces are trying to put hurdles in the better functioning of such Governments.

Those who cannot climb up the roof to catch the hen are trying to go up the sky to capture the heaven. Those who cannot effectively control the problems within the country, are managing the defence. I have my own apprehensions as to how they are going to manage the defence affairs. Looking after Defence is no ordinary matter. It is the prime concern of the country. We can overcome the problems we face within the country but we need to be more careful to manage the challenges posed from across the border. The present Congress Government has no clearcut policy in handling anything and everything. We have our own apprehensions as to whether this Government would be able to defend our country effectively in the present international scenario.

So, there is a need to take care of the defence matters of this Country in an effective manner. I feel it would be better to have separate State Ministers to manage the separate wings of the Armed Forces like Army, Navy and the Air Force. There should be an independent Cabinet Minister to administer the defence portfolio. Only then there could be better co-ordination and effective management.

Our defence personnel are stationed in various parts of the country. They have behind their families in their native place. Likewise there are families and widows left behind by the valiant defence personnel who have given away their lives for the country. Such of them should be adopted by the country. Entire nation should take it upon itself to take care of them. We should think of a mechanism to take care of their welfare. The family members of the soldiers who have given their lives for the nation, should be provided with all the facilities to lead an honourable life. They should be provided with educational and employment opportunities. Like the family cards, they should be given separate cards with which they can get the things they need for their livelihood as they belong to the family of those who have sacrificed their lives for this country.

Our Army should be young, energetic and agile. Hence, we should recruit people right when they are in schools. The selection procedure should be like that of the procedure involved in selecting candidates for pursuing medical, engineering and legal courses. The people we select should be like doctors, engineers and advocates. The people selected for the Armed Forces

* Translation of the speech delivered in Tamil.

should be mentally agile and physically fit. We must catch them young. Such people should be given necessary training as per their choice. That would pave way for a better future and a more strong army.

Defence personnel are enrolled at a young age and they serve the Armed Forces for a specified period of time as per the contract they enter in. After 10 to 15 years, they retire. Most of them at a young age. Such people should be immediately absorbed in Government Departments, Public Sector Undertakings and other Para Military Forces. Civilian staff are getting promotions after completing 10 or 15 years. Men in uniform should also be treated like that. Once their specified time is over after 10 years or so, they should be automatically absorbed in other Departments. This way we can keep our army young and at the same time we can provide a sense of security in the minds of our defence personnel. This will also help the defence personnel to contribute their best while they are in active service because of the assured future awaiting them. When defence personnel serve in units away from homes, they should be free from the anxiety as regards to the condition of their families. They should not be worrying about the problems their families might be facing in their absence. The Government should come into picture evolving a viable mechanism from the welfare point of view. There should be welfare units to visit such families atleast once a week to find out whether there are problems and should come forward to help them. The defence personnel who serve the nation in a dedicated fashion should be able to breathe free with a confidence that their families will be taken care of by the state. The country should take care of them when they take care of the country.

With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI UMRAO SINGH (Jalandhar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I speak on and support the Demands for Grants of the Minister of Defence, I would like to pay handsome tributes to our armed forces for bringing normalcy in Punjab.

We, in Punjab, cannot forget the glorious role played by the Defence Services in restoring normalcy in Punjab. They have done it without firing any bullet and without killing any person. This is the remarkable progress achieved by our Armed Forces, in the maintenance of law and order and also in curbing the militancy in our State. Yesterday, our friend Maj. Sudhir Sawant said that Punjab was considered to be a gone case and in that situation the role played by our Army is very commendable. So, I would like to place on record our wholehearted appreciation to our Armed Forces for the way they helped the people, especially in the border area.

Sir, they have mainly taken two positions which were very helpful to us. One was sealing the border which was very vital, because most of the trained militants were being sent from across the border. So, by sealing the border, the Army did a very good job and

helped the restoration of peace. The second thing done by them was patrolling. Patrolling in the affected areas had proved to be very successful. It acted as a deterrent to the militants and it helped in curbing the militancy in the border areas.

Sir, besides this, the Army has done very well in initiating certain welfare schemes. I would like to bring it to the notice of this august House that several welfare schemes were launched by the Army. Schemes like having a medical camp for the people, promoting literacy, helping the people in building good school buildings, building stadia and many other welfare schemes launched in the rural areas have made our Armed Forces very popular and brought the Army very much close to the people and that the people started loving them. This helped in a big way in bringing normalcy back in Punjab.

Sir, our friend Maj. Sudhir Sawant dealt with our requirements very extensively and so, I do not want to go into that. As far as our requirements for modernisation, acquisition of weapons and updating of our Army are concerned, I agree with the other hon. Members of the House that the Government should try to do all that is possible for achieving all these projects which have been mentioned in the Budget and which have been projected by the Armed Forces.

Sir, in the total budget allocations, Rs. 7,000 crore have been kept for modernisation and Rs. 2,000 crore have been kept for acquisition of new weapons. But that is not enough. The requirements as projected by the Armed Forces are bigger than these allocations. But still I feel that under the able guidance of our hon. Prime Minister all these schemes will be pushed through this year. If we go through all the schemes, we can find that there is a delay in some of the schemes and I agree with our hon. Prime Minister that there is need to push up these projects. There cannot be a better person than the Prime Minister himself to push up these schemes, because they are very vital for the defence of our country.

I hope that all these schemes, whether they are for modernisation of the equipment for the Army or for production of tanks, would be completed soon.

It has been several times said by the Prime Minister and also by our Defence Minister that the production of Prithvi is going on as per schedule. There is apprehension about it. I hope the Government is fully alive to this situation and all the required arrangements are being made.

The LCA Project has been very much delayed and the cost has increased enormously. I am just reading a few lines from a book "Conventional Arms Transfers" published by the Institute of Defence Studies wherein it has been stated :

"The delayed LCA Project has already cost 32 billion rupees. An additional 3.5 billion has been spent in developing the GTX-35VS Kaveri engine at the Gas Turbine Research Establishment."

The delay has already cost much to the Indian Exchequer. I think it will take a few more years to complete the LCA Project. Our Defence Organisation is on the job of completing it. It should hopefully be completed by the target date.

Regarding NPT, there has been a proposal that the House should make a regulation on it. I do not agree with that proposal. The Government policy is very clear on that. The Prime Minister has clearly stated that 'We are not going to accept this Treaty'. The Government has repeatedly said it and I am sure that conception of the Government is enough. It can be repeated in international fora and we must respect what the Government has said and there is no fear that our country will commit on that.

Our able Member Shri Jaswant Singhji said that we are going in for AK 47 rifle. Well, I would like to read three lines from the "Strategic Analysis", which is the latest publication. In an article 'The Changed Nature of Warfare and the Small Arms Dimensions', it has been clearly mentioned that :

"This concept of portability was to reap sizeable benefits for today's infantry man as cannon, mortar and light anti-tank weapons, in addition to his personal assault weapon and grenade discharger form a part of his "golf bag".

A small Assam Rifle is now being manufactured not only by Russia or by only one or two countries but by many other countries also like USA, China, France, Israel and South Africa. I am sure we should not stick to our conventional weapons. We should look at the big countries who have specialised defence equipment, going in for small arms because it is very easy to handle them. They are not long enough and their weight is only 3 or 4 KG and their firing rate is very high.

So, it is very effective. I can say this from my own experience in Punjab. In Punjab, when our Police Force was provided with such a rifle, it became a deterrent to the terrorists. Before that, when the terrorists had these weapons, our Police Force was very shy of fighting the terrorists. So, the introduction of such weapons can be very useful. I do not agree with Shri Jaswant Singh in this regard.

With regard to Sainik Schools, something has been said. It has also been reported that there are shortages of personnel in the senior ranks. We have a Sainik School in Punjab at Kapurthala, the building where it has been housed was the Palace of Maharaja of Kapurthala. It is one of the very spacious buildings that we have. But there are a lot of difficulties to maintain that. The State Government is not helping and the Central Government has not enough funds. That is one thing. Well, some funds can be arranged. But the sorry state of affairs in the Sainik School is that not enough boys from it are coming forward for recruitment in the

NDA. There is no motivation amongst the students. This is alarming. I think this is where we are worried. If the students in the Sainik School are not having an urge for joining the Armed Forces, then it is very difficult to get the students from other institutions. All the best students are now going for IAS recruitment or for professional courses like medicine and engineering. They are joining medical and engineering colleges. The left-outs opt for joining Army, Air Force, Navy and other Services. My suggestion is that we must concentrate on our Sainik School. We must see that the majority of the students at least join the Services. They should be properly motivated. They should be given proper diet. Now, the diet given in the Sainik School is hardly worth Rs. 12.50 per day. These days, that is not enough. After eating so little, we expect them that and they fail. There is no urge on them to join the Army. So, the conditions of the Sainik Schools should be improved.

Now, I would like to point out one major contribution which we had from our Armed Forces and that was in the field of sports. We used to have all our best sportsmen, our Asian champions from our Services like Milkha Singh and other wrestlers. Nowadays, hardly good athletes are coming from the Services. I request the Defence Minister and also our Prime Minister to see that the Defence Services, which have been giving top sportsmen to our country, repeat that performance and come forward in a big way to help the country in producing good sportsmen.

Sir, Shri Jaswant Singh mentioned that there is no War Museum or War Memorial in the country. I think he is wrong. In Punjab, we have started in a big way a War Museum in Ludhiana where photographs, portraits and busts of our war heroes will be provided. It is not only in respect of soldiers from Punjab but also of the entire country. We are collecting photographs etc. of soldiers from all over the country. It is really going to be a good Museum. I hope the Defence Ministry should also help the State Government for bringing up that Museum immediately because they have also some financial problem.

Regarding War Memorials, we have War Memorials. We have got one of the best War Memorials, the Saragarhi War Memorial in Ferozepur Cantonment. Saragarhi was an incident where our soldiers had really done a wonderful job. A very heroic deed had been performed. We have a very nice Memorial, very well kept up and annually the Saragarhi Day is being celebrated. So, I do not agree that there are no War Memorials and our war heroes have been neglected.

I would like to suggest that the State Government should also come forward to help the ex-servicemen and also the families of the serving people because it is the duty not only of the Central Government but also the duty of the State Governments in this regard. They have their own Department known as the Defence Services Welfare Department in the State and in some

of the States like Punjab and Maharashtra they are really doing a good job by giving them some financial assistance and also giving them reservation in services and also providing many other schemes of resettlement.

Similarly, special schemes are being provided in Punjab for war widows. All the war widows of 1965 and 1971 wars are provided ten acres of land or a plot of one acre in the cities. So I hope that other States should also follow this and all our ex-servicemen, widows and the children of the service people should also be given the advantage of being looked after by the country.

In the end, I would like to say that in this Budget, the Central Government has tried to lay more emphasis not only on modernisation but also on updating it. This emphasis should continue and our DRDO should be strengthened. More funds should be provided to them. We are proud of them. They have done a very good job. I think, the whole country should appreciate the service which is being done by the DRDO. Results are there. Achievements are commendable. I strongly feel that more funds should be made over to all their schemes whether it is for Advance Jet Trainers or it is for missiles or it is for the tanks or any other equipment which required for the Army, the Air Force or the Navy. They should be arranged at the shortest possible time.

With these words, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence. Thank you very much.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we are once again discussing the Demands for Grants of the Defence Ministry. We were denied this opportunity last year and this Government has established some sort of a record by guillotining the Defence Demands of two years — 1992-93 and 1994-95. And it is nice, therefore, that we are having a discussion on Defence Budget.

This Government luckily has been lucky to produce or present five Budgets. And during this long period, one had expected, one had wished that they would break new grounds, take some new directions in the matter of Defence funding and spending. And I had personally hoped, probably against hopes and very unwisely, that this Government would take this opportunity to do a "McNamara" to Defence budgeting and funding. In fact, in my very first speech when Shri Sharad Pawar was here, I requested him - he was an experienced politician and an administrator - that some new grounds ought to be broken and new directions ought to be taken in defence funding and budgeting. But sadly, the Government continues the policy of *ad hocism* and casualism. There have been nothing new in all these five Budgets, in all these five years. The Finance Minister thinks that he has fired a great gun by just telling the House here, 'well, no amount of effort will be spared for the Defence Forces and the defence of the country.' And he feels very happy by increasing the allocation from Rs.23,500 crore to

25,000 crore. He washes his hands off and everybody thinks that he has done great things. Everybody pats himself on the back.

Never mind, if this increase does not even cater to the inflation, what to talk of modernisation and various other things? But, everybody is happy and thinks that he has taken care of the national defence.

Sir, my senior colleague, Shri Jaswant Singh has spoken in great detail about the various issues, policy matters, equipment and other things. I, therefore, will not go into the details because of shortage of time. I would only like to touch the issues which are causing concern.

Sir, the defence of any country is not an easy task but defence of this nation, India, is a very difficult, very onerous and a daunting task, I do not know how many people realise this. We have a land border of 16,500 kilometre and out of that 7,000 kilometre is with Pakistan and China. We have a coastline of 7,600 kilometre. We have Exclusive Economic Zone extending to over 25 lakh square kilometre. We have over 500 island and hydrocarbon installations. Our areas are also being occupied by foreign countries. China had occupied 38,000 square kilometre and claiming another 19,000 square kilometre. Half of Jammu and Kashmir is with Pakistani occupation and it had gifted away 10,000 kilometre out of this to China. Therefore, one had hoped that with such a daunting task the Ministry of Defence would work as a coordinating and well-oiled machine between the national the Armed Forces and identify the problems and solve them. But, here again very sadly, all that the Ministry of Defence had at the best of times, done is that it had functioned as a post office and at worst time, it had functioned as an obstructive instrument in this machinery. Purely for vanity of some individuals, when some good proposals and good things are coming from the Armed Forces, they will not let them go; lest some credit should go to somewhere else. That is a very very sadistic attitude that has set in. Therefore, when new thinking and new direction could have been taken place all these years, we have lost valuable time.

Due to paucity of time, the issues that I am raising, I shall put in the form of question. I hope somebody will try and give some answers.

My first point is about threat assessment. Every year, we get a beautiful and glossy Annual Report from the Ministry of Defence. I am here for the last five years. I would certainly compliment the people concerned for its improvement in terms of information and its usefulness during the last two years. In this book, the very first thing that has been mentioned is about the national security environment. The Annual Report always starts with this. When you talk of national security environment where should it lead to? It should lead to threat assessment. When our country faces that threat, at that time the Armed Forces should have the capability to meet that threat. Therefore, my first question, is when

was this last threat assessment carried out by the Ministry of Defence, based on which, you have "tasked" the information to the Chiefs of three Services.

Secondly, based on this threat assessment, have the three Chiefs given you the capability that they want? Have you got this from each of these three Services, namely, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force? If they have given it to you, which I am sure, they would have, have you been able to meet this? That is my third question. Fourthly, if you have not met this, then, have you reduced the task that you have given to the three Chiefs? If not, then how do you expect - without this capability being given to the three Chiefs - to complete the task, which you have given to them? Are you in the same mental make up that *ad hocism* and casualism will take you through a war? Our soldiers are very good and our Defence Services are very good. From my own experience, I can tell you, that we have gone through a lot of casualism and what we call, improvisation in the Services. But, how long will this go on? In this modern warfare system today, this improvisation will no longer work. It is all right that we have gone through it in the Second World War. This is a very serious matter. Unless we take the bull by the horn, you cannot wish it away. You cannot say that you have given this task to defend the territory, but you cannot give the capability. You have to do it somehow, otherwise. This will not work. We will be let down during war.

The next related question is; have the Ministry of Defence taken note of the Resolution passed by both the Houses of Parliament on J&K? If you have taken note of it, what additional capability have you given to the Armed Forces to carry out the task, to carry out the role, to carry out the directions that have been given to this Government by both the Houses? A definite Resolution has been passed here which includes taking back the occupied part of the J&K. What have you done about it? Have you just heard it and let it pass off? This is a Resolution passed by both the Houses. I would, therefore, want to know what this Government has done to implement the Resolution passed by both the Houses of this parliament. If you have done nothing, why have you not done anything?

The next point is, there was an Estimates Committee Report, the 19th Report, which was submitted to the House on 20th August 1992. The Chairman of this Committee was Shri Jaswant Singh, a very able person. He had produced a beautiful Report, a very useful Report and extremely valuable suggestions were given. This went to the Ministry of Defence. For two years I tried to raise questions on this Report in the Parliament. I was told that the Action Taken Report has not come and therefore as per the procedure I cannot ask questions. I kept on following it up and personally kept on chasing the Action Taken Report to be given by the Ministry of Defence. The Report was given on 25th April, 1994. I have the Action Taken Report here and the person chairing the Committee in also sitting here

- Shri Bhoi. I would like to read out some of the comments that have been passed by this Committee on the Ministry of Defence and leave it to you to judge what sort of functioning this Ministry is carrying out. I will only read out some portions about delegation of financial powers.

"The Committee regret that the Ministry have not intimated the specific powers which have been suitably enhanced..."

The Committee desire to be informed of the details of the specific recommendations .

About combat effectiveness I am reading out the wordings of the Action Taken Report.

"It is indeed surprising that no specific replies regarding action taken by the Government in the direction of fleet modernisation, force multipliers for the Air Force and specialised troops for the Army have been given by the Ministry. The reply is couched in vague terms."

This is the wording. They have given a notice of three months to the Ministry to reply. This is the Action Taken Report of the Estimates Committee. After two years of hibernation in the Ministry, this type of reply is coming and these are the comments on that reply given in April, 1994 on the Report which was submitted in August, 1992.

"From this sort of response of the Ministry the Committee can discern a positive lack of action on its part. It is constrained to note that even after this Committee's recommendation that action to implement the recommendations of CDE should be expedited and the progress reported to the Committee within a period of six months, no tangible action..."

I would have liked to go into it in great detail, but because of shortage of time, I am not doing it.

About the manpower management it is said :

"From the casual manner in which the reply has been furnished the Committee cannot but conclude that the Ministry has not given serious thought to their recommendation..."

If this is the fate of the Estimates Committee Report, I do not know what would be the fate of our speeches.

"They would also like to emphasise that all the recommendations of the Committee need to be pondered over seriously and not replied evasively as in the present case."

This document talks of the medical facilities that have been given.

"The Committee wish to express their displeasure at the vague reply of the Ministry"

This is the type of response that has been given to a Committee of the Parliament chaired by an eminent Member and in which very senior Members are there.

Again, there is another general remark :

"The Committee cannot but express their displeasure at the way the Ministry has acted on their recommendations."

18.00 hrs.

Therefore, without going into the details of this I would like to know what is happening and why this sort of a casual attitude is being taken. Apart from not implementing any recommendation that has been given in the Nineteenth Report of the Estimates Committee, if this is going to be the type of response, then we need not have any examination of the problems like this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Khanduriji, just a minute. There are four or five Members more, who want to participate in the discussion. So, I think that the House will agree to extend the time upto 7 o' clock.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Tomorrow, Sir.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTS (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : Sir, I want to make a request to all the hon. Members through you that we may kindly extend the House today for at least one hour so that whoever wants to speak can speak today, and tomorrow immediately after the Question Hour of whenever the hon. Speaker indicates, the Prime Minister can make the reply. So, I would request you to kindly conclude the discussion today by allowing the Members to participate.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, this again shows how dithering the Government is. They cannot even fix up the time for tomorrow, when the hon. Speaker will indicate the time. The hon. Speaker can be approached today. The hon. Speaker should have been approached today for fixing up the time. Then, the Prime Minister would have spoken at that time and then, there will be time tomorrow for the Members to speak here. What is the problem? Why could you not approach the hon. Speaker and ask him to indicate the time as to when the Prime Minister is to speak?

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Sir, I will only request you to kindly extend by one hour so that the hon. Members are able to speak and we will conclude the discussion. We will be prepared to reply to the debate tomorrow, immediately after the Question Hour.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : No. Whatever it is, if there is to be no Zero Hour and if the Prime Minister is to speak after the Question Hour, let it be said so. But he is not saying so. He says, 'whenever the Speaker Indicates ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Last time, during discussions on the Railway Budget, some hon. Members had to speak and they were not given sufficient time. In four or five minutes Members will not be able to express what they feel about Defence.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Can we not know? Are we not entitled to know what is going to be the programme for tomorrow? If the programme is that immediately after the Question Hour, the Prime Minister will reply, we will look at it in one way ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We shall do one thing. We shall just sit for one hour and... (Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal) : We can have the discussion for one hour tomorrow and then we can have the reply

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We shall extend it for one hour so that hon. Members shall participate. If there are some more Members, we shall continue.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : For the time being, we will extend the House for one hour. Those who are interested may just participate in it.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Tomorrow, if you bring it in the middle, then what will happen? There will be voting and all that. Some cut motions are there. A lot of time will be wasted. I think you can bring it to the end. About 4 o' clock or 4.30 p.m., the Prime Minister can speak. That will be the right time... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : With the sweet desire of the House, it is being extended upto 7 o' clock. Do you agree with this? The House is extended up to 7 o' clock. Mr. Khanduri, you can continue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : We will be moving our cut motions.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : The desire of the House is to adjourn today.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Only two to three minutes were given to Members during discussion on the Railways. There are people who have prepared their speeches. They want to contribute considerably.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Sir, my submission is that if the Parliamentary Affairs Minister given us the time fixed for the Prime Minister to reply, if he could tell us at what time the Prime Minister is to reply, we will plan it accordingly.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : Sir, if you go through the time allotted to each political party, hon. Members have taken more time than that ... (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Have we taken more time?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : I am not objecting to that, but some consideration should be there.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : No, Sir. The point is only this. If the Prime Minister is coming at 12 o'clock, then it will be all right to extend time. But if he is coming later, then why do we not continue tomorrow? That is my point. My information is that he is going to reply at 4 p.m.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do you want to intervene?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : I want to intervene provided that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Sir, I think, the hon. Members are prepared to have the House extended by one hour. The hon. Members have always been cooperating; and with their cooperation only, we have been running this House. Therefore, I will request the the same type of cooperation which they have been extending all throughout, will be extended today also. I think that they will not let us down on this...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, you are sitting on the supreme seat of this House. I will honour your Orders. However, I would request that the scale of justice should tilt towards justice and not towards the Hon. Minister. Only the treasury benches are in favour of extending the time of the House. Then how the time is being extended?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : If the hon. Members are not in favour of extending the time of the House, then no party should be allowed to speak beyond allotted time.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : It is within the jurisdiction of the Chair and you are encroaching upon it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will tell you one thing. The hon. Members did not carry on the discussion according to the time allotted to each political party. There were very very important points on which the hon. Members wanted to speak and they have spoken on them. That does not mean that other hon. Members should be denied the opportunity. There are other hon. Members also who want to speak. So, I think that it is better that the time of the House is extended.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Only with the cooperation of the hon. Members of both the Treasury Benches and the Opposition, the House can run and not otherwise.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I think, we will agree to extend the time of the House by one hour. Already we have lost some ten minutes. Shri Khanduri to continue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, we can extend the time of the House on the condition that only the opposition Members will be allowed to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please register our protest because we are not getting justice. Proceedings of the House should be carried on with the concurrence of the House...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your suggestions are very good. But, you just postpone it.

(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Sir, I continue my speech as per your direction although the sense of the House is objecting to it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There are other hon. Members who want to participate. Let us just compromise it.

(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Sir, I shall now come to the next point which is pertaining to the ex-servicemen. Many people have spoken about it including the hon. Members from the ruling party. Everybody is worried and is concerned about the type of treatment that is being meted out to the ex-servicemen. There are many things to say. We have been discussing about it in various fora like the Consultative Committees or in the form of questions. Unfortunately, the Government does not seem to be serious at all on certain major issues.

Firstly, in this Annual Report, it is said that there are 55,000 to 60,000 people retiring every year from the Services. I do not know what prevents this Government from working out a policy for the utilisation of these people. I have been crying for this for the last four years. People are retiring at the age of 35, 36 or 37; and the trained manpower is being wasted out. It is a national waste. If they are utilised honestly, these people could make great contributions to the nation both in terms of discipline and in terms of various other functions. But I do not know what prevents the Government from doing it. A number of questions have been asked and they have recommended, but nothing happened.

So, I would like to know from the Government as to what is preventing them. Why do they come out with an open sort of information at least, if not a Statement? What is preventing them from doing so? Is it an objection from the Armed Forces side or is it Government's own compulsions? Is it problems of some other type which will emerge if you start utilising these 60,000 people? The Government does not seem to understand the simple fact that by utilising these people they are saving

a great deal of their pensionary expenditure and that money could be utilised for creating more jobs and other developmental activities. Here, you have a set of people - I am sorry that I am taking a little more time on this point - who are trained for a minimum of 15 to 16 years or may be, sometimes 20 to 30 years. When they go out, neither their skill nor their training is used and over a period of time, say, a couple of years, their training is not only being unutilised but it starts having a negative effect and therefore, the society is losing them to that extent. I do not understand the problem of the Government. Why does not the Government take any notice of these people? Therefore, I seriously and earnestly request the Government to kindly think over and face this problem. If required, you can make a small functional committee, not a committee for the purpose of postponing decisions which is normally done. You can give them a little time frame, say, three months, to get hold of everybody, try and utilise them. Eventually, this number is increasing. If it is 60,000 per year now, lakhs and lakhs of increase will be there next year and a stage will come when the total Defence expenditure and total Defence Budget will be going only in pay and pensions and other administrative matters. Therefore, this is a very serious thing. This is one side of the problem.

Now, the other side is the welfare of ex-servicemen and the facilities being given to them. There are many many things which need to be looked into but the most important and serious thing is this. Please understand that whichever matter is bothering the ex-servicemen or whatever dissatisfaction is there amongst the ex-servicemen, it is not only there among them but it is also there in the serving people because everybody is going to retire and everybody is going to be an ex-servicemen one day. Therefore, people talk that if there are no facilities for ex-servicemen and if they are not going to be looked after, then how will they put in their best in service. Thus, it is affecting the morale of serving soldiers. Hence, you do not consider the problems of ex-servicemen in isolation.

Now, there are many examples but I would like to give a few examples to tell you the kind of discrimination or the type of neglect that is being shown. Now, there are people of Second World War vintage. I have said this again and again here. There are a very few people present here. I do not know how many remember it. The Second World War veterans were demobilised because the nation did not need them at that time. Some of them are of the age of 75 to 80 years now and there is no source of income for them. Nothing is being given to them by the Central Government. I raised this question here about a year back. I raised it in various forums. I raised it in the Consultative Committee. At the moment, they get Rs. 100 per month paid by some State Governments. In my State of UP, they have not received this money for the last about two years. They say that they have no money. Rs. 100 per month is given to a

man of 75 years! Mr. Minister, I have come across in my own constituency people, old people who have no source of income. Some people have nobody to support them and they have virtually become beggars. They are people of the age of 75 to 80 years. How many more years will they live? Even if you are to give them for 4 to 5 years, I am sure that they will not be in large number involving large expenditure? You are wasting so much of money in so many other things. Can we not do this? This is not merely a question of money; this is a question of mentality and attitude towards these people. This is not merely a question of spending crores of rupees.

The other question that I raise here in this. There is a thing called *Jungi Inam*. I do not know how many of you would believe what I am going to say. It is ridiculous that there are people who are getting a pension of Rs. 5 a month today. The man in my constituency has to spend Rs. 100 by bus to go to the treasury to collect this Rs. 5 a month. What is it? It was given in 1917 and the amount is given for two or three generations. It is a vanishing act. After three generations, he may vanish or may not be there. But you are not able to increase it from Rs. 5 a month. I raised this point here. I got a written reply from the Ministry of Defence saying that this order was of 1935, this and that and so, it cannot be done. What sort of attitude are you having? Somebody is getting Rs. 5 a month as pension as *Jungi Inam*! This type of mentality and attitude is creating immense damage to the psyche of the service soldiers as well as ex-servicemen.

Then, you talk about medical facilities. I have also been raising this point again and again. My voice has become hoarse but nobody seems to hear it. Now, gentlemen, there is a thing called disability. This report says 'if there is 20 per cent or more disability ...'

Now, I have two questions. I have raised them in the Consultative Committee meetings also. This is a repetition for information. When a soldier joins the Service at the age of 16, there is a very thorough medical check up. Every year, he is medically tested. You take him to Siachen; you take him to the desert; and then you take him to the jungles. All over, he is supposed to carry out extensive and intensive physical work, day in and day out. He is on duty twenty four hours. And then, when he becomes unfit, you declare that the ailment is not attributable to military service. How can it be? What sort of mentality you people have got? You take him to Siachen and all other places with difficult terrain and you give him facilities nothing worth the name. If he gets affected by frost bite and loses a part of his limb, you say that it is attributable to military service. But if he gets a heart attack, blood pressure or some other ailment you say that it is not due to the military service. Even if he were to be in Delhi, how did he get afflicted in the first place? You must prove that he is either a drunkard or a drug addict and say that

therefore he has to be punished. But you do not do that either. This is one aspect on which you have to apply your mind. Every year, you subject the man to a thorough medical check up. In Army like in other Services, if you are not fit, you will not even be considered for promotion. But one fine morning, when a young man of 24 or 25 or 26 years gets some ailment, you declare that he is medically unfit and you throw him out.

There is another aspect about which I have written to the Minister of Defence. It was in a question form and I got a very interesting reply. Let me give you the details. What is happening today with regard to pension and disability benefits? A medical Board say in a Delhi hospital or in some other hospital says that the medical disability is 30 per cent. Then it goes to CDA (Pensions) in Allahabad. There is a general duty army medical officer sitting over there. He says that the medical disability is 15 per cent or it is below 20 per cent with the result that the concerned person does not get his pension benefits and disability benefits. Why should the poor man be deprived of his legitimate benefits? What more qualifications does that gentleman in the CDA Office in Allahabad possess than the medical expert in Delhi or Lucknow or in Pune? There is no answer! You say that this is the order 1935 and these are the rules. This is the sort of reply that, got from Shri Sharad Pawar! Can't this rule be changed? Nobody seems to have applied his mind to this aspect.

You do not give any medical facilities to ex-servicemen. But there is no end to your boasting. You keep on patting yourself on the back congratulating that you have done so much for the ex-servicemen when it comes to medical and other facilities. But there are no medicines and beds for ex-servicemen. Of course, these are bigger issues and I am not raising any small issues here. If you recollect, I have raised this issue in one of the conferences chaired by Shri Sharad Pawar. When I retired as Major General, I went to the Army Hospital in Delhi which is the best Army hospital in the country. What was I told? They said to me, "Sorry, you are an ex-serviceman. There is no medicine for you. You go to the market and buy it." When these facilities are included in my service conditions, how can you deny? Or, if you have guts, you tell me that as an ex-serviceman, I am not entitled to avail of these benefits. You may simply say, "After retirement, you do what you like". You include these things in my service conditions. You deny me the facilities. And yet, you keep on boasting that you are doing so much for the ex-servicemen. If you have no capability to look after me, you might as well accept that. There are many such instances about medical facilities to the ex-servicemen. There is no point in taking credit for certain things which in reality are not simply done.

Now, for all these things, we are told that there is a shortage of funds. I do understand that there is

shortage of funds. But how well do you manage your meagre funds? I will give just two examples. You have got a certain sum owed to you by the Ministry of Communication. I raised a question on this in Parliament. You cannot collect the money owed to your Ministry of Defence Production from the Ministry of Communication. They do not even give any interest on the principal amount. And you cannot do a thing about it. Your installations are lying idle. Even within the Government Ministries, you have no financial management. This is one type of problem.

There is another type of problem. I am really sorry to point out these things but I must convey my point. I raised a question in this forum. An Air Force aircraft went from Delhi to Kozhikode on 12 January 1995. You can image the amount of fuel spent to send the aircraft from here to Kozhikode. What for it went? It took the Chief Minister of one of the States. Just because the aircraft could not be used by him, the Minister of State for Defence was put in that aircraft. When I raised this question in Parliament about the misuse of Air Force aircraft, I was told that they were sorry but they could not give a reply. But some information was given. What did the information reveal?

The aircraft reached there at 2005 hours and he came back at 2115 hours - one hour ten minutes it stayed at that aerodrome. I was told that the RRM did not even get out of the aircraft. This is the way you are wasting the money! If that gentleman had to go for attending some cultural function, he could have chartered an aircraft. You have lot of money. Do not waste the Government money; do not waste the money allocated for defence purposes. You can spend money on this, but you cannot give money for medicines. You cannot increase the amount of *jungi* awards from Rs. 5/- to a respectable amount. This is denigrating the Service people. You say, you have no money and then you waste away the money like this.

Sir, before I come on to my last point, I would also like to join people who have talked about the achievements of DRDO. I am indeed very happy to say that DRDO is doing an excellent work. I had been in the Services for a very long time, that is, for 38 years. I was one of the bitterest critics of DRDO till about two years back for very valid reasons. Apart from doing big things in the missile field, the smaller things were totally neglected. I raised this issue. I spoke to the concerned person, Dr. Kalam, about it and he has now evolved a system whereby all those things are being taken care of. I would, therefore - not only for the bigger things for which he has brought credit to the nation, but also - like to compliment him for the areas which have now smoothed out on the routine requirements of the Armed Forces. I can say from personal experience that small things - whether it is a small paint or some camouflage nets and things like that - were being neglected at the cost of bigger things. Everybody talks of missiles and other things, so the concentration was

on such things. Therefore, I would, once again, compliment and congratulate Dr. Kalam and his scientists for doing a good job. I do hope that this will continue to be done.

Sir, my last point is on veneration.

Yesterday, my senior colleague, Shri Jaswant Singh spoke about it very feelingly. I could sense it sitting here at the back. We all feel like that. We feel humiliated; we feel insulted when there is across the board denigration of ex-soldiers for no reasons. What I mean is, the Britishers, under whom we were a mercenary army gave us respect for doing a job, but today they are being denigrated. Apart from the fact that some changes have to take place but how does one talk of routine things? In those days a person putting on red tape were in the rank of a Colonel or above and he used to be respected by DMs and Commissioners. The other day I was told that a Colonel, in uniform, went to a DM's office for redressal of a genuine problem. The DM did not even get from his seat; the Colonel stood there; he did not give him time and he made him wait outside for one hour. This man had come on leave with some genuine problems. This is the state of the senior officers. God knows and we also know but you do not know what is happening to the officers of the junior ranks. It is disgraceful. People get fed up. People in the Services get two months leave with great difficulty; most of them even do not get that. A man comes from Siachin, or NEFA or from other difficult area to get his problem solved. But nobody looks at them. You have failed to generate this sort of an atmosphere where the civil administration is made to give due consideration to the problems of the Service people. This happens even at your level.

Sir, I will give one example and then wind up. During the last three Railway Budgets, I have been raising a point here in this House that the Gallantry Award winners are not getting any rail travel facility. How many, PVC, MVC, VRC and Ashok Chakra winners are there? For three years I had communicated with the Ministry of Railways. I thought they would give it. When I personally met the Railway Minister, he said, they could not do it, the funding must be done by the Defence Minister. I wrote a letter to the Defence Minister. Today, they are getting concessions which is an insult to such gallantry award winners. A person who has been conferred PVC award gets second class ordinary fares. They are also freedom fighters. Why do you not equate them with the freedom fighters for providing the rail travel facilities? Are they less than the freedom fighters? But you do not give. I have been writing, I have been requesting and I have been begging here for this, but with no response from the Government. Can you not spend a little bit of money on this? How much money would you need for this? The attitude is not there; the mentality is not there. You are devoid of any interest for their real welfare. That is why, I say that the Ministry of

Defence is not functioning as a smooth coordinator between the nation and the Services. It is functioning as a sadist obstructionist.

This has to go. I request you to see as to why this facility cannot be given. After all, here is a man who is ready to give his life. All of you may be knowing that getting these awards is not a joke. You say that a large number of freedom fighters are there and some of them even do not deserve but have got the certificates. You cannot get certificates like PVC or MVC just like that. So, why can you not do these small things for them? This is the type of message that you are giving to the nation. It is very sad indeed. I would like to say that this sort of mentality is very bad for the nation. I would like to conclude by quoting :

"God and soldiers are remembered in distress and danger. Distress over, danger thwarted, God is forgotten and soldiers slighted."

No Nation will prosper if it has this sort of an attitude. Therefore, I am not able to support this Budget which has been presented by the Government. This Government, which has wasted five long years.....

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : You will not get your pension then.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Sir, it is better not to get pension and see the consequences rather than get pension in this manner.

This Government has wasted five valuable Budgets in not having any new direction. I wish the little bit of the energy which it utilized in trying to become a fraudulent majority Government from a minority Government, it would have applied in changing the direction of the Ministry of Defence. I, therefore, oppose the Budget.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am extremely thankful to the hon. Members who have participated in this vital discussion on the Defence Budget. Of course, tomorrow the Prime Minister will reply to the debate to the satisfaction of this august House. Various points of sensitive nature as well as otherwise have been raised by the hon. Members. While initiating the debate, Jaswant Singhji made really good points. I wanted to deviate from the order in which the members spoke and wanted to first take up what Shri George Fernandes said in his speech. But he is not seen in the House. I think he has gone home.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : He has not gone. He will be coming as his briefcase is lying here.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Some realities have been brought before the House by the Members from both

sides. I wanted to start with what Shri George Fernandes referred to in his speech but since he is not here, I will not deviate from the traditional list.

Jaswant Singhji has made five very good points regarding policy, manpower, Defence expenditure and so on and so forth. Shri Fernandes has come. So, with the permission of Jaswant Singhji I would first like to take the points raised by Shri George Fernandes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If Shri Fernandes is the source of inspiration for you, we have no objection.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Sir, not only the source of inspiration but he is also the source of perspiration!

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Only because of his emotional expressions I wanted to first take up the points raised by him. We all share his concern. He did not speak much about the Defence but about certain set backs to the ex-servicemen.

He has referred to the Army Welfare Housing Organisation. I remember, he met me and I was making an endeavour to understand what exactly the situation is. In the Consumer Forum at Chandigarh, as has been mentioned by the hon. Member, a Contractor has given a Statement about Rs. 2,25,000 or whatever it is. But the fact or reality as such is that it is only in consideration of the building cost which the Contractor was entitled. On the other hand, I do not know what is the cost of the land in a place like Chandigarh, in a Sector like Sector-47. We normally calculate the cost of the land also. Apart from the cost of the land, the AWHO which has taken this task, has to meet the other requirements like water supply, electricity, sewage and so on and so forth. So, when all these payments were made by the AW HO, the final price has come to Rs. 20,000 less than what was estimated. So, merely this contracted money has no relevance because the other things have also to be met with and the hon. Member has mentioned lastly. They have collected Rs. 1000 from each of the 142 members, of course, for maintenance and other things. But, what has happened is, this gentleman who met me and whom Mr. Fernandes has referred to, Lt. Col. Ajit Singh, formed a Cooperative Society, that is fine nothing wrong with it. He declared himself as its President, nothing wrong with that either.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : He is the Vice-President.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Vice-President, or whatever he is. The organisation has asked them to have an elected office bearer so that all these things can properly be accounted for. Even, as has been mentioned by the hon. Member, he wanted to take possession of the four built garages. But, there is something between the management and this organisation and the newly formed Cooperative Society. Anyway, since so emotionally the hon. Member has given so much of importance which needs to be sorted out, and since he has represented

what has happened from top to bottom since four years, all that I can do is, if the hon. Member agrees, I can ask for an inquiry.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Have a Court of Inquiry.

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : We will decide the mode of inquiry because there are logically two or three points which may be convincing or may not be. For example, the Contractor has placed before the Consumer Forum that he has been given Rs. 2,35,000. Rupees Four lakhs have been collected from each member. Finally, the AW HO says that it will be Rs. 20,000 less than the earlier estimate.

The formation of cooperative society and other things can be inquired into.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : May I say something?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Yes please, I have deviated only for your sake.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I would like to say that this case has been pending since 1991 and only this much of information has been received after lapse of 4 years. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister that an enquiry should be instituted immediately in this matter because the entire Defence establishment is misguiding the hon. Minister. I shall prove this. They are misguiding the hon. Minister even today.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : How can I say, who is misguiding whom.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : As the things stand today, nothing is being allowed to reach you.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Nobody stops.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : But in this case, it was so.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : You had seen me on this case.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I am speaking about the Government. This case has been hanging fire since 1991. A lot has already appeared in newspapers. There were headlines like Corruption, Cheating, Looting, Looting Ex-Servicemen of their money etc. but you did not respond to even a single word. What was its reason? If that was the case of land, why did not you respond? Why did not you save the prestige of Army. Today, they are saving their skin through the hon'ble Minister.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Whatever is being said in Parliament, the reply is being given accordingly.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : But they are misguiding you. This is my experience.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : I am responding to this point. If it is proved, action will be taken.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : That is what I want. An inquiry should be conducted immediately. We do not want anything more.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : The Managing Director of Army Welfare Housing Organisation is a serving Officer and tomorrow when he will retire he will become an Ex-Servicemen.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Even the hon'ble Home Minister has given them police protection. The matter has reached such an extent.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : This aspect will also be deeply inquired into.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : The hon. Home Minister would not have written a letter to me without conducting an inquiry and then given them protection. After conducting an inquiry, he wrote to Punjab Government after four months to give them protection.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Everything will be inquired into.

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur) : I am sorry I do not mean to offend the Minister, I know his health condition. I am not making it as a laughing matter. It is not a laughing matter. I do not mean to be harsh. I know what the whole case is about.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : If you want to place your points of view also before the Inquiry Committee, you can do so.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I will.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : You do it. For that reason I am declaring in this august House that the points on which you are agitated, I am also equally concerned. I am also concerned about the welfare of the ex-servicemen. If any hanky-panky is going on in the organisation that has to be brought out.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Thank you.

What about Mr. Chavan?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Mr. Chavan's case, as you have rightly said, is slightly different. We will discuss together that case separately.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : All right.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : So, Sir, as the hon. Member, Shri Jaswant Singh, who initiated the debate has immense knowledge about the armed forces. He had made certain points on policy, manpower, expenditure and so on and so forth.

So far as the policy is concerned, I shall not say anything because without a policy nothing can move.

As far as expenditure is concerned, I certainly agree and I have been emphasising that financial management has got more relevance and that is how we will be able to meet some of our requirements. Fiscal discipline is an essential ingredient today for any developing country to achieve progress and prosperity in the respective fields. And for me also this fiscal management shall certainly help in meeting my own requirements.

So far as the Budget is concerned, whatever be the increase, we should take inflation into account. Mostly, in the financial management we find there is some account. Mostly, in the financial management we find there is some wasteful expenditure. So, controlling the wasteful expenditure, controlling the inventory and better utilisation of our assets would help us in attaining the cost effectiveness. We can save money which can be utilised.

We have recently introduced Integrated Financial System from the Defence Accounts side. Now, we have placed top accounts officers and controllers in the three Services so that they can help in working out their financial system. In this connection, I would like to say something more. We have named it as Integrated Financial Advice in the Service Headquarters. A senior officer of the Defence Accounts Department has now been posted in each Service Headquarters for giving advice on financial management to the Services. Moreover, certain identified establishments have now been given considerably enhanced and delegated financial powers together with a dedicated finance set-up. This 'New Management Strategy' provides an opportunity for the Service Officers to manage their resources and activities in the most optimal manner. In-depth changes are also being effected in various aspects of Budgetary control, the focus of which is being shifted from the minor and sub-head levels to the detailed heads of allocation. So, this is how ... (Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Sir, will the Financial Adviser be totally and completely under the control of Service Headquarters or is he going to take orders from the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Defence or both? I also want to know whether the writing of Confidential Reports and other things will be totally under the control of the Service Headquarters.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : This is only to facilitate the Service Headquarters when they are thinking of their finance to help them. But it cannot be under the Service Headquarters for their... (Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Sir, this is no Integrated Finance. The Integrated Finance concept is that under which he is not only responsible for advising but also accountable for anything that goes wrong. Therefore, he has to be totally under the control of the Service Headquarters. Therefore, this Integrated Finance is being done by a private firms.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : I think what you are telling is right. This is being done.

Now, Sir, I will come to modernisation. I am going in a little different way. But I will come to modernisation.

Sir, modernisation has become inevitable and in a phased manner we have to modernise it. We have to take into account the acquisition programmes of the three Services. The war wastage reserves are the stocks of ammunition and weapons required to be held in reserve for use during conflict, of a duration foreseen in the prevailing threat scenario. Deficiencies had crept into our holdings of certain items, which we are planning to make good now on priority. We expect that 70 per cent of the deficiencies will be made good by this year itself...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : What are you going to do with the manufacture of arms and ammunition? We learnt that in Avadi a number of modern machines were bought and installed there but were not functioning. Have you got any plan in Defence production with a new outlook and a new policy? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Defence production units are fully engaged in production of arms and ammunition. And, you know, there are other public sector units like HAL, BEL. I will deal with them later...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : I want to know whether you have got any new programme or total overhauling of the entire system, which was going on, if you are dealing this point with an outlook. As far as HAL is concerned, I know that one of their units situated in Barrackpore is going to be crushed. They are not expanding it. Are you going to dismantle it?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : After fully utilising the existing installed capacity, then only we will think of expansion.

Now I will come to the Services. Shri Jaswant Singh and several hon. Members have raised their concern over the Navy because the Navy did not get the required budgetary support for the past three years. But, this year, the Prime Minister was kind enough to see that the Navy gets a good share of the Budget. In fact, the allocation, which is 34 per cent more than the previous year, had been made to the Navy.

Today what exactly the present position of the Navy is this. Ship building programmes are in progress at our defence shipyards. Construction of three missile frigates, four Corvettes and three Godavari type vessels are being produced. Other small missile boats are being produced by the Goa Shipyard and the Mazagaon Docks. Apart from that, we have planned for the modernisation of the 877 EKM submarines by the introduction of torpedo decoy systems, very low frequency communication systems and electronic support measures upgradation. Likewise the Sea Harrier

aircraft of 1980s vintage are also proposed to be upgraded with a new radar, better avionics, electronic warfare equipment and improved missiles.

We are also modifying TU-142 and IL-38 aircraft and equipping them with air-to-surface missiles. With the addition of these three force multipliers, the combat capability of the Navy will considerably improve. We have a programme for new acquisition. The proposal for manufacture of 10 dornier aircraft by HAL is at an advanced stage of approval. Acquisition of six frigates from Russia and construction of three frigates at our PSUs are also being considered. Under the replacement programme, we have recently acquired a frigate from U.K. for training purposes. Purchase of fleet tankers from Russia is at an advanced stage. The proposal for the construction of four fast attack craft has also been recently approved. Construction of air defence ship, submarine frigates and four medium landing ship tanks at our PSUs are also planned.

The hon. Members of the House are aware that Government has sanctioned projects, C-CAT for setting up an integrated and advanced naval base at Dharwar in Karnataka with most modern infrastructural facilities for providing operational, technical and logistic support to naval warships, submarines and aircraft. The hon. Members of the House would be happy to learn that the Government has approved a proposal for the establishment of permanent Naval Academy at Ezhimala in Cannanore District for the training of officers cadets.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Just one point. In fact, it is heartening to note all the details you have given. But as far as my knowledge goes, INS Vikrant has another few years, in fact much before the end of the century. Now that is running. If you want to go in for a ship like this, you need 15 to 20 years. Have you taken note of this?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : We have totally taken note of what you are talking about the INS Vikrant and also Virat. They have to be phased out and we are planning how to replace them.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Regarding defence production, we must be indigenous. We must be self-reliant. We have got big infrastructure including good laboratories, persons and other things. What is the policy and what is the programme of modernization to utilize the capacity of the production including that of the Ichapore Rifle Factory, Metal and Steel Factory?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : So we have to plan.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : It will take 15 to 20 years. We are still planning.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Simply we want to know.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : I will tell you. Just have patience. Now I will just refer to the Army. I do not have to say much about the Army because all of us know how dedicated they are under the able leadership of

the three Service Chiefs, how the Armed Forces' personnel have been conditioned mentally and physically and how dedicated they are with absolute discipline.

Sir, I will come to the modernization of our tanks. You see, we have T-72 tanks which are producing and also T-55. Now we are planning for upgradation of it.

This upgradation is with self-propelled 155 mm calibre guns mounted on the turret of T-72 chassis. That is in progress and that will be completed.

So far as the Infantry is concerned, we are trying to see how lighter things can be given to the Infantry. Hon. Members, Shri Jaswant Singh and others have referred to the utilisation of the 5.56 mm rifles. They will be used and we are trying to provide them to the Infantry.

So far as the Army is concerned, it is needless for me to say about the MBT. In collaboration with the DRDO we are working on it. The indigenous production is successful and the summer trials will be exploitation trials finally. However, the Army has given the go-ahead for MBT and I am sure that it will start going into production at the earliest.

There are many other schemes being implemented by the Army and for the information of the House I would refer to them briefly. We are acquiring improved air defence system comprising missile platforms and guns. We are engaged in improving the Electronic Warfare capability and the surveillance capability of the Army.

Another major area of development is our search for an attack helicopter, whether leased or on sale, as an interim solution pending the development of our indigenous light attack helicopter.

I will just refer to Air Force. Almost all the hon. Members had referred to the AJT. Of course, it has taken quite a lot of time, but now technical negotiations have been completed. As only two producers were there, they have been short-listed and commercial negotiations will start.

Shri Amal Datta was asking why we should not go in for a Russian Jet Trainers. There is an offer for Yak-130 and Mig AT trainers but they are in the design stage. Their prototypes have to be produced and their capability has to be established. That is the stage so far as the AJT is concerned.

Referring to the Services, we possess all the necessary equipment and other things however, to keep our Defence-preparedness upright. We are producing indigenously certain things and also acquiring certain other things so that our Defence-preparedness shall not have any setback.

19.00 hrs.

So far as self-reliance is concerned, we have to go in for Indigenous production; ten years' self-

reliance plan has been made and by 2005 A.D., we will be able to achieve at least 70 per cent of indigenous production.

Now, I come to the DRDO which is really playing a vital role in supporting the armed Forces. DRDO has been doing a great service by research and that is how Light Advanced Helicopter, Light Combat Aircraft etc. have come. The most important achievement of the DRDO is particularly on missile technology.

As far as missiles and other matters are concerned, tomorrow the hon. Prime Minister will reply to them. But let me say one or two sentences about the Prithvi missile which is a major concern. Shri Jaswant Singh has raised it, other hon. Members from both the sides have raised it. Shri Indrajit Gupta has quoted my name also. Sir, please see as to how many years it had taken in research to come to this stage where Prithvi had successful user trials. I hope everybody will agree that it is not within six months that it has surfaced. So, we will not come under any pressure from any quarter of the world. This has been repeatedly informed to both the Houses by the Prime Minister and also otherwise. I do not know what is that apprehension, what is that illusion prevalent that India is under the pressure of this country or that country or USA etc.

Now, Shri Indrajit Gupta has mentioned that Joseph Nye has said in the USA that Prithvi has gone into hibernation and Agni is in suspended animation and Shri Mallikarjun has told that we have yet to take a decision. What is that decision yet to be taken? After successful trials I have not told anything to the Press. I have told the bare facts to some of the friends in the Press in Abu Dhabi when they asked about Prithvi. I have not told that we are capping Prithvi; I have not told that we are going in for a series production. When a section of the Press has written, I have controlled myself with patience and tolerance because it is about Prithvi. I did not talk to the Press outside because I know that I have to reply one day in this august House. If our Press friends take my expressions now in a correct perspective it is all right. Otherwise, there will be another article and we have to tolerate it because the Prithvi is agitating everybody.

They are asking, what happened to 'Prithvi' and when are we deploying it? After all, at what stage is it now? After the completion of the user-trials, the consequent activities are progressing. 'Prithvi' is not just a few letters, but inside it, how many assemblies, sub-assemblies, components, digital devices, electronic devices and so many other things are there? So, we have to mobilise all those. Even now our hon. senior Member, Jaswant Singh Ji will agree or not, I do not know, but we are not capping the 'Prithvi'. There is no question of yielding to pressure. When my national security is concerned, there cannot be any compromise at any stage. National security is prime. For the national security, when my troops are sacrificing their lives, when

the people of this country are behind the Defence Forces, when even the Opposition Members cooperate and urge that more budget should be given for Defence, when we say it to the Parliament that in the interest of the national security, this cannot be revealed and the Opposition leaders and the Press agree to that, when this much support we are getting, how can I say that 'Prithvi' is capped? If somebody has written somewhere in London and if some Press here has referred to that, it looks as if they are clever enough and we are otherwise. It is not like that. Press also has to play a constructive role in the national interest. I do not want to say anything about the Press. They are at liberty to write anything they want. But there is no question of capping the 'Prithvi', there is no question of...(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : Suspended animation!

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : No. There is no question of hibernation. Even that person who has used the word 'hibernation', should know that after hibernation it comes out. There are certain animals like earthworm which go into hibernation, but later on they come out. So, even if it is in hibernation, it will come out.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : So, it is in hibernation.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : It is not in hibernation. There is no question of its being in hibernation. The consequent activities are being progressed. This is the word one can keep in mind and anybody can analyse it. So, this is about 'Prithvi'.

We compliment our DRDO scientists and Dr. Abdul Kalam, for working on other missiles also, like 'Nag', 'Trishul' and 'Aakaash'. So far as 'Agni' is concerned, what has been achieved is a technological demonstration of DNT into the weapon and various other things. So, let us not make it an issue. Moreover, if the hon. Member, Maj. Gen. Khanduri has to go to war, I am sure he will not show what is in his chest, he will keep it secret. If he opens it to the public, then there will be antidote. War strategy is also there. With strategy one can win the war. So, this is the position about the missiles.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : The doubt arises only when words like this are used that it was only a technological demonstration.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : This is where we have to have our own self-confidence. Without self-confidence it is very difficult to achieve anything.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : We have to go ahead from that stage and not stop as demonstrator and be done with it.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : If it is to be stopped, why so much of energy and time has been wasted on it? Therefore, for a proper planning it takes time. This is the stage in which it is now and that is what we are informing to this august House.

So far as the D.R.D.O. is concerned, let me say something more of their achievements like Super Computer.

There are one or two important things concerning D.R.D.O. which they have developed like "FALCON", 'PINAKA' and 'LAKSHYA'. "Lakshya" has undergone user trials with Air Force and Navy which have been completed and it is under user trial with Army. These are Pilotless Target Aircrafts.

Last month, on 23rd April, our hon. Prime Minister has visited Hyderabad and unveiled a powerful parallel processing computer system called the PACE PLUS developed by the D.R.D.O. This is by far the fastest computer of its class. The manufacturing know-how has also been transferred to our industry. To give the Members a few salient points of comparison with similar computers of foreign origin, I would like to mention that for aeronautics applications, PACE PLUS is 2.5 times faster than the CRAY-YMP-C90, 9.5 times faster than CRAY-XMP-14-216 and 8 times faster than the CRAY-XMP-1416. In terms of unit cost, while our PACE PLUS costs Rs. 20,000 per megaflops, the CRAY computer typically costs in excess of Rs. one lakh per megaflop. This is an achievement which the country can truly be proud of.

There are many achievements of the D.R.D.O. You all have appreciated them and it is needless for me to read them all.

Then, I will just emphasise on two-three points about our U.N. peacekeeping forces. Our troops — whether in Somalia or Mozambique or now in Rwanda or Angola — have been and are doing very well. Hon. Members have appreciated them. Our troops deserve appreciation. They have kept up the prestige of our nation and with discipline and dedication worked wherever they were sent.

I am not actually touching the other sensitive issues like army deployment for counter-insurgency duties particularly J&K and North East.

Then I want to mention about human rights. Pakistan has been speaking not only nationally but it is internationalising the situation. All are convinced that our army personnel have been restrained in their action carefully keeping the human rights aspect in their mind.

We have a Human Rights Cell at the Army Headquarters, Command Headquarters and Core Headquarters and we are strict in dealing with cases of alleged human rights violations. Any Army personnel who violated the human rights, they have been dealt with severely. So, the propaganda made against India about human rights violations is totally wrong. But anyway, we are all conscious of it.

Now, I will come to the most important point and that is about welfare. Welfare is essentially an important thing in which serving or ex-servicemen should be taken care of. The Government's aim always has been to

extend the best facilities which the country can afford to the troops, by way of health, nutrition, education and shelter. It is true that because of resource constraints, we cannot always do as much as we would like to. The tropops for the most part recognise this limitation, and take it in good grace. The most important issue here is about the housing problem and accommodation. This year, apart from the normal allocation, Rs. 136 crore have been additionally allotted so that we can provide married accommodation in 38 stations. Another important thing which the hon. Members will appreciate is that we are planning to build a Cancer Hospital in Delhi for serving and ex-service personnel of the three Services. We hope to extend this facility over the next few years to Command Headquarters Centres of the Army, and in Bombay and Bangalore, in phases.

There have been shortages of Officers in the ranks of Captains and Majors in the Army. This is not a new phenomenon. One of the reasons for these shortages is the cadre structure of the Army. To make up these deficiencies, measures such as University Entry Scheme, enhanced induction of permanent and Short-Service Commissioned Officers, induction of women officers, etc. have been taken. Government are closely monitoring the situation.

Sir, I may also add that, contrary to some reports which have been carried by certain sections of the Press, a large number of youth continue to appear for selection for the Armed Forces. The pay and allowances of the Armed Forces personnel are at par with those in equivalent civil employment under the Government. The Armed Forces personnel are entitled besides to a number of perquisites and facilities not admissible to their civilian counterparts. The review of the terms and conditions of the Defence Services personnel is, of course, an on-going process, and such improvements as are considered desirable and feasible are made from time to time.

Sir, we are proud of the contribution made by the Defence Services, both in peace and war, and would like to place on record our appreciation of the commendable work done by them. The need to maintain a high standard of combat efficiency and a youthful profile for the services compels us to release a large number of Service personnel at a relatively young age.

Being conscious of their problems, Government have always been committed to provide them all possible assistance for their resettlement and welfare. Apart from a system of job reservations, a number of schemes for assisting in their self-employment are in operation.

Several types of financial assistance, such as grants from the discretionary fund for marriages of daughters, repairs of houses, education of children, and for medical treatment have been enhanced. Monetary allowances for post-Independence gallantry awards, such as for the Param Vir Chakra and the Ashoka Chakra series

have been enhanced, while demands for a similar increase for pre-Independence gallantry awards too have been accepted.

To help retiring service personnel with the admission of their children to the Kendriya Vidyalayas on their retirement, the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has agreed to grant a one time facility for the admission of upto two children of retiring personnel, if the class strength is less than 45.

The facilities available for the treatment of ex-servicemen too have been enhanced. Twenty four MI rooms, and 12 Dental Centres have been set up in areas where the population of ex-servicemen is high. It has also been decided to provide financial assistance from the Army Flag Day Fund upto 60 per cent of the cost incurred by ex-servicemen and their dependants on some expensive kinds of treatments, such as bypass surgery, angiography, kidney transplant, cancer etc. Rs. 33 crores have been sought from the National Defence Fund for modernisation of hospitals in the Armed Forces.

The benefit of one-time increase in pension which had earlier been sanctioned to certain categories of pre-1986 pensioners has now been extended to several other categories, such as State Forces pensioners, Territorial Army personnel, Battle Casualties Pensioners, and KCIO pensioners. About two lakh additional pensioners will benefit from this, to the extent of approximately Rs. 20 crores per annum.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : There has been a persistent demand by all ex-Servicemen all over the country to constitute a Committee to look into the anomalies in pension of ex-servicemen. You had this OTI. After that, you had this Secretaries Committee. In spite of that, there are a large number of anomalies still left. They have been writing letters on this issue. I have suggested in this House to have a Committee, not of bureaucrats, but of other people to look into the anomalies left. You could appoint either a Consultative Committee or a Committee of Parliament. There are a large number of ex-Servicemen who will understand the problems. You can involve other people also. Merely a Committee of bureaucrats is not going to give any benefits. Therefore, the feeling among ex-Servicemen is that their viewpoint is not being understood by the Government. There are genuine anomalies. I, therefore, suggest that something should be done about it.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : I take your point.

As you know, about OTI, a high-powered Committee under the Defence Minister was constituted when the anomalies were found. The Committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of the Additional Secretary. Quite a number of categories have been accepted.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : That is right. That is a step forward. But I think still something more should be done.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : If there is any category deserving, we will examine it.

Sir, actually I did not talk much about the security scenario. The Nation's security is vital for us. Under any circumstances, India shall not tolerate external aggression. India is a peace-loving country. India has no territorial ambition. Our Armed Forces and their preparedness are such that they can meet any eventuality. So, as a peace-loving country, we are doing our best. As you know, recently, our Prime Minister and the President of Pakistan had a talk. India would like to settle the issues by bilateral talk under the Simla Agreement. India does not believe, not today but from antiquity, in any type of aggression, violence and other types of things and in spite of the known fact of interference of Pakistan in the internal affairs of India, still as a peace-loving country, India would like to settle the issue bilaterally.

I do not want to go much in detail which is known to the whole of the country. The whole country knows what type of a role Pakistan is playing in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East, how the ISI is trying to destabilize the country. But one fact of reality which I would like to emphasise is that India will never compromise so far as the security of the country is concerned, so far as the national integrity and sovereignty is concerned. We believe in Panchsheel. I do not have to refer to it. In 1955, after the Bandung Conference when Mr. Chou-En-Lai was on his way to Peking, he adhered to Panchsheel which has been enunciated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, peaceful co-existence, mutual benefit-on these lines, India's policy with her neighbours and other countries will remain. We would like to settle our issues bilaterally with Pakistan. I am hopeful that Pakistan will understand the feelings of the Indian National and they will open the dialogue.

Sir, thank you very much. Once again, I am thankful to all the Members of Parliament who have participated in the debate and also those who have heard me, who have extended cooperation to the debate.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Pamothes Mukherjee, you can speak only for three or four minutes. If you agree to that, you can speak.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) : It is already 7.30 p.m. So, I should be given a chance to speak tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can complete it today. Can you? I do not like to compel you. I leave the matter to you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why do you not speak? How much time do you want?

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : I require only five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can continue. You are so liberal.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Thank you for giving me this chance to express my views on this important matter on behalf of my party the RSP.

I rise to oppose the Demands for Grants of Ministry of Defence. This is only because that this Government could not build up a good defence of the country during the last 47 years. This Government could not take into consideration that the Defence is the most important subject which is closely associated with the sovereignty of the country. So, I cannot appreciate the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence.

It is my observation that a good economy indicates a good Defence. A good and stable economy of the country indicates a good and stable defence of the country. Without a good and stable economy, a good and stable defence of the country cannot be expected. This Government could not produce a self-reliant economy. This Government could not create a good and stable economy. They have already sold out the country's economic sovereignty to the diktats of Euro-American imperialism through the signing of the GATT Agreement. And naturally, this Government could not build up a good and a stable defence of the country and the entire defence mechanism has been subjected to the diktats of Euro-American imperialism. This is why, I cannot appreciate the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence.

Let us now turn our attention to the present global scenario and the present national security environment. What do we see? We have already seen during the last five or ten years the collapse, that is, a temporary collapse of the Soviet system in Russia. After the temporary collapse of the Soviet system in Russia and a temporary collapse of the socialist system in the East European countries, the bipolar world has turned into a unipolar world. Even in this unipolar world, we do not find peace and tranquillity. We find that the period of tension and conflict is still continuing. We have seen that there is tension, that there is conflict among the industrially developed countries. There is tension and conflict among the imperialist forces, among the industrially developed countries. That is why they are inviting wars and they are imposing war upon the third world countries, upon the developing countries. This is the result. That is why, we have seen the Gulf war, the imposition of the Gulf war upon the people of Iraq. We have also seen all these things. We have seen the role of the United Nations. We have seen the role of the Europe and American countries in the Gulf war. That is why, we have to prepare ourselves. The tension has not passed away; the conflict has not passed away. The period of tension and conflict is still continuing. So we have to prepare ourselves; we have to build up our stable defence. But this Government could not do so. This Government could not create encouragement for the purpose. So I would like to oppose the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence.

One thing more. There is a question of modernisation. Many of the hon. friends and the Members of this House have already suggested for the modernisation.

Restructuring and modernisation is the order of the day. So, the modernisation of the Defence mechanism and the restructuring of the Defence mechanism is a must in order to cater to the needs of the changing scenario. Unless the Defence mechanism is modernised, we cannot create stable Defence. For this purpose, I should also remind you that we should make positive attempts and create enthusiasm so that we can create confidence, we can create resolution, we can create firmness among the younger generation and among the new cadres of the Defence; and for this purpose, I should suggest that we should create an atmosphere so that they can be allowed to have love for the country, a sense of sacrifice and a sense of patriotism. They should inculcate all these qualities in them in order to defend the country. But this Government, this machinery could not do so.

Lastly, I will not tax the House any more, I should consider the mood of the House and I should say that there is a question of policy recruitment. The good Defence depends upon the good recruitment, but the

policy as it is continuing till today for recruitment, but the policy as it is continuing till today for recruitment is not a sufficient policy; it is not a scientific policy; and it is not a realistic policy. We shall try to find out that a good scientific policy for recruitment to the cadres of Defence should be developed. Unless it is developed, a good, successful and desirable result from the Defence cadres cannot be expected.

With these words, I beg to conclude and I, in fine, beg to oppose the Demands for the Grants of the Ministry of Defence. This is what I beg to submit to you, Sir. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I thank you very much for the gracious and liberal attitude that you have extended towards the Chair in conducting the Business of the House in the extended time.

The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 10th May, 1995 at 11.00 a.m.

19.37 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, May 10, 1995/
Vaisakha 20, 1917 (Saka).*

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