

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Fifth Session**  
**(Eleventh Lok Sabha)**

*Accm 9*  
*Date: 1.2.1998*



*(Vol. XV contains Nos. 1 to 10)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
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**Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates  
(English Version)**

...

Tuesday, August 5, 1997/Shravana 14, 1919 (Saka)

...

Col./line	For	Read
70/2	SHRI BAMSAGAR	SHRI RAMSAGAR
84/13	14.83	74.83
122/13 (from below)	SHRI AJMEERA CHNDULAL	SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL
131-132/2 (from below)	11883.6 13094.3	11887.6 13093.3
187-188/24	549.00	549.70
187-188/25	376.46	376.48
204/9	38.61	38.64
215-216/3 (from below) Col.(4)	10920	18920
217-218/9 Col.(8)	318	310
217-218/16 Col.(2)	37	47
227-228/6	75234	7523
249/after line 13 add 'Coorg'		

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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Tuesday August 5, 1997/Shravana 14, 1919 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[ MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair ]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### US Ships for Ship Breaking

\*181. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have granted approval to two US ships for ship breaking, off the coast of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons for raising objections by the Environment Ministry; and

(c) the impact of ship breaking activity on the flora and fauna of the region?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) and (b) No, Sir. A request made by the US Embassy seeking approval to sell two US ships for breaking conveyed information about the likely presence of hazardous materials in the ships. As such, the Ministry of Environment and Forests felt that the ships should not be sold for breaking in India till an assessment had been made about the quantity of hazardous material present in such ships and the requirements formulated for their disposal in an environmentally sound manner.

(c) According to the interim report of Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (MECON) who conducted a study entitled "Ship-breaking Industry-Present status in India and its impact on environment", instituted by the Ministry of Steel on the suggestion of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, there is no significant effect on terrestrial flora and fauna. While marked variation in composition and density of marine flora (Phyto-plankton species) was noticed, according to the study, no difference in composition of marine fauna (zoo-plankton community) was found. The report states that there is no clear-cut decline in the fish-catch in the study area due to increase in ship-breaking activity.

SHRI L. RAMANA: Sir, I understand that the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Ministry of Steel are at loggerheads over the approval to be granted by the latter to two US ships for ship-breaking off the coast of Gujarat. These ships are of 1930s vintage and their coating of paint contain hazardous substances. I also understand that the paint of the ships are toxic and so, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has refused to grant permission.

My first supplementary is this. The paint of the ships contain chemicals that are hazardous as they directly affect the reproductive system of wildlife and human beings and can cause intelligence disorders in children. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government proposes to make a thorough investigation as to how the Ministry thought of granting permission in spite of objections raised.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, there is no question of my Ministry having granted any permission to the two US ships. In the Statement that has been laid on the Table of the House, I had said that the ships have not come and then, I had also explained as to why they could not come. But last evening, at 8 p.m., after a week's effort, the Gujarat Maritime Board reported to me in writing. Earlier, they contacted on telephone because we had refused permission to these two ships as we had to take so many precautions. So, I wanted to know the port of India where these ships had come. My hunch was that these two ships must be somewhere around because the US, at the official level, was trying to convince us that these two ships are not carrying any hazardous substances. But we have to satisfy ourselves and find whether these ships have come or not so that we could examine the hazardous substances, if any. Last evening, at 8 p.m., I was told in writing by Gujarat Maritime Board that the two ships, maybe other ships, have come and they are being bleached. While I report this to this august House, I take the position that the Gujarat Maritime Board has the authority of bleaching and they are within their rights to do so. But since I have to take precautionary measures, I have informed the Gujarat Maritime Board today, around 9.30 a.m., that they should maintain the *status quo* till I institute a Committee to examine whether these are the two ships that were under discussion and if so, my Ministry will satisfy whether these ships carry any hazardous substances or not.

SHRI L. RAMANA : Sir, the Indian ship-breaking industry has come down by 29 percent during the last five years whereas the share of Bangladesh and Pakistan has increased. Why is the Government taking stringent measures before granting such permission when ship-breaking generates employment for thousands of persons and steel is also available at cheaper rates? Can the Government not take special measures to ensure that the ships would not contain hazardous substances to imbalance the natural animal life before granting such permission? Would the Government help the ship-breaking industry in its activities to save foreign exchange on steel as well as generate employment?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, there is no question of my Ministry or, in fact, any other Ministry granting special permission or permission for ship-breaking because the hon. Member must be knowing that in the wake of liberalisation, there is an OGL. The OGL is in operation, in practical terms, from 1991. So, any party can bring in ships but the environmental laws are there. There is only one Ministry, that is, the Ministry of Steel, which is the agency in law. That can go into the question of ship-breaking. They have some norms.

On our part, we told the Ministry of Steel to institute a study. They did it through MECON to go into the whole question whether due care will be taken regarding any hazardous substances. An interim report from MECON has come. There is no danger to environment.

The other aspect to which the hon. Member has invited my attention is that whether we shall support and help ship-breakers so that they get employment. Yes; if these scraps come-- if the ships are broken within the norms--without generating any pollution, without harming the coastline, there is everything to support them because this is a genuine activity. But wherever they pollute the atmosphere and cause damage to environment, they will not be allowed. A case in point is this. Two ships of U.S. were not allowed to come in because we had to specify whether or not these two ships carried any substances in their paint or lead, etc., because these are hazardous substances. While the environment will not be impaired, we shall help them.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has stated that he did not accord approval to US ship. It has been further stated that the Gujarat Maritime Board has already brought these ships. That when the Department of Environment takes a decision that the ships are not to be brought, then on which ground these ships were brought by the Gujarat Maritime Board. It is all right that the board has been asked to maintain *status quo*. At present, objections are being raised in respect of many ships on the issue of environment and pollution. The ship breaking work is done at 'Alang' in Gujarat on a large scale but it does not get sufficient number of ships. Due to gap of coordination between the State and Central Govt. people are being rendered jobless in Gujarat. I would like to know whether co-ordination should be set up and action likely to be taken against Gujarat Maritime Board for bringing ships without the approval of Central Govt.? Secondly, action being taken by the Govt. for removal of unemployment due to non-availability of ships to the ship breaking workshop because of this Ministry while it is available in the entire world?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: The question of Co-ordination raised by the hon. Member was detected in night at 8 p.m. when the hon. member wanted to know in writing the prevailing condition since I was eager to know the whereabouts of these two ships.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : The US embassy did not tell the whereabouts of these ships. When US embassy was making request after request did it not tell whereabouts of these ships?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Had the hon. Member listened to the complete reply of the question, there had been no need for him to utter these words. The US wanted that these two ships belonging to a private party should come to India. Therefore, US wanted to know whether any private party, under the law of the country and O.G.L. system, can bring the scrap for breaking it? The Ministry of Steel is looking after this work. My work is to keep an eye on pollution and environment. We did not permit the US because as per the law of their country. They cannot send ship to any other country without seeking permission of that country. When the Govt. came to know about it, we made them aware within a period of two months that they cannot bring the ships to our country. Now, I have been looking for the last 5-7 days and want to know if the ships were brought here, where are these ships at present? I came to know that the ships have been kept on Gujarat Coast and being bleached. I stopped them but Gujarat Maritime Board has its own authority, I could not do so. Alang port of Gujarat is a ship breaking port? It is said that it is the biggest ship breaking port in Asia and 90 percent ships of the country are broken here. Gujarat Maritime Board has the right of bleaching. It has also right to hand over the scrap to the party after breaking the ship. Therefore, as a precautionary measure, I told them to stop the work, I will see to it and if these are the same two ships then my Ministry has got the right to see its substance and in this way, I shall also get a chance. But the Gujarat Maritime Board has utilised its right properly.

The second question is whether the Govt. is likely to provide employment through ship breaking? The responsibility of our Ministry is to see the pollution and the Govt. is not willing to put hurdle before it because this is a laudable job and it would be instrumental in the progress of the country. There is no difficulty for those who are in the trade but are conscious towards environment.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the ship breaking industry in our country is in the list of open General licence. For this purpose, permission of any Central Agency is not required for bringing the ships for the purpose of breaking. But if that ship carries any hazardous material and if such a ship is brought and broken up by any private company, it is likely to create problem there which will not be for company only but for the sea and the complex also. As per the U.S. law, whenever any ship is sent for breaking to any other country and if they have any such material loaded on it, they consult the other country and inform the Ministry of Environment to look into it lest it should create any problem. Had this not been a US Law, the ship having such hazardous material, would have been broken and the Union Govt. would not have paid attention to it. Therefore, I would like to ask if before breaking up the ship having hazardous material even

though listed in OGL, the permission of Union Govt. is required. Does the Govt. propose to bring any such Amendment in the existing law?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Pramodji has raised a question of great importance. If a ship carrying hazardous substance is brought here and it damages the environment, the Govt. would not repeat its fault. One more thing, I have stopped Gujarat Maritime Board to take any further action till the experts from my Ministry visit for inspection. It is also a step in this direction ..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let him complete the reply.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : If there is no such a law, the Gujarat Maritime Board can refuse the compliance of the Govt. order, then the Govt. will find itself helpless. If any private party brings the ship, what would the Govt. do in that case ?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I welcome your question that we would have to be more careful in future. I submit that big ports are under the Ministry of Steel, through which the big agency MECON has prepared the report that there is no danger to the Environment. Besides that, the Ministry of Environment is also taking other measures. CRZ notification of the Ministry of Environment is also in force, there is also steel plant Control Board. Besides that, the Coast Guards have also been directed to see as to whose goods are to be allowed and whose goods are not to be allowed. These measures are being taken. There is no such report with me in which is said that any particular ship would affect the environment. Yet, we have taken a note of that. Your question is worth noting in the sense that some additional steps should be taken to be more secure. I would see as to what can be done.

[*English*]

I will go into this whole question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Whether Gujarat Maritime Board functions within the rules framed by the Union Government and whether the Government exercises any control over it or it functions of its own arbitrarily ? It has just been told that two American ships came here, they were not allowed, yet they came here. It has also been told that they are being bleached here, in other words they are generating pollution here. Do they come here to do all this.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : What else would happen in this Government ?

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : The team, deputed by you made a study regarding environment. That team went there and made enquiries from the people living in the vicinity and within the complex. Whether that

team made enquiries from any Government official or did they meet any public N.G.O.s ? As far as know, they did not do so. The Americans are in the habit of doing such things here, I don't want to go into the detail.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please ask question.

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : I would like to know as to what do you say in regard to the coming of two ships in our area ? Would you send them back ?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we considered the request of America. After that, American Ambassador, Shri Wisner met me officially. But still we did not give permission, because we were to see whether that contained any hazardous substances or not. Therefore, when we were asked, we did not give permission ..... (*interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : First, let him reply. You please sit down.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : He is repeating the same thing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It would not be allowed. Let him complete his reply.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : We were asked because as per the law of that country it was necessary to take permission of the Ministry of Environment of the country where the ship was to go. The ship belonged to a Private Company. (*Interruptions*) You please listen the full reply. But we did not allow under the state act i.e. under the 'Gujarat Maritime Board Act', the Ships of Russia, Japan, America, etc. have been coming for the last so many years and have been destroyed because this activity has been considered as legal. Therefore, there is no question of adversely affecting the environment in giving to permission and getting subsistence. Why we asked Gujarat. We have sent telegram today in the morning and informed them on fax that they may have done so under their laws but yet we have to get these two ships checked.

[*English*]

I take this position, Sir, on this occasion that no country of the world will be allowed to make India a dumping ground. I want to give this assurance to the House ..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You can do it, only if you change the law.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : No, I will go into that question... (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Gujarat Maritime Board wrote to me at 8 p.m. yesterday after persistent enquiry. I wanted to know where those two ships are. I took the position this morning to inform the House ..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : This requires Half an Hour discussion..... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : They have been told to maintain the *status quo* and this will be examined.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you can see, the reply to the question is vague, American Embassy informed you and sought prior permission that there is a possibility of hazardous material in the ships.

[*English*]

The American Embassy have already stated that they caution them, before they are allowed by you to come to Alang for ship-breaking.

[*Translation*]

Did the Ministry take up the matter with the American Embassy when they got this information from the American Embassy ? When you were informed that there was a possibility at these ships carrying the hazardous material, how did they enter India and engaged with the work of ship breaking ? The Ministry closed the entry thereafter. If these ships entered India after getting the information from the Ministry in this regard. Gujarat Maritime Board is not responsible for it. The hon. Minister is misleading Maritime Board. His Ministry is responsible for it, after getting information from the American Embassy, he allowed them entry.

[*English*]

There is no system in your Ministry to check as to whether these hazardous ships have come or not. .... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is saying that permission was not granted. What is your question?

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : My question is that whether with our permission these ships entered the territory of our sea ? When the American Embassy informed the Ministry that these ships had hazardous material. What else you wanted ? Will the hon. Minister take any steps in his Ministry to rectify this shortcoming ?

[*English*]

It is clearly mentioned that the American Government had already informed you that these two ships have some hazardous materials. Then how did they come to the Gujarat coast ? ..... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : There is no question of my Ministry giving permission for breaking of these two ships. .... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him complete his reply. Please sit down.

[*Translation*]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : First of all you listen to me. The point is that I am telling you the latest position in this regard which I gathered before coming to the House this morning. .... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him complete please.

[*Translation*]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Till yesterday evening, the position was that these two ships did not come to India. As soon as this question was brought to my notice, I initiated enquiry in this regard. I can not change the policy merely at the behest of the American Embassy. This matter shall have to be discussed with them. We informed them that permission would not be granted to these ships, since they also admitted that these ships carried hazardous material.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : The Hon'ble Minister should make it clear as to how did these ship enter without any permission?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Listen to me first, then you speak.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : How did these ships enter our territorial water without any permission.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am sorry to say, let him complete his reply.

..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please maintain decorum in the House.

[*Translation*]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : When this question came to the notice of my Minister, I initiated enquiry into this matter in order to find out whether the ships actually entered the country without our permission. Till a quarter to eight yesterday evening, the position was that these two ships did not enter our territorial water.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do not repeat the same thing time and again?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Needle of suspicion is moving towards Gujarat because 90 percent work of ship breaking is undertaken there. Had this incident occurred in a major port, the Ministry of Shipping would have paid their attention. Hence they have held Gujarat responsible for it. Verbally they stated that these ships were not ..... (*Interruptions*) the ones that were suspected

Gujarat was told that we wanted to inspect in order to check whether the Ships were the ones suspected of carrying hazardous material. We shall find out the position in this regard. This was the position last night and today. Today morning we have asked them that

[English]

hold on. Till we examine these two ships, maintain status quo.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : This question and the issue which came up is something new to the Ministry of Environment. It is clear from the reply of the Minister that it is for the first time that such a matter has come to his knowledge and that of the Ministry of Environment. The news came from America that such..... (Interruptions) possibility is there..... But Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this question does not rest here but involves a policy decision.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MECON Consultancy is basically an engineering Consultancy for mechanical works.

[Translation]

If you go through the reply, apprehensions are bound to arise in mind.

[English]

The report states that there is no clear-cut evidence in the decline of the fish-catch.

[Translation]

This institution itself is not competent for this work. The issue which has come up to the Ministry of Environment is new. The coastal line of India is very long. Just to as the American ship has come this time, in the same way French or German ship may arrive next time. I would like to know whether the Ministry of Environment is willing to take any policy decision in the matter so that a provision can be made to prevent recurrence of such happenings. Any such ship is bound to have lead, it may contain oil, as also chemicals. Under the circumstances, the Minister of Environment is willing to take any policy decision in the matter so that a provision can be made to prevent recurrence of such happenings. Any such ship is bound to have lead, it may contain oil, as also chemicals. Under the circumstances, the Minister of Environment is willing to take any policy decision if such ships continue to reach the shores of the country ?

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : There is no cause for concern. It has been made known to every agency. We wrote letters to the Ministry of Steel, the Ministry of Shipping and Transport and alerted our State Pollution Control

Boards. I have organised a meeting of the Chairman of State Pollution Control Boards. This is also in the agenda for the meeting scheduled on the 14th of this month.

I have taken the position before this august House that India will not be made a dumping ground or any hazardous substance. But as far as Gujarat Maritime Board is concerned, it is Governed by an Act and it has the authority to break ships. Since I have the suspicion, I have halted the activity. I can assure you that whatever measures need to be taken in future, I will take those measures.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Deputy, Speaker, Sir, it is clear from the reply of the Hon'ble Minister that he was very much aware of the contents of the ship, not with standing which the ship was permitted to enter our seas. I would like to know that whether any ships belonging to any country and with any kind of cargo over board can be allowed to roam about freely without the permission of the Government ?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : At this movement here I can say about my Ministry only. I cannot change the law. Pramod Mahajan ji asked whether we shall think over ways and means to become more secure in future and make sure that no foreign ship has access to any of our ports with proper cause.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please just listen. You have completed your question. Now you must listen to the reply.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I have said that every precaution has been taken and I will try to take more precautions for the future as well but asking for dispensing with O.G.L. in the wake of liberalization in the country will not be proper.

Anyone can bring scrap of ship privately and can perform activities here. We have got laws to ensure that it does not pollute the environment. If any such thing comes to my notice I will look into it.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir Pipava Shipyard situated near Alang Shipyard is in my constituency. Regarding the ship about which the discussion is going on here, International rules are laid down there to deal with it. When any ship ceases to function, it is put to auction in which any one can take part. That ship is kept in a separate shipyard. There is no problem in it. Permission of the Gujarat Maritime Board is required to be obtained for subjecting it to the process of 'break'. This aspect should have to be taken care of before breaking the ship .... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is your question?

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : There is problem in shifting it. While giving the permission for it you ignore the

environmental aspect. Besides this, fire breaks out in the shipyard as many as four to five times in a year causing death of many people. The Gujarat Maritime Board is unable to curb the fire and the loss which it is causing to environment. Whether the Central Government propose to take any steps to prevent the damage caused to the environment by such fire incidents. Last year several fire incidents took place there. Will you please help us by conducting an enquiry into it ?

**PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ :** As you have raised this question, the angle from which I will look into this subject will be to find out as to which type of break has led to what type of condition of the ship. I cannot stop the Gujarat Maritime Board from proceeding in a particular way. It happened without me. It came to notice in the evening. They have their own Act in this regard. As regards to the question you have raised about repairing the ship, I will look into that.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** This is an important question. Instead of five, nine supplementaries have been allowed. Yet I admit the fact that even then everybody is agitated over this. This question has got two aspects. If there is no ship, people are rendered jobless and if there are ships, they create pollution. So far it is only in our knowledge that the matter has been taken up with Russia and also other countries. I do not know if anyone of them has ever sought any permission? America has got their own laws which prohibits ships from entering there, which is why question of seeking permission rose. My submission is that in view of all these facts, you should formulate a policy in this regard. Better if we hold a half-an-hour discussion on this issue.

[English]

### **Prawn Cultivation**

\*182. **SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court in its judgement ordering for closure of prawn cultivation in the coastal States had cited environment as the most important reasons for the closure of the farms ;

(b) whether his Ministry have examined all aspects of this judgement and have taken steps to protect the environment;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) :** (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per the directions of the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Environment and Forest has constituted the Aquaculture Authority under Section 3(3) of the Environment

(Protection) Act 1986 to deal with the situation created by the shrimp culture industry in coastal States and Union Territories. The Authority has been vested with all powers necessary to protect the ecologically fragile coastal areas, sea shore and waterfront.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hold that this question is based on the decision given by the Supreme Court, the copy of which is most probably, in the possession of the Hon'ble Minister. Therefore, I request him to go through the same to find out that he has answered only one point out of 16 points contained in the decision. The remaining 15 points have not been at all touched by the Minister. I want to know whether the Govt. are likely to accept only one point out of the 16 contained in the Supreme Court Directives and want to ignore the rest of the 15 points.

**PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ :** No doubt, the matter raised by Shri George Fernandes is of utmost importance. But this is not correct to say that we are taking action only on a single point. Copy of the Directives of the Supreme Court is here before me and we have taken note of the all 16 points. Attaching a lot of importance to its directives, we are making efforts to implement them all. The first point pertains to the constitution of an Authority to look after aquaculture. I would like to let you know that we, after a lot of hard work, have set-up an aquaculture Authority.

**SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :** What hard work have you done ?

**PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ :** Hard work involves a lot of things including appointment of a deserving Chairman and efficient staff to run the Authority successfully. Anyway, Aquaculture Authority will come into existence very soon.

**SHRI NITISH KUMAR :** When you people can search out Prime Minister like I.K. Gujral, I do not think there should be any problem in searching out a Chairman?

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** It has got no relevancy, whatsoever, with the question under discussion.

**PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ :** We have perhaps started taking action on the directives given by the Supreme Court. So far as the first point pertaining to the Aquaculture Authority is concerned, it has been set-up. It has also started functioning. Further, the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

**SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :** My question was very clear. There are 16 points in the directives of the Supreme Court. The judgement of the Supreme Court is before the able Ministry. It was delivered seven months back. This is the eighth month but still it is not known as to by what time the Government are likely to take action on these points ?

A date has been mentioned, a target date, in the verdict of the Supreme Court. Therefore, give some reply at least in that respect so that I can ask another part of my question which is equally important.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : The Hon. Member is aware that this case is subjudice in the Supreme Court. The Minister of Agriculture are likely to submit their review petition before the court by 20th August. As the decisions of the Supreme Court and High Court are binding on us, we can not go against them. In case implementation of an order given by either the Supreme Court or a High Court is likely to leave any adverse affect on the society, then we generally go back to court and apprise them about the likely ramifications of the implementation. No action therefore, will be taken against the orders passed by the Supreme Court. So let us wait for the final verdict of the Court.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I feel that the Hon'ble Minister is not aware of what is happening in various ministries in the wake of the Supreme Court's verdict. Have you not tried to undo the decision of the Supreme Court by bringing the legislation in the Rajya Sabha ? Are you not bringing this legislation in this House tomorrow or day after tomorrow ? Even then you are saying to me that you are busy in ensuring the implementation of the directives of the Supreme Court. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister that if this matter was pending as review petition before the Supreme Court then, what was the need to impede the verdict of the Supreme Court by bringing about this legislation of this Government meant only for the rich end those farmers and fishermen, who are suffering great losses due to prawn farms, could not get any attention of the Government and would the Government not take any measures for full implementation of the Supreme Court's verdict ?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : The stand being taken by George Saheb that the Government should not come forward with the Bill, is quite wrong. In fact, our constitution has three organs. This is where we are sitting in legislature. The elected representatives are sitting over here which have the right to make legislation. The honourable Supreme Court or any other court is entrusted with the job of interpreting the law and give its guidance to the Government. Therefore, the agriculture ministry, exercising its own rights has moved this Bill in the Rajya Sabha and the Members would give their opinions on it and then only it would become the law. He has asked this question also as to why the need for it was felt. In fact, it was needed because the Supreme Court had agreed to shrimp cultivators provided it was done through traditional methods or they improved scientifically only then these farms would not be dismantled. But the order had the provision that the S.P. or the D.M. could dismantle these farms. But after the judgement, it was felt that on one hand it would deprive the people from employment opportunities and on the other hand the Ministry of Agriculture in its prayer to Hon'ble Supreme Court had said that Shri Alagise Sami who is considered expert in this field has said in a meeting he had

referred to some other reports. He has submitted an application before the Supreme Court, you go through if we dismantle it what would be the repercussions. It is a great issue. I share concerns about the small farmers but I would never say because I am not the Commerce Minister that. You have Govt. 3000 crores foreign exchange .....(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Should the small people be killed for 3000 rupees.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I would not say that we also get the foreign exchange. I must say that if they would have been dismantle that way then, one spirit of the Supreme Court's order would have been finished. Therefore, the Ministry of Agriculture stated that their norms are part of fishing and agriculture. The guidelines they have formulated.

[English]

Sir, I am told that these guidelines are very comprehensive. There can be no pollution if these guidelines are implemented. As a Minister of Environment it is my duty also to protect the coastal lines. I will institute an agency if it is not already there. I have already instructed all the State Pollution Control Boards regarding this. This matter of coastal lines was recently examined also by all these States. Those precautions will be taken. But the Ministry of Agriculture is before the hon. Supreme Court explaining the representations from both the sides. As a Minister of Environment, I take the position. I am in the middle. Some people say development is nothing, it is trash and environment is everything, and others come and take an equally opposite stand. We shall have development but not at the cost of environment. We shall protect our environment. But with the modern science and technology, it is possible to have development as also to protect the environment.

As far as the hon. Supreme Court is concerned, I salute the hon. Supreme Court which has a Constitutional position. I cannot go against that. We shall implement the orders. But we shall see what is hapening at the grass root level.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Sir, I would like to know whether the Government is aware of the fact that the European Community had banned all fisheries' products from India. The unhygienic conditions of our fisheries are not only threatening our environment but also threatening our international commerce. Because of the ban by the European Community, we are losing a very huge market. Sir, would the Government take care of what Shri George Fernandes has said just now about the unhygienic condition of these fisheries? Otherwise, we are also going to be threatened in the international market.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I have no information whether we have lost the market or not. But if the hon. Minister of Agriculture wants to answer this in part he may do so. I do not know about any cultivation of fish, and whether the market has gone down.



[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You tell of your ministry.

[English]

DR. ASIM BALA : It should come under the Ministry of Agriculture because it is prawn cultivation. .... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have already allowed Shri Ram Naik.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, after the judgement of the Supreme Court and the Bill was passed in Rajya Sabha and the day on which it was debated in Lok Sabha. I had demanded that it is serious social issue and a committee of M.Ps of Coastal States be constituted to tour all coastal states. I am happy that the Agriculture Minister constituted a committee of 13 M.Ps for this purpose. We toured all the coastal states during 30th June to 17th July and met the Chief Ministers and the Minister of fisheries Ministry.

We met Chief Ministers, Shri Nayanar of the C.P.M., Shri Manohar Joshi of Maharashtra and Shri Rane of Goa and people of that area and it was the opinion of the hon. Members by and large that what is going on today should be given protection and therefore, the Bill which was to be introduced here is being delayed. And because of that, no work could be undertaken in the next harvesting season resulting in losses to the tune of crores of rupees. Therefore, I want to know that the Bill which was slated for debate on the first day, when that Bill would be introduced and the role of the Government in this regard. Because of the instability many problems have cropped up and we find that about 85 percent aquaculturists have less than five hectares of land in the country. Here we have discussed about multinationals but is 'Hindustan Lever' the only multinational in West Bengal and there is no other multinational in the country. Therefore, I want to know that this is such an important Bill and it involves employment for lakhs of people and investment of crores of rupees and this is not just like aquaculture industry, however, you consider it as industry whereas it is a part of agriculture. So, my question is that by what time lakhs of labourers would be provided relief by introducing it as soon as possible considering it as a part of agriculture?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as per my information this is likely to be introduced very soon in the House.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my name is not in the list.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do you want to ask question or not?

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Should I ask on the same issue ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you don't want to ask should I call other members. Please sit down now.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I heard the hon. Minister saying that the environment is on one side and the development is on the other extreme side and he is in the middle. But I am sorry to say that we do not agree with that. We find that his own Ministry is taking an extreme line with regard to deciding on environmental matters. What is needed is a balance between the environmental protection and development. It is possible to have development by protecting the environment. The feeling that any development is against environment should go away. I would say that there is no human activity which will not affect environment to some extent. Every human activity will affect environment to some extent. So, what is needed is a broad view on how to coordinate between the two and have a compromise on the two so that there is development without affecting the environment. That is possible in this scientific age. I would like to know that instead of looking at each item or each proposal in isolation, whether your Ministry has a common approach or policy so that the thrust is on development without affecting environment. Why I put this question is because I always find that your thrust is protection of environment at the cost of development. What I want is a different thrust 'development first without affecting the environment'. Are you prepared for this kind of a reorientation of your Ministry?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, actually what Prof. Kurien has suggested is already there because this Ministry has the charge of organising harmony between development and environment. We have laws to protect the environment and we have to apply those laws. We have the best experts also. So, we shall allow development without any adverse effect on the environment. So, where is the dispute? I hope you agree on this so that balance is there.....(Interruptions). I did not say all people. I said some of the people are extremely development-oriented and some of them are extremely oriented towards environment protection. I say, I am in the middle because. I am organising harmony. We shall allow development because we are a developing country, but we shall not spoil our environment. Science and technology is being brought to play a very major role in this Ministry now.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : But it is not enough to be in the middle. You have to have the thrust on development first without affecting the environment.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I said, I am organising harmony.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, this is a very important question which has been raised by Shri George Fernandes

and we have not got a very clear answer from the Minister. This question pertains to environment as well as fishing. There are also traditional fishermen who have been carrying out this business. The figure of Rs. 3,000 crore as foreign exchange earning which has been quoted by the hon. Minister, has largely come from traditional fishing, not necessarily from aquaculture. How are we going to protect the environment without exempting the traditional fishermen from the rigorous provision of CRZ? Is the Government aware that there are so many towns in coastal Maharashtra in which on the one side there is a sea and on the other side there is a creek, and all the towns lying in between are between CRZ-1 and CRZ-2? Is the Government thinking of exempting these towns as well as the traditional fishermen who cannot even repair their own dilapidated houses, from the rigorous provision of CRZ? CRZ says that they cannot even reconstruct the houses. While protecting the interests of these people, is the Government also thinking of protecting the interests of these small traditional fishermen from the rigorous provision of CRZ?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that as far as traditional shrimp farmers are concerned .....(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : I am talking about fishermen.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Yes, it was not against the traditional fisherman about whom the Supreme Court also agreed in this judgement. So, the Bill that is coming before us, will be comprehensive, taking care of all shrimp cultivation.

As far as the people who will pollute are concerned, the polluter will pay the principal that has been established further by the hon. Supreme Court. That is already incorporated in the Bill.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : But are you exempting the traditional fishermen from the rigorous provision of CRZ?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : The Bill that will come before you has a provision that shrimp cultivation will be allowed afresh under licence that will be issued by the Ministry of Agriculture. It will be beyond 200 metres of high-tide line.

As far as people causing pollution are concerned, they will be taken care of. As far as traditional farmers are concerned, they will be protected. There is no dispute about that.

DR. ASIM BALA : Sir, the Government is earning a lot of foreign exchange from the export of prawn. But it is being threatened due to the communicable diseases to prawn. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any quarantine arrangement before exporting the prawn abroad or not. What is the arrangement for quarantine from the Ministry of Environment and Forest?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, the guidelines already prepared and available with the Ministry of Agriculture are very comprehensive. These guidelines take care of everything like pollution etc. The quarantine is just an integral part of that. Properly graded fish or shrimp will be exported.

DR. ASIM BALA : Who is in charge of quarantine? Is it the Ministry of Environment and Forest or the Ministry of Agriculture of any other Department?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir there has been basic confusion about this. I am answering the question because it was raised to my Ministry. I am in charge of controlling pollution.

As far as cultivation is concerned which is a part of fishing, it comes under the Ministry of Agriculture. The guidelines are from them. The guidelines take care about the quarantine.

[Translation]

### Import/Export of Wheat

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\*183. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of wheat imported/exported during 1996-97 till date and likely to be imported/exported in the near future;

(b) the countries from which it is imported ;

(c) whether the Government propose to import wheat despite the bumper production of wheat;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the FCI has raised any objection regarding the quality of wheat imported;

(f) the quantity of wheat likely to be available for PDS; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to curb the import of wheat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) During 1996-97 till date, Government imported 17.51 lakh tonnes of wheat. In 1996-97, private traders/public sector undertakings exported 10.94 lakh tonnes of wheat. Government is likely to import 1 million tonnes of wheat in the near future. Export of wheat during 1997-98 has been banned.

(b) Australia, Canada and Argentina.

(c) and (d) Government, after considering various factors, like augmenting availability in the country to meet the requirement for Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS), maintaining stocks according to buffer norms and to contain open market prices, authorised FCI/STC to import upto 2 million tonnes of wheat during 1997-98. Of this, STC has contracted for import of 1 million tonnes from Australia.

(e) No. Sir. However, FCI has informed STC that the wheat imported from Argentina contained more percentage of damaged grains than the specifications laid own in the contract. STC has obtained compensation for the damaged wheat from the Argentinean suppliers.

(f) As on 1-7-1997, the stock of wheat in the Central Pool was 109.90 lakh tonnes. The requirement under TPDS during 1997-98 is estimated at 75 lakh tonnes.

(g) All efforts are being made to increase production of wheat and procurement for the Central Pool. Minimum Support Price has been raised from R. 380/- Per quintal in 1996-97 to Rs. 415/- in 1997-98, and bonus of Rs. 60/- per quintal has also been given raising the procurement price of wheat during 1997-98 to Rs. 475/- per quintal. As against 81.8 lakh tonnes of wheat procured in 1996-97, around 92.60 lakh tonnes have been procured in 1997-98.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister to this question is not satisfactory. There is difference of opinion in the Cabinet also on this issue. The Minister of Agriculture says and we also know it that there has been large increase in the production of foodgrains in the country and there was no need of importing wheat as such. But due to wrong distribution system and wrong policy of the Government the wheat which should have been procured by the Government for its warehouses, the Government could not do that. Therefore the farmers of this country have been exploited by importing wheat and it has been imported paying exorbitant rates.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, all sorts of weeds have been found in the wheat imported from Argentina and Australia and poisonous grains have also been detected therein. Therefore, I want to ask the hon. Minister as to how much increase has been there in the production of wheat and rice

during the last three years and the quantity stored against the central pool with the State Governments during the last three years and the quantum of storage of wheat and rice under the union Government in the country and if it was in excess, the reasons for importing wheat and rice.

SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH : Sir, 62 lakh million tonnes of wheat was produced last year and this year 65 lakh million tonnes wheat has been produced. Last year 81 lakh tonnes of wheat was procured and this year procurement of wheat was 92.50 lakh tonnes.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has not replied to the main question of the hon. member as to whether weeds and poisonous grains were detected in the wheat imported from Argentina and Australia ?

SHRI THAWAR GHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, weeds and poisonous grains were found in the wheat imported from Argentina and Australia and for which the Government had got compensation from these countries but the Government distributed the same poisonous wheat among the people of the country. Why they did so, the hon. Minister should atleast reply to this.

SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the question is not specific, the answer will also not be specific. So this is not the case here. The hon. Member wanted an account of production and procurement of wheat. That I have given. Now, let me also tell about the import of wheat. Last year in 1996-97, 17 lakh tonnes of wheat was imported and we have decided to import 10 lakh tonnes of wheat this year..... (Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Sir, though this is a very important question but the members could not get sufficient time to ask supplementary questions and we have very less time at our disposal to ask questions. Therefore, my submission is that half an hour discussion should be held on this issue. And I am giving a notice for having half an hour discussion on this .....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the hon. members ask their questions turn by turn, certainly I can reply their each and every question within a minute, but if they are going to ask questions simultaneously like this, it is not possible for me to reply to their questions..... (Interruptions)

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

[Translation]

**Storage Capacity**

\*184. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR :  
SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proper arrangements for storing the foodgrains under PDS to fulfil the demand of the poor people;

(b) if so, the details of the storage capacity available for the purpose till May, 1997;

(c) whether a substantial quantity of foodgrains gets perished in the rain due to shortage of the storage capacity;

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

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to construct more godowns or increase the existing storage capacity, State-wise, and location-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Food Corporation of India has proper arrangements for storing the foodgrains in the Country.

(b) As on 31st May, 1997, the Food Corporation of India had a total storage capacity of 223.13 lakh tonnes. Statement-I giving State-wise storage capacity of FCI as on 1.6.97 is enclosed.

(c) and (d) There is no report of any quantity of foodgrains perishing in the rain due to shortage of the storage capacity. However, transfer of foodgrains from sound to damage category on account natural calamities for the last three years is given below :

Year	Quantity (in MTs)
1993-94	45, 786.629
1994-95	19, 126 782
1995-96	32, 719.422

(e) Food Corporation of India proposes to create a capacity of 0.88 lakh tonnes during 1997-98 as per details given in attached Statement II. There is also an on-going Plan Scheme through which assistance is given to the States under which a provision of Rs. 12.50 crores is available for the year 1997-98. Amount will be released to the States after the proposals are received from most or all the States and found to be in order.

### **Statement - I**

*State-wise storage capacity with Food Corporation of India and its percentage Utilisation as on 01.06.1997*

(in lakh tonnes)						
Sl. No.	State/U.Ts.	Covered Owned	Capacity Hired	CAP Capacity (Owned+Hired)	Total	%age utilisation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.13	-	-	0.13	27
2.	Andhra Pradesh	11.82	8.61	0.40	20.83	91
3.	Assam	1.92	0.95	-	2.87	54
4.	Bihār	4.11	1.44	-	5.55	79
5.	Goa	0.15	-	-	0.15	50
6.	Gujarat	4.91	2.69	2.22	9.82	55
7.	Haryana	7.71	4.71	3.31	15.73	58
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.09	0.16	-	0.25	151
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.72	0.15	0.13	1.00	55
10.	Karnataka	2.59	1.56	0.56	4.71	63
11.	Kerala	5.24	0.07	-	5.31	86
12.	Madhya Pradesh	8.21	3.89	-	12.10	51
13.	Maharashtra	11.77	2.93	0.68	15.38	42
14.	Manipur	0.13	0.01	-	0.14	19
15.	Meghalaya	0.10	0.06	-	0.16	26
16.	Mizoram	0.17	0.05	-	0.22	32

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17.	Nagaland	0.08	0.10	-	0.18	51
18.	Orissa	2.54	1.81	-	4.35	55
19.	Punjab	21.03	26.38	14.37	61.78	68
20.	Rajasthan	7.07	1.86	2.74	11.67	45
21.	Sikkim	0.07	0.09	-	0.16	113
22.	Tamil Nadu	5.88	1.78	-	7.66	69
23.	Tripura	0.17	0.18	-	0.35	76
24.	Uttar Pradesh	14.76	6.43	4.63	25.82	44
25.	West Bengal	8.51	3.22	-	11.73	61
26.	Chandigarh	0.40	0.17	0.32	0.89	56
27.	Delhi	3.54	0.05	0.19	3.78	34
28.	Pondicherry	0.41	-	-	0.41	21
Total		124.23	69.35	29.55	223.13	61%

Note : Includes a capacity of 32.93 lakh tonnes hired from CWC and CWCs.

#### **Statement-II**

##### *Construction of FCI during 1997-98*

Sl. No.	State	Centre	Capacity proposed to be created
1.	Karnataka	Tumkur	5.00
		Coorg	2.50
2.	Bihar	Gumla	2.50
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	Baramulla	5.00
		Srinagar	3.33
4.	Kerala	Moonangadi	5.00
5.	Uttar Pradesh	Dhamora	25.00
		Roza	10.00
6.	Madhya Pradesh	Dhamtari	10.00
7.	Maharashtra	Solapur	10.00
8.	Orissa	Jharsuguda	5.00
		(Balijori)	
9.	Nagaland	Dimapur	5.00
Total			88.33

[English]

#### **Criteria for Supply of Essential Commodities**

\*185. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to ensure supply of essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, edible oils etc. in the States under the Public Distribution System/Revamped Public Distribution System;

(b) the criteria fixed for supply of the said food items in each State or for the supply of per-unit essential items;

(c) the States where PDS is not working satisfactorily, indicating the reasons thereof ; and

(d) whether the Union Government have issued instructions to each State to ensure distribution of essential commodities on uniform basis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) The Public Distribution System is a joint responsibility of the Central Government and the State Governments. While the Central Government has got the responsibility for ensuring the availability of PDS commodities, viz, rice, wheat, sugar, edible oils and kerosene, and their delivery to the States, the State Governments have the responsibility for ensuring their proper distribution through the network of the Fair Price Shops.

The States have also been advised to constitute Vigilance Committees at the Fair Price Shop, Taluk, District and the State levels.

The Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) has ceased to exist with the introduction of TPDS with effect from 1.6.1997.

(b) No Criteria is fixed by Government of India for supply of the PDS commodities in the States on a per unit basis except that each family below poverty line (BPL) is entitled to 10 Kg. of foodgrains per month at specially subsidised prices. The States/UTs fix the scale of distribution according to criteria fixed by them keeping in view the total availability of foodgrains and the target group (other than BPL families) they wish to cover.

(c) There is no report of PDS not working satisfactorily in any State. However, the efficiency of the functioning of PDS is not uniform in all the States and there is scope for improvement.

(d) No. Sir, except that the States have been asked to ensure supply of 10 Kg. of foodgrains to BPL families throughout the country.

[Translation]

#### ISI Agents

\*186. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Bengal samet teen Rajyon mein ISI ne tayar kiye panch sau agent" appearing in *Jansatta*, dated May 12, 1997;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Government do not have any information regarding recruitment of 500 youths by the ISI in the States of West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Government is, however, aware of the sinister designs of Pak ISI to destabilise India by sponsoring terrorism and subversive activities in different parts of the country including its efforts to target and train misguided youths for engineering violence. A close and continuous watch is, therefore, being kept on the situation and all necessary efforts, including sustained operations against terrorists and subversive elements, are being made to ensure that such designs are not allowed to succeed. Government have taken several steps which include sensitising and gearing up of the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and coordinated actions by concerned Central and State agencies, border fencing, intensification of border patrolling, supply of equipments for effective observations during day and night, increase in number of Nakas (check posts) as well as sensitising and alerting the State Governments regarding movement of Pak ISI agents, anti-national elements and insurgents.

[English]

#### Terrorist Violence in North Eastern States

\*187. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :  
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment about the latest rising wave of terrorist violence in North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the total loss of property and public installations during the aforesaid period indicating the number of police stations attacked during the period ;

(c) whether the Government have taken steps to bring the terrorist outfits into the national mainstream ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) The situation in the insurgency-affected North Eastern States is being monitored regularly and is reviewed from time to time at various levels.

(b) Specific information on these items is not maintained, though information relating to various incidents of militant violence, and action by security forces, are maintained.

(c) and (d) The Government have extended an open invitation to any group of individuals including the militants for talks without any pre-condition to discuss their legitimate grievances. The Prime Minister in a Statement to both Houses of Parliament on 25 July, 1997 informed, *inter-alia*, that after talks with the Issac-Muivah group of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, it has now been agreed to cease fire for three months with effect from last August, 1997 and embark upon political level discussions. The Prime Minister also extended his appeal to other militant groups in Nagaland.

#### National Handicapped Welfare Fund

\* 188. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :  
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a National Handicapped Welfare Fund was created sometime in 1983 to create jobs for the handicapped;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which it has been used for the purposes meant for it;

(d) whether there are some States, which could not utilise the fund sanctioned by the Central Government; and

(e) if so, the names of such States and the reaction of the Central Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) (a) and (b) The National Handicapped Welfare Fund was created on 11/8/83 to fulfil the following.

(i) To promote voluntary sector for creating services for the handicapped for prevention, early detection of disabilities, education, training, physical and economic rehabilitation of disabled persons.

(ii) To do all other things that are incidental and conducive to the above objective.

(c) The schemes to be funded out of the Fund have not been finalised, hence funds could not be utilised.

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

[Translation]

#### **Arrears due to Sugarcane Growers**

\*189. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :  
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been increase in the outstanding amount payable to farmers by the sugar mills;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the present status of the arrears to be paid by Private and Cooperative mills to the sugarcane growers separately, State-wise;

(d) whether cane was not lifted by some sugar mills in some States during 1996-97;

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

(f) whether the Government propose to compensate farmers whose cane was not lifted; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) According to the latest information furnished by sugar factories, as on 15.6.1997 the cane price dues to farmers relating to the current sugar season (1996-97) were about Rs. 769.99 crores, representing 12.2% of the total cane price payable, while the cane price

dues to farmers relating to the previous sugar season (1995-96) on the corresponding date were about Rs. 1642.65 crores representing 20.6 of the total cane price payable.

(c) As per the latest information furnished by the sugar factories, a Statement showing the State-wise position of the arrears to be paid to the sugarcane growers by sugar mills of different sectors for the current sugar season (1996-97) as on 15.6.1997 is attached.

(d) to (g) No information has been received by the Government about non-lifting of sugarcane by the sugar mills during 1996-97 season.

#### **Statement**

*State-wise position of arrears to be paid to the sugarcane growers by the sugar mills in different sectors for the current Sugar Season 1996-97 as on 15.6.1997*

State	Cane Price Arrears		
	Public Sector	Cooperative Sector	Private Sector
Punjab	49.04	37.62	45.94
Haryana	Nil	48.31	24.84
Rajasthan	Nil	1.52	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	109.53	74.64	152.87
Madhya Pradesh	Nil	6.50	13.17
Gujarat	Nil	4.81	Nil
Maharashtra	Nil	13.08	0.61
Bihar	16.00	0.00	56.98
Assam	Nil	0.16	Nil
Andhra Pradesh	17.56	1.37	15.78
Karnataka	0.01	5.93	14.41
Tamil Nadu	5.77	24.62	26.93
Kerala	Nil	Negligible*	Nil
Orissa	Nil	Nil	NIL
West Bengal	0.12	Nil	Nil
Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pondicherry	Nil	1.82	0.05
Goa	Nil	Nil	NL
<b>Total</b>	<b>198.03</b>	<b>220.38</b>	<b>351.58</b>

\* Rs. 013 lakhs

*[Translation]***Afforestation**

\*190. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to undertake afforestation by scientific methods in UP and other States to check the deterioration of environment ;

(b) whether any new scheme of afforestation in the beds of small and big rivers and drains in UP and other parts of the country is also formulated;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Afforestation works by the State Forest Departments, including in Uttar Pradesh, are undertaken in accordance with well established scientific practices for both nurseries and plantations.

(b) to (d) The National River Conservation Directorate has programmes for tree plantations along river banks and open sewer drains and within the premises of sewage treatment plants. Project proposals have been invited from the concerned State Governments for such plantations.

**Environmental and Forestry Clearance**

\*191. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :  
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :

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

(a) The number and names of small, medium and big irrigation and other projects received by the Government from Maharashtra and for other States the environmental and forestry clearance during the last three years, state-wise;

(b) the names of projects out of them cleared, State-wise;

(c) the number of projects lying pending and the reasons for each of them;

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared;

(e) whether the Government propose to keep irrigation and other development schemes out of purview of Forest Conservation Act, 1980; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) (a) to (c) A Statement is attached.

(d) A final decision on the project proposals is taken within a stipulated time of 90 days from receipt of complete information and other relevant details asked for from the project proponents.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

**Statement****Environmental Clearance**

(a) *Projects received during last three years (1.7.94 to 30.6.97)*

**Irrigation Projects****ANDHRA PRADESH**

1. Modernisation of Kurnool Cuddapah Canal Irr. Project.

**ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

2. Neo-Dehing Project

**ASSAM**

3. Pagladiya Dam Project

4. Intergrated Irrigation Scheme for Kailong River Basin

5. Dhansiri Irrigation Project

**BIHAR**

6. Sone Canal Modernisation Project

**KARNATAKA**

7. Upper Krishna St. I Project Phase III.

8. Upper Krishna stage-II.

**MADHYA PRADESH**

9. Sindh River Project.

**ORISSA**

10. Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project.

11. Rengali Irrigation Sub Project.

**UTTAR PRADESH**

12. Ban Sagar Project

13. Jaurali Pump Canal Project



**WEST BENGAL**

14. Kangsabati Irrigation Modernisation Project

**Other related Projects****ASSAM**

1. Tipaimukh Dam Project.  
2. Konwarpur Drainage Development Scheme

**BIHAR**

3. Damodar Diversion Project.  
4. Panchet Tail pool dam.

**HARYANA**

5. Khatpaurali Dam Project  
6. Sutlej Yamuna Canal H.E. Project.

**HIMACHAL PRADESH**

7. Allain Duhangan H.E. Project  
8. Malana H.E. Project

**JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

9. Parkhachik Panikhar hydro electric project.

**KARNATAKA**

10. Almati Dam Power House and Naryanpur-Tamankal Cascade Power House.

**KERALA**

11. Adirapally Hydro Electric Project

**MAHARASHTRA**

12. Construction of Poshir dam.  
13. III A Mumbai Water, Supply Project.  
14. Middle Vaitarna Water Supply Project (Bombay IV)

**MEGHALAYA**

15. Renovation & Modernisation of Umaiam St. I & III Power Station.

**SIKKIM**

16. Teesta Stage. III H.E. Project

**TAMIL NADU**

17. Kundah Power House-7 Pumped storage hydro electric project.  
18. Periyar-Vaigai HEP  
19. Moyar Ultimate Stage HEP

**UTTAR PRADESH**

20. Bernigad Nain Gaon, HEP  
21. Deora Mori Hydrel Scheme  
22. Kotti Bhel Dam Project  
23. Srinagar HEP (Revised)  
24. Vishnu Pryag hydrel Scheme  
25. Madhya Ganga Canal St. I (Revised)  
26. Ganga Barrage Project  
27. Agra Barrage Project

(b) *List of cleared projects out of the projects received during last three years*

**Irrigation Projects****ASSAM**

1. Pagladiya Dam Project.  
2. Integrated irrigation Scheme for Kailong River Basin.

**ORISSA**

3. Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project  
4. Rengali Irrigation Sub Project

**UTTAR PRADESH**

5. Jaurali Pump Canal Project

**Other related Projects****ASSAM**

6. Konwarpur Drainage Development Scheme

**BIHAR**

7. Panchet Tail Pool dam.

**HARYANA**

8. Khatpaurali Dam Project

## MEGHALAYA

9. Renovation & Modernisation of Umaiam St. I & III Power Station.

## UTTAR PRADESH

10. Bernigad Nain Gaon, HEP  
11. Vishnu Prayag Hydel Scheme

(c) *List of pending Irrigation and other related projects as on 30-6-97*

## Irrigation Projects

S.No.	Name of the Project	Pending since	Reasons for pendency
-------	---------------------	---------------	----------------------

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

## ANDHRA PRADESH

1. Madernisation of Kurnool Cuddapah Canal February 1996 Additional information is awaited.

## ASSAM

2. Dhansiri Irrigation Project January 1997 -do-

## BIHAR

3. Sone Canal Modernisation Project December 1996 -do-

## RAJASTHAN

4. Bisalpur irrigation cum drinking water project January 1994 -do-

## UTTAR PRADESH

5. Bansagar project April 1996 -do-

## Other related Projects

## HIMACHAL PRADESH

6. Allain Duhanagan Hydro electric project February 1997 -do-  
7. Malana Hydro Project April 1997 -do-

## KERALA

8. Adirapally Hydro Electric Project January 1997 -do-

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

## MAHARASHTRA

9. Construction of Poshir Dam December 1996 Additional Information is awaited  
10. III A Mumbai Water Supply Project January 1997 -do-  
11. Middle Vaitarna Water Supply Project (Bombay IV) June 1997 -do-

## TAMIL NADU

12. Moyar Ultimate Stage hydro electric project November 1996 -do-

## UTTAR PRADESH

13. Ganga Barrage Project May 1997 Under final stage of examination  
14. Agra Barrage Project April 1996 Additional Information is awaited.

*Projects received during last three years (01.07.94) to 30.6.1997) for Forest Clearance Under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, excluding of Regional Offices of the Ministry*

Sl. No.	Name of the Project
---------	---------------------

## Andhra Pradesh

1. Telugu Ganga Project in Kurnool District.  
2. Construction of tail pond dam down stream of Nagarjunasagar Dam in favour of APSEB in Guntur  
3. Construction of reservoir across Mathadivagu in Hajipur (V) in favour of Irrigation Deptt.

## Andaman &amp; Nicobar Islands

1. Construction of Dam across Indira Nala, South Andaman

## Gujarat

1. Submergence of Harnow Reserve Project IInd in Sabarkantha Distt.  
2. Construction of Kali-II irrigation scheme  
3. Forest land for Jaspara Mandva minor irrigation scheme in favour of Irrigation Deptt.  
4. Forest land for Sidumber reservoir project in favour of Irrigation Deptt.  
5. Construction of canal for Jhuj Irrigation Scheme  
6. Deletion of Section-4 area of village Matakhamdi Jetpur-Pavi

## 7. Kuntali Irrigation Project.

**Himachal Pradesh**

1. Construction of Parbati Stage-II HEP
2. Construction of Malana HEP

**Karnataka**

1. Construction of Uduthorahlla Reservoir Project in Mysore Distt.
2. Construction of new tank at Jalagondanahally village
3. Construction of Narainpur right bank canal
4. Uppertunga Irrigation Project

**Kerala**

1. Kurriorkutty Karappara HEP in Palghat Distt.
2. Kuttiadi Augmentation Scheme
3. Adirapalli HEP

**Madhya Pradesh**

1. Semarkhar Division Schemes in Sarguja District.
2. Construction of Chapi Tank Project in Bilaspur Distt.
3. Forest land for construction of Patar Tank Minor Scheme in Distt. Satna
4. Forest land to NVDA for construction of Indira Sagar Pariyojna Canal
5. Ghunghutta (Shyam) Irrigation Project
6. Construction of Jhiriya tank scheme
7. Construction of Dol tank project
8. Construction of Banjar river project
9. Construction of Jaljali tank project
10. Construction of Nahlesara diversion scheme
11. Sukhri Tank Project
12. Danmarhi Tank Project
13. Amanalla Tank Project
14. Rainkota Tank Project
15. Simarya Tank Project
16. Madriya Tank Project

**Maharashtra**

1. Construction of percolation tank at Umrati
2. Construction of MP tank at Shane
3. Construction of Morna Gorughan medium irrigation project
4. Construction of minor irrigation tank at Naval
5. Construction of Madan minor irrigation tank
6. Construction of Haripure minor irrigation tank

7. Construction of Dara medium irrigation project
8. Construction of Jambre medium irrigation project
9. Jamnala minor irrigation project
10. Kumbhabinhi minor irrigation tank
11. Construction of Walhari MIP
12. Construction of Chiwala MIP
13. Forest land for Warna Irrigation Project
14. Thanepara MIP
15. Bamni new Minor irrigation tank
16. Construction Niradeoghar Major Irrigation Project
17. Construction of Surya Project in Maharashtra
18. Construction of Vaslai MIP
19. Construction of Jambulkheda new minor irrigation tank
20. Construction of Ram Mohanpur new MIP
21. Construction of Yadshi MIT
22. Construction of Chikhaldara Pump Storage (Hydro Electric Project) scheme.
23. Construction of Bhagwanpur MIT
24. Construction of Sonarangi MIT
25. Construction of Sur-river MIT
26. Construction of Lonara Minor irrigation tank
27. Construction of Dhamangaon MIT
28. Construction of Hetwane medium irrigation project
29. Chorvira No. 1 Minor Irrigation tank
30. Wagzira Minor irrigation tank
31. Andhra Valley medium irrigation project

**Orissa**

1. Construction of Telengiri MIP
2. Baghua MIP Stage -II
3. Construction of Rangali irrigation project
4. Construction of Victoria Sagar MIP
5. Construction of Malkennallah MIP
6. Construction of Dilabadi MIP
7. Construction of Piplapankha Dam Project

**Punjab**

1. Construction of Siswan Dam Project
2. Jainti Dam Project

**Rajasthan**

1. Sankal Khara Irrigation Project
2. Diversion of forest land in favour of Irrigation Deptt. for Savan Bhado Project

**Uttar Pradesh**

1. Forest land for Tanakpur HEP for 220 D/C Transmission line from Tankakpur to Bareilly
2. Construction of lower Rajghat Canal
3. Banjari Kala Bundhi MIP

*List of cleared projects out of the projects received for forest clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, Excluding those of Regional offices of the Ministry*

Sl. No.	Name of the Project.
---------	----------------------

**Andhra Pradesh**

1. Telugu Ganga Project in Kurnool District.

**Andaman & Nicobar Islands**

1. Construction of Dam across Indira Nala, South Andaman

**Gujarat**

1. Construction of Kali-II Irrigation Scheme.
2. Forest land for Sidumber reservoir project in favour of Irrigation Deptt.

**Karnataka**

1. Construction of new tank at Jalagondanhally village.

**Kerala**

1. Kuttiadi Augmentation Scheme

**Maharashtra**

1. Construction of MP tank at Shane
2. Construction of Morana Gorughan Medium Irrigation Project.
3. Construction of minor irrigation tank at Naval
4. Construction of Madan Minor irrigation tank
5. Construction of Haripura minor irrigation tank
6. Construction of Dara medium irrigation project
7. Kumbhabinhi minor irrigation tank
8. Bamni new Minor irrigation tank
9. Chorvira No. 1 Minor Irrigation Tank
10. Wagzira minor irrigation tank

**Orissa**

1. Baghua MIP Stage-II
2. Construction of Victoria Sagar MIP

**Punjab**

1. Construction of Siswan Dam Project

**Uttar Pradesh**

1. Construction of lower Rajghat Canal

*List of pending projects irrigation and other Related projects as on 30.06.97 for forest clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, excluding those of Regional Offices of the Ministry*

Sl. No.	Name of the Project
---------	---------------------

**Andhra Pradesh**

1. Construction of tail pond dam down stream of Nagarjunasagar Dam in favour of APSEB in Guntur
2. Construction of reservoir across Mathadivagu in Hajipur (V) in favour of Irrigation Deptt.

**Gujarat**

1. Submergence of Harnow Reserve Project IInd in Sabarkantha Distt.
2. Forest land for Jaspara Mandva minor irrigation scheme in favour of Irrigation Deptt.
3. Construction of canal for Jhuj Irrigation Scheme
4. Deletion of Section-4 area of village Matakhamdi-Jetpur-Pavi
5. Kuntali Irrigation Project

**Himachal Pradesh**

1. Construction of Prabati Stage-II HEP
2. Construction of Malana HEP

**Karnataka**

1. Construction of Uduthorahlla Reservoir Project in Mysore Distt.
2. Construction of Narainpur right bank canal
3. Uppertunga Irrigation Project

**Kerala**

1. Kurriorkutty Karappara HEP in Palghat Distt.
2. Adirapalli HEP

**Madhya Pradesh**

1. Semarkhar Division Schemes in Sarguja District.
2. Construction of Chapi Tank Project in Bilaspur Distt.
3. Forest land for construction of Patar Tank Minor Scheme in Distt. Satna
4. Forest land to NVDA for construction of Indira Sagar Pariyojna Canal

5. Ghunghutta (Shyam) irrigation project
8. Construction of Jhiriya tank scheme
7. Construction of Jhiriya Dol tank project
8. Construction of Banjar river project
9. Construction of Jaljali tank project
10. Construction of Nahlesara diversion scheme
11. Sukhri Tank Project
12. Danmarhi Tank Project
13. Amanalla Tank Project
14. Rainkota Tank Project
15. Simarya Tank Project
16. Madriya Tank Project

#### **Maharashtra**

1. Construction of percolation tank at Umrati
2. Construction of Jambre medium irrigation project.
3. Jambala Minor irrigation project
4. Construction of Walhari MIP
5. Construction of Chiwala MIP
6. Forest land for Warfna Irrigation Project
7. Thanepara MIP
8. Construction of Niradeoghar Major Irrigation Project.
9. Construction of Surya Project in Maharashtra
10. Construction of Vaslai MIP
11. Construction of Jambulkheda new minor irrigation tank
12. Construction of Ram Mohanpur New MIP
13. Construction of Yadshi MIT
14. Construction of Chikhaldara Pump Storage (Hydro Electric Project) scheme.
15. Construction of Bhagwanpur MIT
16. Construction of Sonarangi MIT
17. Construction of Sur-river MIT
18. Construction of Lonara minor irrigation tank
19. Construction of Dhamangaon MIT
20. Construction of Hetwane medium irrigation project
21. Andhra Valley medium irrigation project

#### **Orissa**

1. Construction of Telengiri MIP
2. Construction of Rangali irrigation project
3. Construction of Malkennallah MIP
4. Construction of Dilabadi MIP
5. Construction of Piplapankha Dam Project

#### **Punjab**

1. Jainti Dam Project

#### **Rajasthan**

1. Sankal Khara Irrigation Project
2. Diversion of forest land in favour of Irrigation Deptt. for Savan Bhado Project

#### **Uttar Pradesh**

1. Forest land for Tanakpur HEP for 220 D/C Transmission line from Tanakpur to Bareilly
2. Banjari Kala Bundhi MIP.

These Proposals are pending for want of essential information from the states/site inspection from the regional offices.

[English]

#### **Wheat and Rice Sold by FCI in Open Market**

\*192. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have authorised Food Corporation of India to sell wheat and rice in the open market with a view to stabilising the prices in the country and also to create additional storage capacity to meet the procurement requirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of wheat and rice sold by the Food Corporation of India in the open market since authorisation to this effect, year-wise;

(d) the extent to which the prices of wheat and rice has been stabilised ; and

(e) the target fixed for 1997-98 to sell the wheat and rice for the domestic use ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) FCI was allowed to make open sale of wheat and rice on the following grounds :

(i) to release much needed storage space for fresh procurement ;

(ii) to reduce the carrying cost of stocks with FCI ;

(iii) as a measure of marketing intervention to moderate open market prices ;

(iv) to reduce, to some extent, the burden on food subsidy.

(b) and (c) The year-wise breakup of the quantity of wheat and rice sold in the open market since 1993-94 is as under :

(Figures in Lakh Tonnes)		
Year	Wheat	Rice
October, 93 to March, 94	28.56	0.17 (from Jan, 94 to Mar, 94)
April, 94 to March, 95	50.29	4.54
April, 95 to March, 96	63.38	6.36
April, 96 to March, 97	41.65 (Provisional)	2.54 (Provisional)

(d) Open sale of wheat and rice by FCI had a sobering effect on the market prices of wheat and rice. In the absence of open sales, market prices of wheat and rice would have registered a much higher rise.

(e) Sale of wheat and rice in the open market has been discontinued with effect from 1.4.1997. Therefore, the question of fixing any target for sale during 1997-98 does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Deforestation

\* 193. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :  
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

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

(a) whether due to continuous deforestation the forest cover is declining and the scheduled tribes, who depend on forests, are facing grave problems ;

(b) if so, whether any efforts have been made or are being made to afforest all the degraded and denuded land by involving the local communities who will be given the right to derive full benefit from the forest produce;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Biennial assessment of the forest cover in the country over the past decade has shown that the forest cover in the country has stabilised around 19.5% of the geographical area. However, there could be overall resource degradation in some of the forest areas, which in turn would affect the tribal population, in and around these areas, adversely. Such degradation is, mainly on account of excessive biotic interference like grazing and fire and wide gap in demand and supply of fuelwood, fodder and small timber, etc., resulting in unsustainable withdrawals.

(b) and (c) As envisaged in the National Forest Policy, 1988, Central Government have issued guidelines to all states/union territories to involve local communities living close to forest lands, and also voluntary agencies, in protection and development of forest resources for their sustenance. Central Government have also started a 100% centrally sponsored scheme to specifically associate the tribal people, as also the rural poor, in regeneration of forests through usufruct sharing.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Abduction of Foreign Tourists from Kashmir

\*194. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Kashmir Mein Aphrit Videshi Paryatak Ab Jeevit Nahin" appearing in 'Navbharat Times' dated May 30, 1997;

(b) if so, whether all the four foreign tourists kidnapped by the terrorists have been killed;

(c) if not, the factual position thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for the safe release of foreign hostages?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no confirmed information about the whereabouts of the 4 foreign nationals abducted in July 1995 who continue to remain untraced despite efforts.

(d) The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has constituted a Special Investigation Team for giving impetus to the investigation and inquiries in the case as also to try and get information regarding their whereabouts. It has also announced a scheme of rewards to persons giving specific information regarding the whereabouts of the hostages.

[English]

#### Import of Rock Phosphate

\*195. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :  
SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Rock Phosphate Deal Rocks RCF, Prices Deliberated Inflated" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated June 15, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard ;

(d) if so, the action taken against the guilty officials ;

(e) whether same techniques are being used in other public sector fertilizer companies ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) (a) to (f) The attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item. It has been alleged in the Press Report that in a recent purchase by Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd., (RCF) from Togo, prices of Rock Phosphate have been deliberately inflated by incorporating an element of distorted freight charge and that Transchart has been forced to give a waiver.

The Government has examined the matter and found that RCF had invited global tenders in February, 1997 for purchase of rock Phosphate both on FOB and C&F basis in accordance with Policy of Ocean Transportation. The C&F price quoted by Office Togolais Des Phosphate (OTP) Togo was US \$ 70.25 per MT with an FOB price of US \$ 47 PMT. In the techno-economic evaluation done at the C&F price of various suppliers, Togo was the lowest for production of phosphoric acid. But RCF decided to hold negotiations because FOB price of Togo was higher and the freight quoted was not workable based on their past experience. However, the supplier did not agree for making any reduction in the FOB price and remained confident that it could make shipments at the freight quoted by them of US \$ 23.25 per MT. Since Transchart was not able to match the quoted freight rate, they granted waiver for the contract to be executed on C&F basis. The supplier has fixed two vessels at the freight rate of US \$ 23.16 per MT on a derived basis. *Prima facie*, the inference that the freight rate quoted by the supplier was unrealistic to force C&F purchase is not substantiated; however, Government has decided to have the matter further examined.

Other Public Sector fertilizer companies have been following procedures in accordance with the Policy of Ocean Transportation of cargo under the control of Government/ Public Sector Undertakings for their purchases, including that of rock phosphate.

[Translation]

#### Decline in Procurement of Foodgrains

\* 196. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :  
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been heavy decline in procurement of foodgrains by the Government during the first month of the current financial year ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the percentage of decline registered in procuring the foodgrains by the Government during the current year as compared to the last year ;

(d) whether the Government have taken any concrete steps to increase the procurement of foodgrains ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c) The procurement of rice and wheat during the first month of the current financial year 1997-98 i.e. April 1997 is given below :

(in lakh tonnes)

April	Wheat	Rice	Total
1997	17.86	3.85	21.71

There is no decline in the procurement of foodgrains during the current year (1996-97 Kharif Marketing Season in respect of rice and 1997-98 Rabi Marketing Season in respect of wheat) as compared to the last year. To the contrary, there has been a 23% increase and 13% increase in the procurement of rice and wheat respectively.

(d) and (e) Government have taken several steps for increasing the procurement of foodgrains such as: (i) Minimum Support Price of wheat was increased from Rs. 380/- per quintal in 1996-97 to Rs. 415/- per quintal in 1997-98, and an additional bonus of Rs. 60/- per quintal was also allowed raising the procurement price to Rs. 475/- per quintal, (ii) placement of wheat under selective credit control system to help the procurement agencies, (iii) preponement of Rabi Marketing Season by 2 weeks starting from 17.3.1997, (iv) nominating NAFED as procuring agency for Central Pool in Bihar.

In order to encourage collection of more rice through levy in 1996-97 season, the Government announced an increase in the prices of levy rice in the range of 8 to 9% as against the increase of 5 to 5.5% in the MSP of paddy. Besides, no exemption from levy has been allowed to any variety of non-basmati rice meant for export of internal trade, in the 1996-97 season.

[English]

#### Rehabilitation Scheme for Sick Units

\* 197. SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has finalised the rehabilitation scheme for its sick public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when these schemes are proposed to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) Details of the rehabilitation schemes of the Central Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of this Ministry, sanctioned by the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) are as under :

(i) *Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (BCPL)*

(ii) *Bengal Immunity Ltd. (BIL)*

(iii) *Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (SSPL)*

The rehabilitation schemes in respect of BCPL, BIL and SSPL were sanctioned by the BIFR on 4.4.1995, 3.1.1995 and 31.8.1994, respectively with an implementation period of 10 years beginning from 1994-95. The schemes *inter-alia* envisage higher production, sales, reduction in excess manpower through voluntary retirement scheme (VRS), capital restructuring, fresh financial support from the promoter and bankers, sacrifices from the employees and generation of resources through sale/disposal of surplus assets.

Total cost of the sanctioned rehabilitation schemes for BCPL, BIL and SSPL was at Rs. 28.49 crore, Rs. 16.14 crore and Rs. 6.94 crore, respectively.

(iv) *Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL)*

The rehabilitation scheme for IDPL was approved by the BIFR on 10.2.94. The package envisaged fresh financial assistance of Rs. 119.94 crore over a three years period beginning from 1993-94, capital restructuring, internal generation of Rs. 23.17 crore during 1994-96 from sale of surplus land/assets for meeting a part of the capital expenditure, product diversification and setting up a power sub-station in Hyderabad unit. The rehabilitation plan also envisaged conversion of the units at Muzaffarpur (Bihar) and Chennai (Tamil Nadu) into wholly owned subsidiaries. In addition, manpower rationalization to prune the surplus manpower and sacrifices from the workers in terms of deferment of wage/salary revision and other benefits were also envisaged. While the financial assistance envisaged in the rehabilitation plan was provided by the Government along with the capital restructuring, IDPL could not achieve the targetted levels of operation resulting in failure of the revival package. The progress in the other areas of the revival package was also unsatisfactory. The BIFR has appointed IDBI as the Operating Agency (OA) for a techno economic viability study. The OA has expressed the view that it is not possible to suggest an acceptable and viable plan. The matter relating to the future of IDPL is under consideration of the Government.

(v) *Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL)*

HAL was declared a sick company on 31.3.1997 and its rehabilitation scheme is yet to be finalized by the BIFR.

(vi) *Projects & Development India Ltd. (PDIL)*

The rehabilitation scheme for PDIL, sanctioned by the BIFR on 1.7.97, envisages restructuring of its capital base and rationalisation/redeployment of manpower. The accumulated interest/penal interest on Government of India (GOI) loans amounting to Rs. 45 crore is to be written off and non-plan loan amounting to Rs. 13 crore is to be converted into 7% non-cumulative preference share capital to be redeemed after seven years. Interest holiday has been provided on all GOI loans for a period of two years w.e.f. 1.4.96, apart from a moratorium of three years on repayment of plan loan. The surplus manpower is to be reduced through VRS. The revival package for PDIL has been put into implementation.

(vii) *Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC)*

(viii) *Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI)*

The revival packages for revamp of Barauni, Durgapur and Namrup units of HFC and; Sindri, Ramagundam and Talcher units of FCI have recently been reformulated on the basis of the recommendations of the Expert Group led by the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. These revival packages envisage a fresh investment of Rs. 3507 crore (Rs. 869 crore for HFC and Rs. 2638 crore for FCI), apart from other reliefs and concessions to the undertakings. The scope of the revamp is to be determined on considerations of viability and tie up of the funding arrangements.

(ix) *Southern Pesticides Corporations Ltd. (SPEC)*

SPEC is a subsidiary company of Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. The rehabilitation Scheme sanctioned by the BIFR in respect of SPEC on 10.2.97 provides for setting up an integrated pesticides project. The scheme with an estimated cost of Rs. 7.11 crore includes a provision for making down payments to the Financial Institutions over a period of two years. The Government assistance of Rs. 3 crore has been released to SPEC and the rehabilitation scheme put into implementation.

(x) *Hindustan Fluorocarbons Ltd. (HFL)*

HFL is a subsidiary of Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. (HOCL). The rehabilitation scheme for HFL, which was sanctioned by the BIFR on 30.10.1996 with an estimated cost of Rs. 32.89 crore, envisages its merger with HOCL. HOCL has since approached the Appellate Authority for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR) on the dispute regarding certain tax concessions for the amalgamated company. The implementation of the rehabilitation scheme is contingent upon the decision of the AAIFR.

(xi) *Uttar Pradesh Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (UPDPL)*

UPDPL is a joint sector undertaking promoted by IDPL in collaboration with Pradeshia Industrial Investment



Corporation of U.P. (PICUP), a UP State Government Undertaking. The rehabilitation scheme for UPDPL, sanctioned by the BIFR on 22.8.95, was challenged before the AAIFR by its bankers. AAIFR set aside the sanctioned scheme, which is now under review with the BIFR.

*(xii) Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd. (ODCL)*

ODCL is a joint sector undertaking promoted by IDPL in collaboration with Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa Ltd. (IPICOL), an Orissa State Government undertaking. The rehabilitation scheme sanctioned on 18.8.94 was declared as failed by the BIFR in March 1997. As the Operating Agency, IDBI has been asked by the BIFR to prepare a revised scheme.

*(xiii) Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (MAPL)*

MAPL is a joint sector undertaking promoted by Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. in collaboration with State Industrial Investment Corporation of Maharashtra (SIICOM), a Maharashtra State Government undertaking. The rehabilitation scheme for MAPL, which was declared a sick company on 14.1.1997, is yet to be finalized by the BIFR.

**National Research Centre for Orchids by ICAR**

\*198. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has established a National Research Centre for the research on Orchids in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made so far to popularise the cultivation of Orchids?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A National Research Centre for Orchids was sanctioned during VIII five year plan with a total budget of Rs. 120.00 lakh with an objective to conduct mission mode research on all aspects of Orchids. It has started functioning from October, 1996 at Pakyong, 35 km. from Gangtok, Sikkim. A total number of 30 posts including 6 scientific, 6 technical, 8 administrative and 10 supporting have been sanctioned. The research on germplasm collection and its evaluation has been initiated. The budget estimate for the current year (1997-98) is Rs. 80 lakhs.

(c) Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore is providing regular training to the farmers, students and orchid entrepreneurs. The Orchid Society of India established in 1984 is popularising the orchids through organising periodical seminars/meetings. Quality planting material production in orchids is being undertaken by organisations

like Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Trivandrum, IIHR, Bangalore, certain traditional Universities and commercial nurseries.

**New Genetic Technology**

\*199. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the findings of the Tata Energy Research Institute that the application of new genetic technology will gradually eliminate the need to use pesticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Government propose to adopt and implement this technology in the country ;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The Government is aware about the work being done by the scientists of Tata Energy Research Institute with respect to application of new genetic technology in pest management to reduce the use of pesticides.

(b) Their work involves transfer of lectin genes from certain plants into mustard and potato to impart resistance to aphids which are serious pests of these crops. These genetically transformed plants are still at the laboratory stage and have to be tested for their performance in the field.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Intensive efforts are being made in India to implement this technology and adopt it to Indian crops. Scientists at Bose Institute, Calcutta have developed rice carrying a Bt gene for protection against stem borers. National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology at IARI, New Delhi has developed vegetable crops like brinjal, tomato and cauliflower containing Bt genes. Central Potato Research Institute at Shimla has engineered Potato with Bt gene for resistance against tuber moth. Researchers at National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow are actively involved in the development of boll-worm resistant cotton. Many other institutes and universities have recently started such programmes in different crops.

ICAR actively encourages and supports research programmes aimed at the development of insect-resistant crops by using biotechnology tools. Institutes of rice, cotton, sorghum, potato etc. have dynamic ongoing programmes to achieve these objectives. ICAR has established a National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology at IARI to do research, training and teaching of modern techniques of genetic engineering.

(e) Question does not arise.

*[Translation***Study on Floriculture**

\*200. SHRI RAMTAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been conducted by the Export-Import Bank of India on the present position of floriculture and its export feasibility in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remove major hurdles mentioned in the report to encourage floriculture?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The Report of the study conducted by Export Import (EXIM) Bank of India to review the current status and future potential of Indian Floriculture Industry and to assess and analyse the same with particular reference to export market has not been presented to the Ministry of Agriculture. However, a Report titled "Floriculture : A Sector Study", published by the EXIM Bank of India, presented a detailed analysis of the sector including strategies for developing floriculture exports. Some of the problems needing Government interventions include: creation of dedicated facilities for handling of perishables; streamlining of procedures at the airports; import of chemicals for plant protection; simplification of plant quarantine procedures; and creation of infrastructure for marketing.

(c) The Report has not been presented to Ministry of Agriculture. However, the steps taken by the Government of India to improve the production and exports of floriculture products as well as to address the problems mentioned in the Report are as follows :

- (i) Ministry of Agriculture implemented a Central Sector Scheme on Commercial Floriculture with an outlay of Rs. 14.29 crores in all the States/UTs. of the country during the Eighth Plan. Major emphasis was on providing quality planting material; training on production and post-harvest management; and on area expansion. The Scheme is likely to be continued during the Ninth Plan period.
- (ii) National Horticulture Board, Ministry of Agriculture, provides a soft loan of upto rupees one crore to integrated projects on production and post harvest management including marketing with focus on exports. During the Eighth Plan period Rs. 52.58 crores were sanctioned for assisting 61 projects on floriculture located in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- (iii) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) (Ministry of

Commerce) is assisting in setting up facilities for separate handling of export cargo of perishable items at Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore airports.

- (iv) Wholesale market-cum-auction centres are planned to be set up by APEDA at 5 major cities viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Chennai and Bangalore.
- (v) APEDA is implementing a UNDP assisted project on floriculture aimed at achieving an expansion of the cut flower export sector based on improved production expertise and market knowledge.
- (vi) The Government of India has simplified and streamlined the procedures of plant material imports, particularly for export oriented projects.
- (vii) Import duty on several important equipments etc. required in 100% Export Oriented Units has been waived/reduced.
- (viii) APEDA is implementing schemes for development of infrastructure, packing, marketing (including air freight subsidy) to facilitate exports of floriculture products from the country.
- (ix) The Insecticide Registration Committee of the Government of India has simplified the guidelines for registration of pesticides under Section 9(3B) and for import of technical/formulated material required for use in the floriculture sector.

*[English]***Procurement of Chilly**

2006. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of chilly during this season in Andhra Pradesh alone and the amount of it procured by the Government and other agencies;

(b) the extent to which the chilly has been exported and is likely to be exported;

(c) whether the price offered to the chilly growers has not been sufficient to meet their expenses involved in the chilly production;

(d) if so, whether a number of chilly growers have committed suicide during April and May this year ; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide remunerative price to the chilly growers of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The production of chillies in Andhra Pradesh was estimated at 4.10 lakh tonnes during the year 1996-97 out of which 17500 MTs of chillies were procured up to 10-6-97 in this season under Market Intervention Scheme.

(b) About 50,000 tonnes of chilly was exported yearly on an average basis in last 2 years. However, a quantity of 11,200 tonnes was exported during April to June, 1997.

(c) to (e) The price of chillies was considerably low in the market during this season from April, 1997, therefore, Government of India considered the proposal of the State Government and implemented Market Intervention scheme for red chillies at an intervention price of Rs. 2250 per quintal under which procurement was made for a quantity of 17500 MTs till 10th June, 1997. The Spices Board is taking various steps to improve export of chillies from the country such as distribution of polythene sheets for drying yards, training for quality improvement and construction of warehouses by farmers associations, societies, state federation and marketing boards.

[Translation]

#### **Fake Visas**

2007. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some person travelling to Tehran on fake visas were apprehended in Delhi during the last six months;

(b) if so, the number thereof ;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government so far in this regard ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) According to Delhi Police, no such case was reported during the last six months.

[English]

#### **Sunderbans**

2008. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any measures have been taken to check that slush does not spoil the charm of sunderbans area in the West Bengal ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Closure of Iron Ore Mines**

2009. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kalta Iron Ore Mines have been close down following the interim judgement of the Supreme Court, rendering 3000 workers jobless ;

(b) whether the proposal for forest clearance for Kalta Mines had been cleared by the Advisory Committee and pending before the Ministry of Environment and Forests;

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in granting approval for the forest clearance which was cleared by the Advisory Committee; and

(d) the time by which the proposal is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) The proposal of the State Government of Orissa for renewal of mining lease of M/s SAIL, Rourkela for Iron Ore in Barsuan, Kalta region in Bonai sub-division of Sundergarh district has already been approved in principle under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on 20.2.1997 for 395.639 ha. of forest land, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. The Ministry has also accorded a temporary working permission for nine months over already broken up forest area on 20.2.1997 in respect of the above proposal.

(c) and (d) Since the State Government of Orissa has not furnished the compliance report in respect. of the stipulated conditions, the question of according formal approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to the proposal at this stage does not arise.

#### **Bhopal Gas Victims**

2010. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided adequate financial assistance to rehabilitate the Bhopal Gas victims; and

(b) the quantum of assistance given and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In addition to the financial assistance provided by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for relief and rehabilitation of the Bhopal gas victims, the Government of India has also provided Rs. 243 crores to the State Government for the purpose.

### **Integrated Coconut Development Project**

2011. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of those States where the Integrated Coconut Development Projects have been launched ;
- (b) whether EEC has been funding to these projects ;
- (c) if so, the details thereof ;
- (d) if not, whether any such externally aided projects has been launched or proposed to be launched for coconut cultivation, processing and coir development in the country particularly in Orissa ;
- (e) if so, the details thereof ; and
- (f) if not, the steps taken by the Government for the development of coconut cultivation, processing and coir based industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) A scheme on integrated farming in coconut holding is being implemented in the States and UTs of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa, Andaman & Nicobar Is lands, Pondicherry and Lakshadweep.

(b) to (e) The information is not available.

(f) the Coconut Development Board is implementing various programmes for expansion of areas, production and distribution of quality planting material, integrated farming for productivity improvement and integrated pest management, coconut, technology development and other programmes for promoting, processing and marketing of coconut and its products.

### **Power to Police**

2012. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has suggested to the Centre for granting of overriding powers to the police and to the prosecutors and has sought to underplay the importance of Magistrates at the State level ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether all these suggestions were also made during the Law Minister's Conference ; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) (a) to (d)

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

### **Food Stamp System**

2013. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :  
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the World Bank has suggested a good stamp system in place of the present subsidised rice scheme in the Andhra Pradesh ;
- (b) whether the World Bank report on the "Agenda for Economic Reforms" made it clear that in the long term, a food stamp system to provide food entitlement to the poor would have to be introduced;
- (c) if so, the details thereof ;
- (d) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has examined the scheme ; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh have reported that World Bank made several suggestion to improve that targetting of the rice subsidy scheme in that State. Introduction of food stamps is one of the alternatives suggested by the World Bank. Introduction of food stamps to eligible families Below Poverty Line (BPL) would reduce to a large extent the present administrative and operational costs. Food stamps would enable eligible BPL families to purchase the foodgrains from any shop including the Fair Price Shops (FPS) which would accept these Food coupons and claim re-imbursement either from the designated bank or state treasuries as may be notified by the State Government. The presence of Food Stamps will trigger competition among the foodgrain dealers and the F.P Shop which will lead to providing better services to BPL consumers.

(d) and (e) Government of Andhra Pradesh have reported that the matter is under active consideration of State Government for an early decision.

### **Insurgency Problem in Tripura**

2014. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) the proposals sent by the Government of Tripura for modernisation of the State Police force for effectively combating the insurgency problem in the State ;

(b) the number of proposals received the approval of the Central Government ;

(c) whether the Government of Tripura has sent any proposal for strengthening the protection of Assam-Agartala Road (N.H. 44); and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure proper protection of this life line of the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Government of Tripura has submitted several proposals which include request for sanction of additional funds under the Central Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces, allocation of additional arms and ammunition, reimbursement of Security-related expenditure, strengthening of Mobile Task Force and allotment of bullet-proof vehicles.

(b) So far two proposals regarding additional funds under the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces and allocation of arms and ammunition have been approved by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. 36 Gypsies, arms and ammunition worth Rs. 1.23 crores were released in kind to the Government of Tripura for protection of National Highway-44. Additional funds amounting to Rs. 100 lakhs was sanctioned during 1996-97 specifically for procurement of radio communication equipment for use by Tripura Police.

#### **World bank IBRD/IDA Assistance for Agriculture Sector**

2015. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :  
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the world bank has announced a package programme to the State of Andhra Pradesh for agriculture sector ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether a package of 325 million dollars loan will be provided by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and \$150 Million will be provided by the IDA;

(d) if so, the details of main projects that will be undertaken from this loan;

(e) the extent to which the agricultural productivity will be improved;

(f) whether the projects consolidate the Andhra Pradesh efforts to better utilise the scarce water resources available to its drought prone and economically less developed inland regions;

(g) if so, whether any concrete programme in this regard has been worked out; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The World Bank has announced a package programme of \$325 million to the State of Andhra Pradesh for irrigation in connection with AP-III Irrigation Project, which is being implemented by the Ministry of Water Resources.

(c) and (d) Under the Agreement dated 3.6.97 the World Bank has agreed to provide an assistance of US \$325 million (IDA Credit US \$ 150 Million and IBRD Loan US \$175 million) for Andhra Pradesh III Irrigation Project comprising of Sriramasagar and Srisailem right Branch Canal sub-projects which are expected to be completed by 31.1.2003. The project effectiveness date is 3.7.1997. The component wise utilisation of above assistance will be 80% for irrigation works, 2.5% for agriculture support services, 5% for resettlement and rehabilitation programme, 7.5% for environmental management plan and 5% for Dam Safety Assurance Works.

(e) and (f) Assistance to GOAP for rehabilitation and completion of Sriramasagar Project (SRSP) 253,000 ha. command area and completion of the 65,000 ha. Srisailem Right Branch Canal (SRBC) project begun under the AP II project would add 153,000 ha. to the surface irrigation commands in AP. The location of the command area of the SRBC is the Rayalaseema Region whereas the location for the SRSP, it is the Telengana Region. The agricultural objective of these works is to promote the production of high value cash crops in upland irrigation schemes by improved water delivery, applied farming systems research, irrigation agronomy extension and farmer training. These inputs would result in significant incremental agricultural production.

(g) and (h) In respect of Sriramasagar Project and Srisailem Right Branch Canal of Andhra Pradesh III, year wise targets have been fixed for the implementation of project to be completed by 31.7.2003.

[Translation]

#### **Industry Status to Sheep Shearing**

2016. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sheep shearing has been given the status of industry ;

(b) if so, whether the Government provide assistance for this purpose ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) No, Sir, it has not been given the status of industry under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

(b) and (c) In view of 'a' above does not arise.

#### **Implementation of Sixth Schedule in Tribal Dominated Areas**

2017. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to implement the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution in the areas adjacent to the tribal dominated areas ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any State Government has sent any such proposal for the implementation of Sixth Schedule of the Constitution in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of the answer (a) above.

[English]

#### **Workings of Consumer Courts**

2018. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the mode of functioning of consumer fora ;

(b) whether impediments/difficulties have broadly been identified in the working of these courts ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or being taken to remedy the difficulties notified in the functioning of these courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) The Consumer Courts set-up under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 are functioning as per the procedure laid down in the said Act.

(b) and (c) the inadequate infrastructure, frequent adjournments, non-filling up of posts of the Presidents/ Members in the Consumer Courts are some of the obstacles faced by the Consumer Courts. Steps taken by the Central Government to remove the obstacles are as follows :

(i) To strengthen the infrastructure of the consumer Courts, Central Government has provided one-time grant of Rs. 54.62 crores to the States/UTs during 1995-97.

(ii) Central government and the National Commission are regularly monitoring the working of the Consumer Courts.

(iii) State/UT Governments have been requested to fill up the vacancies of Members/Presidents of various Consumer Courts on priority basis.

(iv) Central Government has written to the State Governments to hold periodical meeting with the Presidents of the Consumer Courts to monitor and expedite the disposal of the cases.

(v) Central Government conducts training courses for the non-judicial members of the Consumer Courts to acquaint themselves with the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act and Rules and other relevant legislations.

#### **Lifting Ban on West Bengal Potato**

2019. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a ban on growing potatoes in the West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore ;

(c) whether producers of this State were unable to sold their produce to other States due to this ban;

(d) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to lift the ban keeping in view to protect the interest of growers;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) the time by which this ban is likely to be lifted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Sir, Potato Wart disease was reported in Darjeeling area of West Bengal during 1953. Since this was an exotic disease, domestic Plant Quarantine measures were adopted imposing restriction on the movement of potato grown in the State of West Bengal to control/contain the disease.

(d) to (f) Based on the outcome of a recent survey conducted during 1995, it has been decided in principle to restrict the ban on movement of Potatoes from Bijanbari, Mirik, Kurseong, Takdah, Kalimpong, Alagara and Sukhpuria blocks in Darjeeling District to other parts of West Bengal and territory of India. Notification in this regard has been approved for publication in the Gazette.

*[Translation]***Super Bazar Branches**

2020. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Super Bazar Cooperative Stores Limited proposes to open its more branches in Delhi and outside Delhi ;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up these branches in Delhi, particularly in Chandni Chowk in near future;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) According to information furnished by Super Bazar Delhi, they propose to open more branches in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and Outside Delhi. The places identified outside Delhi are Bangalore, Patna, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, etc.

(c) to (e) In the NCT of Delhi, the Super Bazar propose to open branches at Najafgarh and Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital at Mongolpuri. At present, the Super Bazar, Delhi do not have any proposal to open a branch in Chandni Chowk.

*[English]***Potato Research Centre in West Bengal**

2021. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS. Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Potato Research Centre in West Bengal ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) A centre of All India Coordinated Research Project on Potato is in operation at Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Kalyani, West Bengal since 1971. Also, Central Potato Research Institute, Regional Station located at Patna covers Eastern Indian states including West Bengal. In view of this, there appears no justification to set up a Potato Research Centre in West Bengal.

**Krishi Research Centre and Agricultural Fram for Paddy**

2022. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Agricultural Farms and Krishi Research Centres for high yielding varieties of paddy are in operation;

(b) the total grant given and the funds used for the said project during the Eighth Five Year Plan ; and

(c) the total fund likely to be provided to the said projects during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) There are 51 rice research centres under the All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Project of the Council. List of these Research centres is given in the attached Statement.

(b) A total amount of Rs. 1350.00 lakh was originally approved for Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) while actual expenditure is Rs. 1790.29 lakh which has been approved as revised budget.

(c) The matter is still under processing. No figures have as yet been finalised.

**Statement**

S.N.	Name of the Centre	Name of the University/State
1	2	3
1.	Khudwani	Sher-E-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Srinagar.
2.	Faizabad	N.D. University of Agriculture & Technology, Kumarganj, Faizabad.
3.	Patna	Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa Samastipur, Bihar.
4.	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.
5.	Jorhat	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat.
6.	Rajendranagar	Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University, Hyderabad.
7.	Palampur	M.P. Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Palampur.
8.	Kapurthala	Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana.

1	2	3
9.	Pantnagar	G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar.
10.	Nawagaon	Gujarat Agricultural University, Ahmedabad.
11.	Raipur	Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Raipur.
12.	Madnya	University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore.
13.	Maruteru	Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University, Hyderabad.
14.	Warangal	Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University, Hyderabad.
15.	Karjat	Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola, Maharashtra.
16.	Aduthurai	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore
17.	Chiplimo	Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubaneswar.
18.	Pattambi	Kerala Agricultural University, Trichur.
19.	Ponichak	Sher-E-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Srinagar.
20.	Jogindernagar	H.P. Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Palampur.
21.	Karnal	Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar.
22.	Kota	Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner.
23.	Jeypore	Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar.
24.	Sakoli	Punjabrao Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola, Maharashtra.
25.	Mangalore	University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore.
26.	Ponnampet	University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore.
27.	Bikramganj	Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar.
28.	Karimganj	Assam Agricultural University Jorhat

1	2	3
29.	Siriguppa	University of Agril. Sciences, Dharwad.
30.	Madurai	T.N. Agricultural University, Coimbatore.
31.	Mannuthy	Kerala Agril. University, Trichur.
32.	Kanke	Birsa Agricultural University, Kanke, Ranchi.
33.	Moncompu	Kerala Agricultural University, Trichur.
34.	Rewa	Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur.
35.	Mugad	University of Agril. Sciences, Dharwad.
36.	Tuljapur	Marathwada Agril. University, Parbhani.
37.	Kanpur	C.S. Azad University of Agri. & Technology, Kanpur.
38.	Calcutta	Calcutta University, Calcutta.
39.	Pusa	Rajendra Agril. University, Pusa, Bihar.
40.	Kaul	Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar.
41.	Gograghat	N.D. University of Agri. & Tech., Faizabad.
42.	Jagdapur	J.N. Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur.
43.	Sabour	Rajendra Agril. University, Pusa, Bihar.
44.	Chinsurah	Govt. of West Bengal.
45.	Bankura	-do-
46.	Agartala	Govt. of Tripura.
47.	Upper Shillong	Govt. of Meghalaya
48.	Kohima	Govt. of Nagaland.
49.	Imphal	Govt. of Manipur.
50.	Pondicherry	T.N. Agricultural University, Coimbatore.
51.	Varanasi	Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.



### **Inclusion of Pulluva Community**

2023. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State of Kerala has made representation to include 'Pulluva' Community of Kerala in the list of Scheduled Castes;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE ( SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

### **Impact of Hike in Sugar Allocation**

2024. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made changes in the sugar *sector like* decanalisation of sugar export, free licensing of sugar factories and incentive schemes for setting up new sugar mills;

(b) whether the Government have also announced recently hike in per unit allocation of sugar under the Public Distribution System;

(c) if so, the details thereof ;

(d) the total annual additional sugar likely to be contributed by the sugar industry for this hike in allocation of sugar under PDS;

(e) whether sugar mills are likely to suffer heavy burden due to this;

(f) if so, the details thereof ; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate relief to sugar mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS : (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) The Government have decanalised exports of sugar with effect from 15.1.1997. Consequent thereupon, exports can be undertaken by individual exporters, sugar mills, etc. through the Agricultural Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) under Ministry of Commerce within the ceiling prescribed by the Government. The Government have revised the licensing policy guidelines for setting up new sugar factories and expansion in the existing units *vide* Press Note dated 10.1.1997 (copy attached as Statement. Further, the Government have formulated a new Incentive Scheme for the letters of intent issued after

31.3.94 for establishment of new sugar factories and expansion in the existing units.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (g) Question does not arise.

### **Statement**

#### **Government of India**

Ministry of Industry  
Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion

#### **Press Note No. 1 (1997 Series)**

*Subject : Guidelines for considering applications for industrial licences for sugar factories*

The Government of India have reviewed the Guidelines for licensing of new and expansion of existing sugar factories issued *vide* this Ministry's Press Note No. 16 (1991) dated 8.11.91. The existing guidelines need revision in order to take into account the changes in the business scenario following economic liberalisation, the need for introducing simplified and transparent procedures and the technological changes that have taken place in the sugar industry over the years. In supersession of the aforesaid Press Note, Government have now formulated the following revised guidelines :

- (i) New Sugar factories will continue to be licensed for a minimum economic capacity of 2500 tonnes cane crushed per day (TCD). There will not be any maximum limit on such capacity.
- (ii) Preference in licensing would be given to the proposals involving larger capacity, modern technology and development of integrated complexes producing value added products and co-generation power.
- (iii) For the consideration of application, a revenue district will be taken as the unit. In case more than one application is received for any unit of operation, other things being equal, priority will be given to the application received earlier.
- (iv) Licences for new sugar factories will be issued subject to the condition that the distance between the proposed new sugar factory and an existing/ already licensed sugar factory should be not less than 15 kilometres.
- (v) The basic criterion for grant of licences for new sugar units would be cane availability or the potential for the development of sugarcane or both.
- (vi) Other things being equal, preference in licensing will be given to the proposals from the Growers'

Cooperative Societies. however, Industrial licence issued to such a cooperative cannot be transferred to any other entity.

(vii) All applications for expansion of the existing factories will be cleared automatically.

(viii) Applications for grant of Industrial licences for the establishment of new sugar factories as well as expansion of existing units should be submitted to the Secretariat for Industrial Assistance (SIA) in the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Industry, New Delhi in Form IL, along with the prescribed fee of Rs. 2500/- The applications received for grant of licences would be referred by SIA to the Department of Food and the concerned State Governments/UTs for their comments. If no comments are received from either Department of Food or the concerned State Governments/UTs within one month after their comments are asked for, it shall be deemed that they have no comments to offer. The Licensing Committee would thereafter consider the application for industrial licence and make appropriate recommendations.

B. The procedure and guidelines, as given above, are brought to the notice of the entrepreneurs for their information and guidance

(ASHOK KUMAR)  
Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

F No. 10(20)/96-LP New Delhi, the 10th January 1997.

Forwarded to the Press Information Bureau for giving wide publicity to the contents of the above Press Note.

Press Information Officer,  
Press Information Bureau,  
NEW DELHI.

[Translation]

### Hospitals for Bhopal Gas Tragedy

2025. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether hospital buildings have been constructed by spending crores of rupees in Bhopal in the aftermath of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy which are not being used;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh have prepared any scheme for the utilisation of the vacant hospital buildings ; and

(d) if so, the outlines of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) As part of the Action Plan for relief and rehabilitation of the gas victims at Bhopal, about Rs. 100 crores have been spent for setting up hospitals. Seventy five percent of this amount has been provided by the Central Government to the Government of Madhya Pradesh as grant. Some of these hospitals are already functioning and the State Government has prepared a plan to provide the necessary equipment in the vacant hospitals to make them also functional.

[English]

### Supply of Milk Products

2026. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat Co-op Marketing Federation Limited, Anand, is neither making available its products directly to the Kendriya Bhandar (Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Ltd.) New Delhi nor appointing any dealers to supply its items ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Limited is a Cooperative Society registered under the Cooperative Societies Act. The Federation has full autonomy in its day to day management and affairs and Government of India has no role to play in its day to day functioning and its sale and marketing policy or strategy. It is entirely upto the Federation to appint its dealers and/or traders for its products depending upon the market requirements. At present Kendriya Bhandar (Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Societies Ltd.) is buying the Dhara range of edible oils from Gujarat cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd. (GCMMF). Anand. Kendriya Bhandar had requested GCMMF to supply Anand Dairy Products on credit which was regretted by GCMMF as it is the organization's policy not to extend credit.

### Pooyamkutty Hydel Power Project

2027. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:  
SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR:

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

(a) wether a expert study team has visited Pooya mkutty Hydro-Electric Project in Kerala for re-examining the possibility to give clearance to the project ;

(b) if so, the findings of the expert study group ; and

- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Expert Committee constituted by the Ministry for indepth analysis of Pooyamkutty Hydro-Electric Project has, in its interim report, recommended carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment, Social Impact Assessment and Social Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Project.

(c) The State Government of Kerala has been asked to get the said studies done immediately.

#### **Formation of Reorganisation Commission**

2028. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are receiving representations in various forms from different quarters regarding the necessity of the formation of another State Reorganisation Commission;

(b) whether considering the growing restlessness amongst backward and depressed regions, the Government propose to take any steps in this direction;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government's policy is to advance the principles of political, administrative and economic federalism as a consequence of which the benefits of development are expected to percolate down much faster to the hitherto under developed regions of the country wherefrom the demands for Statehood are emanating.

[Translation]

#### **Mother Dairy Booths**

2029. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:  
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:  
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Mother Dairy Vegetable Booths in and around Delhi ; and

(b) the criteria adopted for allotment of Vegetable Booths and selection of location for these booths ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) At present there are 226 Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Booths in operation in and around Delhi.

(b) The concessionaries who manage the booths enter into yearly renewable commercial agreement with the Project. The concessionaires are selected generally from among ex-service men/their dependents whose names are recommended by the Directorate General of Resettlement.

Selection of sites for fruit and vegetable booths is made keeping in view of sale potential availability of suitable space and other facilities for construction/operation of such booths. Construction of booths is taken up after the proposed sites are approved by the concerned authorities.

[English]

#### **Veterinary Science College**

2030. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA. Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for infrastructure development of Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science was received ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount allocated for this purpose during the current financial year and likely to be allocated during the Ninth Five Year Plan period; and

(c) the target fixed for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Subsidy/Loan to Pre-Cooling and Cold Storage Projects**

2031. SHRI LINGARAJ VALYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have proposed subsidy/loan to the pre-cooling and cold storage projects in the country ; and

(b) if so, the total fund provided for these projects during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has been providing financial assistance to State Governments for establishment of pre-cooling and cold storage projects by cooperatives for storage of potatoes and other fruits and vegetables through National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). As per the latest norms, 50% of the block cost is provided as share capital and 40% as loan. For the weaker sections 75% is given as loan and 17.5% as subsidy. In the under developed States 75% is given as loan and 20% as subsidy. The balance amount is to be met by the beneficiaries themselves.

Assistance is provided only in respect of projects which are technically feasible and financially viable.

(b) Amount disbursed State-wise by National Cooperative Development Corporation to Cooperatives for cold storages during the last three years is as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)			
State	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1. West Bengal	98.635	23.89	38.647
2. Orissa	7.65	—	63.000
3. Maharashtra	273.71	270.707	357.049
4. Tamil Nadu	37.286	52.25	—
5. Madhya Pradesh	56.925	100.82	358.707
6. Karnataka	73.338	104.255	—
Total	547.544	551.922	817.403

[English]

#### Phulpur Fertilizer Plant in Uttar Pradesh

2032. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an assurance was given to the people at the time of acquiring their lands for setting up of Phulpur Fertilizer Plant in Uttar Pradesh thereafter for its expansion that employment will be provided to one or two members of their families in the plant;

(b) the number of persons whose land had been acquired and the number of persons given employment ; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not providing employment to all the persons so far whose land had been acquired ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No such assurance for providing employment was given either by IFFCO or by Government. However, based on an understanding with District magistrate, Allahabad, one member each of the land loser family which had lost 50% or more of their land holdings in acquisition, was to be provided employment by IFFCO.

(b) Out of total 481 land losers, 286 have been provided employment so far. These include 260 land losers who had lost more than 50% of their land holdings.

(c) 26 land losers (who had lost 50% or more of their land holdings ) were not given employment as they were either old or did not have children or were involved in idsputes with IFFCO. 169 land losers who lost less than 50% of their land holdings will be considered and given preference in employment by IFFCO subject to avilability of vacancies and subject to their fulfilment of eligibility criteria.

#### Misbehaviour with Women in Police Station

2033. SHRI BAMSAGAR. Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether large number of police corps have been found involved in criminal cases and misbehaviour with women in the police stations and on the roads in Delhi ;

(b) whether courts of law in Delhi have passed severe strictures against the Delhi Police for showing laxity in the investigation of cases ; and

(c) if so, the number of such cases indicating the action taken against the erring cops ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) There have been instances where cases were registered against Delhi Police personnel for their involvement in criminal mis-conduct.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The number of such cases during the current year (upto 30/6/97) was three. All such cases are reviewed and where found necessary appropriate action against the erring officials in taken in accordance with prescribed procedures.

#### Violation of Article

2034. SHRI AJOY MUKHOP ADHYAY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that most of the jail population in the country comprise 90 per cent undertrials who are presumed guilty and deprived of the benefits admissible under the laws of the country;

(b) if so, whether the violation of Article 14 of the Constitution is going on throughout the country; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) According to information available, about 73% of the jail population in the country consists of undertrials. The undertrials are however, neither presumed to be guilty nor deprived of the benefits admissible to them under the law.

Although 'Prisons' is a State subject as per Entry 4 of List-II State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. The Central Government, in its interactions with the State Governments, has stressed upon them the need to take efficient steps to reduce the number of undertrials. The steps suggested by the Central Government include the setting up of special courts in prisons, summary trials of petty and minor offences and review of all undertrial cases by a Review Committee, at the district level, comprising the representatives of the judiciary, District administration and prison authorities, on monthly/quarterly basis.

*[Translation]***Manufacture of Illicit Liquor**

2035. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:  
SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the matter of manufacturing and selling of wine by the Delhi Police personnel/officers prepared at their residences; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Delhi Police have reported that no such incident has come to their notice.

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]***Samjhauta Express**

2036. SHRI SURESH PRABHU :  
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :  
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "A train to smuggle hearts and guns" appearing in *'The Hindustan Times'*, dated May 30, 1997;

(b) whether in view of the serious revelations made therein, the Government would review the running of the Samjhauta Express at present operating between Amritsar and Lahore across the international border; and

(c) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to finalise in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal to review the running of Samjhauta Express. However, steps have been taken to ensure that this Train is not misused by smugglers, drug traffickers and other anti-national elements for their undesirable activities.

Fencing has been constructed all along the Railway track from International Border upto Attari Railway Station and intensive patrolling has been introduced along this fencing. Security checking of carriage and under-carriage of the train as well as passengers and their luggage has been strengthened.

(c) Question does not arise.

*[Translation]***Declaration as Tribal Areas**

2037. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to declare hilly area of Maharashtra as tribal area;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the areas likely to be notified for this purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Fertilizer Plants**

2038. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of fertilizer plants in the country and locations thereof ; and

(b) the amount incurred on the advertisements by the fertilizer plants during 1993-96, company-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) A list of fertilizer units in the country with their locations is given Statement-I.

(b) The details of the expenditure incurred on advertisements by the fertilizer undertakings under the administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers during the years from 1993-94 to 1995-96 are given in Statement-II.

Government is not directly concerned with expenditure on advertisements incurred by fertilizer undertakings outside its administrative control.

**Statement-I**

S.No.	Name of Unit	State
1	2	3

**1. Major Units Manufacturing Nitrogenous & Phosphatic Fertilizers**

1.	National Fertilizers Limited - Nangal I	Punjab
2.	National Fertilizers Limited - Nangal II	Punjab
3.	National Fertilizers Limited - Bhatinda	Punjab
4.	National Fertilizers Limited - Panipat	Haryana
5.	National Fertilizers Limited - Vijaipur	MP

1	2	3
6.	National Fertilizers Limited - Vijaipur Expn.	MP
7.	Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Limited - Udyogamandal	Kerala
8.	Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Limited - Cochin I	Kerala
9.	Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Limited - Cochin II	Kerala
10.	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited - Trombay	Maharashtra
11.	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited - Trombay IV	Maharashtra
12.	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited - Trombay V	Maharashtra
13.	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited - Thal	Maharashtra
14.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited - Namrup I	Assam
15.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited - Namrup II	Assam
16.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited - Namrup III	Assam
17.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited - Durgapur	West Bengal
18.	Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited - Barauni	Bihar
19.	Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited - Sindri Modn.	Bihar
20.	Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited - Gorakhpur	UP
21.	Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited - Ramagundam	AP
22.	Fertitzer Corporation of India Limited - Talcher	Orissa
23.	Madras Fertilizers Limited - Madras	Tamil Nadu
24.	Steel Authority of India - Rourkela	Orissa
25.	Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited - Neyveli	Tamil Nadu
26.	Paradeep Phosphates Limited - Paradeep	Orissa

*Cooperative Sector*

1.	Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited - Kalol	Gujarat
2.	Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited - Kandla	Gujarat
3.	Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited - Phulpur	Gujarat
4.	Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited - Aonla	UP

1	2	3
5.	Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited - Aonla Expn.	UP
6.	Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited - Hazira	Gujarat
<i>Joint Sector</i>		
1.	Mangalore Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited - Mangalore	Karnataka
2.	Gujarat State Fertilizers Company Limited - Baroda	Gujarat
2.	Gujrat State Fertilizers Company Limited - Sikka	Gujarat
4.	Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Limited - Tuticorin	Tamil Nadu
5.	Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Company Limited - Bharauch	Gujarat
6.	Godavari Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited - Kakinada	AP

*Private Sector*

1.	Coromandal Fertilizers limited - Vizag	AP
2.	Shriram Fertizers & Chemicals Limited - Kota	Rajasthan
3.	Zuari Agro Chemicals limited - Goa	GOA
4.	Indo Gulf Fertilizers & Chemicals Corporation - Jagdishpur	UP
5.	Hindustan Lever Limited - Haldia	West Bengal
6.	Deepak Fertilizers & Petro Chemicals Corporation - Taloja	Maharashtra
7.	EID party - Ennore	Tamil Nadu
8.	Duncans Industries Ltd - Kanpur	UP
9.	Punjab National Fertilizers & Chemicals - Nangal	Punjab
10.	Tuticorin Alkalines limited - Tuticorin	Tamil Nadu
11.	Nagarjuna Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd - Kakinada	AP
12.	Chambal Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. Gadepan	Rajasthan
13.	Tata Chemicals Ltd. - Babrala	UP
14.	Oswal Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. - Shahjahanpur	UP

*II. Other Units Producing Fertilizer as by Product**Public Sector*

1.	Steel Authority of India - Rourkela	Orissa
2.	Steel Authority of India - Durgapur	West Bengal
3.	Steel Authority of India - Bhilai	Madhya Pradesh
4.	Steel Authority of India - Bokaro	Bihar
5.	Indian Iron & Steel Company - Burnpur	West Bengal
6.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam - Vizag	Andhra Pradesh

1	2	3
<i>Joint Sector</i>		
7.	Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals, Polymer Unit	Gujarat
<i>Private Sector</i>		
8.	Tata iron & Steel Company - Jamshedpur	Bihar
9.	Cynides & Chemicals Limited	Gujarat
<b>III. Single Super Phosphate Producing Units</b>		
<i>Public Sector</i>		
1.	Assam State Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited - Chandrapur	Assam
2.	Hindustan Copper Limited - Khetri	Rajasthan
3.	Maharashtra Agro Indus Development Corporation - Prabhadevi, Bombay	Maharashtra
4.	Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Limited - Amjhore	Bihar
5.	Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals limited - Saladipura	Rajasthan
<i>Private Sector</i>		
1.	Andhra Sugars limited - Tanuku	AP
2.	Krishna Indl. Corporation Limited - Nidadavole	AP
3.	Pragati Fertilizer limited - Vizag	AP
4.	Coimbatore pioneer Fertilizers Limited - Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
5.	EID Parry (India) Limited - Madras	Tamil Nadu
6.	Indag Products Limited - Guddalore	Tamil Nadu
7.	Kothari INDL. Corporation Limited	Tamil Nadu
8.	Shaw Wallace & Company Ltd. Abadi	Tamil Nadu
9.	Hindustan Farms & Fertilizers Limited	Maharashtra
10.	Bharat Fertilizers Indus Limited - Bombay	Maharashtra
11.	Bharat Fertilizers Indus limited (Unit- III) - Bombay	Maharashtra
12.	Dharamsi Morarji Chemicals Company - Ambernath	Maharashtra
13.	Noble Fertilizers Limited	Maharashtra
14.	Rama Krishi Rasayan Limited —Poona	Maharashtra
15.	Raashi Fertilizers Limited —Nasik	Maharashtra
16.	Vidarbha Phosphates & Fertilizers Limited - Nagpur	Maharashtra
17.	Patel Naraindas Bhagawandas Fertilizers Limited - Jalgaon	Maharashtra
18.	Bhilai Engineering Corporation Limited - Bilaspur	M.P.
19.	DMCC, Kumhari	M.P.
20.	Swastik Fertilizers	M.P.

1	2	3
21.	Harshavardhan Chemicals & Minerals Limited	M.P.
22.	Khaitan Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited - Indore	M.P.
23.	Rama Phosphates Limited - Indore	M.P.
24.	Unialkem Fertilizers Limited - Risen	M.P.
25.	Bharat Chemicals & Fertilizers limited - Alwar	Rajasthan
26.	Liberty Pesticides & Fertilizers Limited - Udaipur	Rajasthan
27.	Madhuvan Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited - Udaipur	Rajasthan
28.	Phosphate India Debari - Udaipur	Rajasthan
29.	Shurvi Colour Chemicals Limited - Udaipur	Rajasthan
30.	Udaipur Phosphate & Fertilizers Limited- Udaipur	Rajasthan
31.	Surajgarh Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited	Rajasthan
32.	Adarsh Chemicals Limited - Suri	Gujarat
33.	Anil Starch Products Limited - Bhavnagar	Gujarat
34.	Gujarat Superphosphate Indus Limited - Ahmedabad	Gujarat
35.	Gromore Fertilizers Limited - Baroda	Gujarat
36.	DMCC - Jhar	Gujarat
37.	Rama Fertilizers Limited - Junagarh	Gujarat
38.	Narmada Agro	Gujarat
39.	Agro Chem Punjab Limited - Chandigarh	Punjab
40.	HSB Fertilizers Limited - Hoshiarpur	Punjab
41.	Modern Agro Chemicals Indus Limited - Punjab	Punjab
42.	Munk Chemicals Limited - Bhatinda	Punjab
43.	Shivalik Fertilizers Limited - Roper	Punjab
44.	Varindar Agro Chemicals Limited - Barnala	Punjab
45.	Awadh Fertilizers Limited - Bahrich	UP
46.	Brij Fertilizers Limited - Shikohabad	UP
47.	Ganges Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited - Kanpur	UP
48.	Girraj Fertilizers Limited - Shikohabad	UP
49.	Kashi Urvarak Limited - Jagdishpur	UP
50.	Madan Madhav Fertilizers Limited - Fetehpur	UP
51.	Mahadeo Fertilizers Limited	UP
52.	Mittal Fertilizers Limited - Rai Bareli	UP
53.	Natraj Organics Limited - Muzaffarnagar	UP
54.	Neera Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited - Ghaziabad	UP
55.	Rampur Distillery & Chemicals Limited - Rampur	UP
56.	Ramganga Fertilizers Limited - Gajraula	UP
57.	Shree Acids & Chemicals Limited - Gajraula	UP
58.	Shree Beharji Fertilizers Limited - Kanpur	UP
59.	Shrinivas Fertilizers Limited - Jhansi	UP

1	2	3
60.	Sri Durga Bansal Fertilizers Limited - Faizabad	UP
61.	S. D. Fertilizers Limited Kanpur	UP
62.	Trimurtee Fertilizers Limited - Kanpur	UP
63.	Vijay Fertilizers Limited - Mohan Nagar	UP
64.	India Ceroils Limited -Dharuhera	Haryana
65.	Jayshree Chemicals & Fertilizers (Unit-III) - Padaudi	Haryana
66.	Nitin Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited - Chandigarh	Haryana
67.	Oriental Carbon & Chemicals Limited - Dharuhera	Haryana
68.	Surya Phosphates Limited	Bihar

1	2	3
69.	Srikrishna Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited - Muzzarpur	Bihar
70.	Tulsi fertilizers & Chemicals Limited - Pantna	Bihar
71.	East Coast Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited - Kalma	Orissa
72.	Jayshree Chemicals & Fertilizers (Unit-I) - Calcutta	West Bengal
73.	Jayshree Chemicals & Fertilizers (Unit-II) Calcutta	West Bengal
74.	Phosphate Company Limited - Calcutta	West Bengal
75.	Sarada Fertilizers Limited - Calcutta	West Bengal
76.	Sundarban Fertilizers	West Bengal

**Statement-II**

(Rupees in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Public Sector Undertaking/Cooperative society	Amount incurred on advertisement		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd.	0.46	0.32	1.37
2.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited	0.09	0.75	0.26
3.	National Fertilizers Limited	77.30	70.05	118.50 (Provisional)
4.	Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited	65.49	104.22	211.93
5.	Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited	18.39	20.56	25.15
6.	Madras Fertilizers Limited	23.95	17.68	27.20
7.	Paradeep Phosphates Limited	25.29	23.99	39.20
8.	Pyrites Phosphates and Chemicals	22.34	10.27	28.08
9.	Indian Farmers Fertilisers Cooperative Limited	95.79	147.21	166.38
10.	Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited	16.89	13.64	38.04

**Insecticide Manufacturing Factories**

2039. SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of insecticide manufacturing factories given licences by the Government so far ; and

(b) the number of such factories functioning at present?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Most of the pesticides have been de-licensed w.e.f. August, 1991. There are a large number of Factories, both in organised and unorganised sector, engaged in manufacture of pesticides. There is no centralised data monitoring system on the number of companies manufacturing pesticides.

**Funds to NGOs**

2040. SHRI SOHAN. VEER SINGH : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several non-Government organisations are running De-addiction Centres in the country ;

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

(c) whether Government provide financial assistance to these organisations for the said purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of the number of De-addiction Centres (State-wise) being assisted under the grant-in-aid scheme of this Ministry is given in the enclose Statement.

(c) and (d) The Ministry is implementing the Scheme for prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention since 1985-86. Under this Scheme, grant-in-aid to the extent of 90% of the approved expenditure as per forms under the Scheme is released to the voluntary organisations for setting up/ maintenance of De-addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres, Awareness and Counselling Centres for Awareness and Preventive Education Programmes and organising of De-addiction Camps.

(e) Does not arise.



**Statement**

*State/UT wise number of Centres under the Scheme for prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention During 1996-97*

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of De-addiction Centres
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3
2.	Assam	1
3.	Bihar	10
4.	Goa	1
5.	Gujarat	5
6.	Haryana	8
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
8.	Karnataka	3
9.	Kerala	11
10.	Madhya Pradesh	4
11.	Maharashtra	7
12.	Manipur	10
13.	Mizoram	5
14.	Meghalaya	-
15.	Nagaland	2
16.	Orissa	6
17.	Punjab	7
18.	Rajasthan	4
19.	Sikkim	-
20.	Tamil Nadu	8
21.	Tripura	-
22.	Uttar Pradesh	12
23.	West Bengal	6
24.	Chandigarh	1
25.	Delhi	8
26.	Pondicherry	-
Total		123

**OBC List**

2041. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Samya, Maurya, Kachhi, Krishwaha Castes have been included in the list of backward classes in several States of the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Government propose to issue instructions to the Government of Rajasthan to include Samya and Maurya in the list of backward classes ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) Kachhi & Maurya communities have been included in Central list of OBCs in respect of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and Kachhi community has been included in the Central List of OBCs in respect of Rajasthan and Delhi. Samya and Krishwaha communities have not been included in the central list of OBCs in respect of any State/UT.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

[English]

**Supply of Iodised Salt**

2042. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any arrangement for the supply of iodised salt in the tribal areas of Orissa;

(b) whether any grant/assistance has been provided for the distribution of iodised salt at subsidised rates ;

(c) is so, the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, whether any financial assistance is likely to be provided to the State Government for supply of iodised salt as well as for creating the awareness among the tribals where there is no electronic media ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c) Salt is not among the essential commodities supplied in bulk to the States/UTs through the PDS by the Central Government. However, the State Government can add any essential commodity for distribution under PDS in their State depending upon local requirements. The Government of Orissa has already started supplying iodised salt through PDS outlets especially in the tribal areas of the State. The Orissa State Civil Supplies Corporation is supplying salt at maximum rate of Rs. 1.50 per kg. to help the poor consumers at large.

(d) Government of India is not contemplating provision of any financial assistance to the state Government for supply of iodised salt. However, Ministry of Health has taken up a mass campaign for creating awareness for the use of iodised salt under the National IDD Control Programme.

**Technology Mission on Cotton**

2043. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:  
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA:  
SHRI ANANT GUDHE:  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :  
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :  
SHRI B.K. GADHAVI:  
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have agreed to set up Cotton Technology Mission for the development of cotton

and for improving the quality of cotton, increase in production, marketing and its processing in the country;

(b) if so, the details of its main functions and the time by which the said Mission is likely to start functioning;

(c) the details of places where the main centres of this Mission are likely to be set up particularly in Gujarat;

(d) the number of persons appointed for the functioning of this Mission initially along with the responsibilities assigned to them;

(e) whether any amount has been allocated for the functioning of this Mission; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (f) The proposal to set up technology mission on cotton is under consideration and details are being worked out.

[Translation]

#### Use of Hindi

2044. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of meetings of Hindi Consultative Committee held after its recommendations two years back;

(b) whether the Rajbhasha is being neglected intentionally;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(d) the number of Magazines/Pamphlets published in Hindi by departments and undertakings under the Ministry ;

(e) whether their special issue would be published in the Golden Jubilee Year ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Hindi Salahakar Samitee of the Ministry was reconstituted on 24th April, 1997, after the expiry of term of previous samitee. Meeting of the reconstituted Salahakar Samitee is proposed to be held shortly.

(b) No, Sir. As far as possible, the Official Language Act, Official Language Rules, 1976 and orders issued under them by Department of Official Language are duly being implemented in the Ministry.

(c) Question does not arise.

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

[English]

#### Cotton Technology Mission

2045. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Centre to set up cotton technology mission upgradation fund' appearing in '*Business Standard*' dated July 9, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals cleared or under consideration of the Government with the implementation thereof ;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any action plan for implementation of said mission and any role assigned to the State agencies thereunder during 1997-98;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) whether the Government have received any representation/suggestions from the cotton growers/State Governments on the proposed mission in the country ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The proposal to set up technology mission is under consideration and details are being worked out.

#### Ganga Action Plan

2046. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :  
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

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

(a) whether despite implementation of the Ganga Action Plan and other such plans for cleaning of rivers the water of most of the rivers in that State including the Ganga Yamuna, Gomti and Saryu is unfit for human consumption;

(b) if so, the progress in implementation of the plans for cleaning the national rivers ; and

(c) the expenditure incurred so far thereon and the reasons for continued pollution of these rivers ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Under the Ganga Action Plan, which was started in 1985, only about 38% of the

present pollution load reaching the river was taken up. The remaining works have been taken up under the second phase of the Ganga Action Plan, which has already been started. Impact of the Action Plans on improving the water quality of the river can be expected only after all the works are completed. The Yamuna Action plan was approved in April, 1993 and after preparation of the project reports etc. the actual work on the Action Plan started in 1995 only. Its impact on the water quality of Yamuna can be expected by March, 1999 by which time Action Plan is targetted for completion. Major works on the river Gomti have not yet begun due to delay in finalisation of Master Plan by the Consultants of the Government of U.K. who propose to fund this Action Plan. Pollution abatement of river Saryu has not been taken up under the on-going river Action Plan.

(b) and (c) The details of the approved cost and expenditure incurred on the implementation of cleaning programme of National rivers taken up under the Ganga Action Plan and the National River Conservation Plan is given in the attached Statement. Pollution in the rivers covered under these plans can be expected to be contained only after all works undertaken are completed.

#### Statement

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. State No.	River	Approved Cost	Funds Released (Till 30.06.97)
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#### GANGA ACTION PLAN PHASE- I

1. U.P.	Ganga	199.95	185.64
2. Bihar	Ganga	57.30	53.51
3. West Bengal	Ganga	188.05	185.04
Total		445.30	424.19

#### NATIONAL RIVER CONSERVATION PLAN \*

1. Andhra Pradesh	Godavari	53.79	3.81
2. Gujarat	Sabarmati	98.70	4.77
3. Karnataka	Tunga, Tungabhadra, Kabini	29.00	2.05
4. Madhya Pradesh	Khan, Tapti, Kshipra	106.59	4.61
	Betwa, Narmada, Wangan-ga, Chambal		
5. Maharashtra	Krishna, Godavari	117.33	1.57

6. Orissa	Mahanadi, Brahmini	24.85	0.15
7. Punjab	Satluj	229.38	10.81
8. Rajasthan	Chambal	13.94	0.18
9. Tamil Nadu	Cauvery	38.20	1.95
10. Bihar	Subarn- rekha	32.22	1.46

Total		742.00	31.36
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\*(Rs in Crores)

Sl. State No.	River	Approved Cost	Funds Released (Till 30.06.97)
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#### YAMUNA ACTION PLAN

1. Haryana	Yamuna	232.20	14.83
2. Delhi	Yamuna	20.61	6.69
3. U.P.	Yamuna	213.75	31.26
Total		466.56	112.78

#### GOMATI ACTION PLAN

1. Lucknow	Gomati	50.29	5.40
2. Sultanpur	Gomati	4.91	
3. Jaunpur	Gomati	5.81	
Total		61.01	5.40

#### DAMODAR ACTION PLAN

1. Bihar	Damodar	10.75	0.13
2. W.B.	Damodar	12.62	0.11
Total		23.37	0.24

#### GANGA ACTION PLAN PHASE-II (MAIN STEM)

1. U.P.	Ganga	198.17	2.499
2. Bihar	Ganga	27.55	1.355
3. W.B.	Ganga	172.48	2.284
Total		416.36	6.138

#### GANGA ACTION PLAN (SUPREME COURT CASES)

1. U.P.	Ganga	51.77	0.70
2. Bihar	Ganga	7.13	0.14
3. W.B.	Ganga	161.73	2.26
Total		220.63	3.10

\* Figures of fund released under these Action Plan indicate the 50% share of the Government of India.

### Permits to Foreign Tourists

2047. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of foreign tourists granted permits to visit restricted/protected areas in the country by the Government during the last one year upto 30th June, 1997;
- (b) whether such permits are being issued liberally or are subjected to some restrictions ; and
- (c) the details of criteria being followed in the grant of such tourist permits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Foreigners are permitted to visit certain open places in the restricted/protected areas for tourism and are granted permits literally for the purpose. However, there are places which can be visited by foreign tourists only in groups consisting of four or more persons. Visitors only in groups consisting of four or more persons. Various authorities, viz., Indian Missions, Foreigners Regional Registration Officers and concerned State Government officers have been authorised to grant permits to foreign tourists. The data relating to permits issued is not centrally maintained.

### Sukhna Lake

2048. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the Chandigarh Administration has to carry out desilting operation of Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh every year;
- (b) if so, the amount spent on such operation during the last three years upto June 30, 1997 ; and
- (c) whether the Government propose to formulate any policy or scheme to find a permanent, solution to this problem with a view to check the flow of earth to the lake and to save such a huge recurring expenditure every year?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Chandigarh Administration has informed that desilting operation is carried out in Sukhna Lake every year due to erosion of soil in the catchment area.

(b) The total amount spent on such operations during the last 5 years upto 30th June, 1997 is Rs. 48, 50, 575/-

(c) Chandigarh Administration has prepared a scheme for integrated development of Sukhna Lake to undertake more soil conservation measures in the catchment area and to remove silt accumulated in the Sukhna Lake at a total cost of Rs. 38.65 crores. The project has been posed for financial assistance to Government of India under scheme of National Lake Conservation Programme. Sukhna is one of the identified lakes for intensive conservation and management under first phase of National Lake Conservation Programme.

### Starvation Death in Hilly Areas of Uttar Pradesh

2049. SHRI SYDIAH KOTA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether starvation deaths have been reported in the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh ;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefore ;
- (c) whether the Government propose to enquire into the matter; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

### Setting up of Mango Research Centre

2050. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up a Mango Research Centre at Nuzvid in Andhra Pradesh ;
- (b) if so, the present stage of the project ; and
- (c) the time by which this Research centre is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir. Mango Research in Andhra Pradesh is being supported by ICAR under its All India Coordinated Fruits Improvement Project at the Fruit Research Station, Sangareddy of the Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad since 1971. This Research Station also covers Mango Research of Nuzvid area.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

### Service Conditions of Police Force

2051. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware of hard working conditions under which police-para-military forces like CRPF and Delhi Police are working;
- (b) if so, whether the Government are considering to set up Expert Committee to assess the ground realities and formulate much awaited reforms in terms of improvement of working conditions of Constables in these organisations; and

(c) if so, the details of fresh initiatives taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the working conditions of the CPOs, the Government has decided to rationalise their pay & rank structures. The Vth CPC has recommended the benefits of one month's additional Pay in a Year, in order to compensate difficult working conditions.

#### **Locust Attack on Cultivation**

2052. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of locust attack causing heavy damage on cultivation in the country;

(b) if so, whether the causes for such locust attack on cultivation have been detected ;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check locust attack on cultivation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The locust swarm incursion takes place from across the western borders. Also, local build up can occur, if weather conditions are favourable and locust remains undetected in the inaccessible desert areas of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

(d) The following steps have been taken by the Government to check the locust attack in the country :

- (i) The Government has set up Locust Warning Organisation (LWO) comprising its headquarters at Jodhpur, 5 circle offices at Barmer, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Planpur and Jodhpur and 23 locust outposts.
- (ii) Intensive locust surveillance and monitoring in scheduled Desert Areas of Gujarat and Rajasthan is regularly maintained.
- (iii) Establishment of Wireless linkage between Jodhpur (India) and Karachi (Pakistan) is maintained from June to November each year to exchange locust situation informations.
- (iv) Requisite plant protection equipment, wireless sets, vehicles for control operations have been positioned.

(v) Close coordination with Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is being maintained to take advance action against the possibilities of any swarm incursion.

#### **Pilferage in Drug Department in Super Bazar**

2053. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases of pilferage in Drug Department of Super Bazar has come to the notice of the management of Super Bazar during the last two year ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the number of cases pending along with the amount involved in each case ;

(d) whether any action has been taken so far by the management to sort out the pending cases ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (e) According to information furnished by Super Bazar, Delhi no case of pilferage/stock shortage during 1995-96 has come to their notice. The reconciliation work for 1996-97 has not yet been completed by them.

#### **Inter-State Council**

2054. SHRI CHITTA BASU :  
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :  
SHRI P. NAMGYAL :  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council recently held its meetings ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the details of the subjects discussed and the decisions taken thereon ; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) Since its constitution on 5.12.1996, the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council has held four meetings. These meetings took place on 15.1.1997, 10.5.1997, 17.6.1997 and 8.7.1997.

2. The following subjects were discussed in these meetings :

- (i) Alternative Scheme of Devolution of Share in Central Taxes to States submitted by the Ministry of Finance.
- (ii) Amendments to article 356 of the Constitution.
- (iii) Centre- State Financial Relations (Chapter X) of the Sarkaria Commission's Report.

3. The Standing Committee reached a consensus on the question of Devolution of Share in Central Taxes to States as follows :

- a. (i) 26% the gross proceeds of all Central Taxes (excluding Stamp Duty, Excise Duty on Medicinal and Toilet preparations, Central Sales Tax, Consignment Tax and Surcharge) will be assigned to the States in lieu of the existing share in Income Tax and Basic/ Special Excise Duties and the grants in lieu of Tax on Railway passenger fares.

- (ii) In addition, 3% of gross proceeds of all Central Taxes (excluding Stamp Duty, Excise Duty on Medicinal and Toilet Preparations, Central Sales Tax, Consignment Tax and Surcharge) is to be assigned to the States in lieu of the existing share in additional Excise Duties in lieu of Sales Tax on Tobacco, Cotton and Sugar. These three items may continue to be exempted from Sales Tax and the additional Excise Duties in lieu of Sales Tax on these items may be merged with the Basic Excise Duties.

- (b) The Alternative scheme of Devolution share in Central Taxes to States would be implemented with effect from 1.4.1996.

- (c) The Scheme would be reviewed during the current Financial Year with a view to improving the share of States.

4. The above Scheme has also been approved by the Inter-State Council meeting held on 17.7.1997.

5. So far as the amendment of article 356 of the Constitution is concerned, no consensus could be reached either in the Standing Committee or in the Inter-State Council meeting held on 17.7.1997.

6. Instruction have been issued to the Administrative Ministries concerned to implement 54 recommendations as endorsed by the Inter-State Council. The Government is keen to complete action on the pending recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission at the earliest.

### **Study Tour of J & K State By Home Minister**

2055. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD:  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has recently made a two week study tour of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to assess the activities of militants and the situation arising from continued infiltration by Pak-trained Militants and foreign mercenaries; and

(b) if so, the fresh initiatives taken by the Government on the observations made by him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### **Hired Storage Capacity**

2056. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :  
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :  
SHRI V.V. RAGHVAN:  
SHRI MOHAN RAWLE :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India hires storage capacity instead of using its own storage capacity as appeared in the *Hindustan Time* dated July 7, 1997;

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

(c) whether the Corporation has not fully utilised its own godowns/hired godowns during the last three years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(e) the amount paid annually by the Food Corporation of India for hiring storage capacity during each of the last three years; and

(f) the steps taken by the Food Corporation of India to fully utilise its own storage capacity instead of hiring the storage capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Food Corporation of India, in addition to utilising its own godowns, takes on hire godowns from other agencies like Central Warehousing Corporation, State Warehousing Corporation, State Governments and

private agencies keeping in view the requirements. Hiring and de-hiring of storage capacity is a continuous process depending on the level of procurement/offtake of foodgrains. CAP storage is hired at the time of procurement and de-hired as and when it is no longer required. Since exact level of procurement and offtake cannot be estimated, some times the storage capacity remain under utilised.

(c) and (d) The Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP) has recommended 75% utilisation of the capacity as the optimum. The Capacity utilisation during last three years, both covered and CAP (Owned & Hired) has been 87%, 82% and 65% as on 1.7.1994, 1.7.1995 and 1.7.1996 respectively. The hire utilisation of capacity of hired godowns is due to the fact that certain capacity is hired on occupancy basis i.e. 100% utilisation.

(e) The amount paid towards hiring of storage capacity including those from CWC/SWCs, State Governments and the private agencies during the last three years as follows:

(Rs in Lakhs)			
For	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
<i>(i) Covered Capacity</i>			
CWC	4510.17	4033.81	2832.50
SWC	4270.41	5328.54	3608.81
Pvt. parties	1714.31	2424.06	3756.79
under ARDC/			
General			
State Govt.	237.47	376.48	944.89
(ii) CAP	14.07	0.76	0.71
Total	10746.43	12163.65	11143.70

(f) The Food Corporation of India undertakes constant reviews and hires/de-hires the storage capacity from time to time and it is a continuous process. 100% utilisation of the storage capacity is not possible.

[English]

#### OBC List

2057. SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to modify the central List of Backward Classes ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the National Commission for Backward Classes has submitted its proposal to modify the Central List of Backward Classes;

(d) if so, the details of communities to be included in the Central List of backward Classes;

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard ;

(f) whether the Government also propose to exempt the occupational communities from the limit of creamy layer; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. On receipt of recommendations from National Commission for Backward Classes a statutory body, set up by this Ministry under the National Commission for Backward Classes Act 1993 to entertain, examine and recommend upon the request for inclusion and complaints of over inclusion and under inclusion in the Central Lists of Other Backward Classes, the Ministry of Welfare modify the Central Lists of Backward Classes.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir. The National Commission for Backward Classes has recently recommended some castes/communities for inclusion in the Central List of Other Backward Classes & these are being notified very soon.

(f) and (g) Yes Sir. According to O.M.No. 36022/22/93 Estt (SCT) dated 8.9.1993 the persons working as artisans or engaged in the hereditary occupations callings etc. like Potters, Washarmen, Barbers etc. are exempted from application of the rule of exclusion.

#### Prices Vital Drugs

2058. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :  
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :  
SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Vital Drugs' prices skyrocket" appearing in the *Times of India* dated May 15, 1997;

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

(c) the reasons for frequently increasing the prices of drugs?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The general observation in the said news item is that NPPA has not been operational, therefore, the review of list of drugs under price control has not taken place, resulting

in new monopoly drugs not coming under control. In this context, it may be mentioned that NPPA has not become functional due to problems of administrative nature, which are being sorted out. However, a decision has been taken to initiate the process of updation of list of drugs under price control.

(c) Studies conducted for large selling formulations, including anti-malarial and hormonal drugs, reveal that while there is some increase in prices, there are cases of price decrease also. The price increase is not across the board and abnormal.

Increase in the price of bulk drugs, excipients, utilities, cost of packaging, fluctuation in foreign exchange rate for imported formulations, etc. have been found to be the reasons for price rise. Further, new introductions in any particular therapeutic category are invariably costlier than the existing drugs in that category for the reasons of R & D cost, initial marketing costs etc.

#### **Privatisation of Modern Food Industries**

2059. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise Modern Food Industries Ltd. ;

(b) if so, the reason therefor ; and

(c) the profits made by the undertaking during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) and (b) The Public Sector Disinvestment Commission has recommended 100% disinvestment of Government of India's shareholding in Modern Food Industries Limited. The Govt. has taken no such decision.

(c) The profits after interest and depreciation made by the undertaking during the last three years are indicated below :

(Rs. in lakhs)

1993-94	65.19
1994-95	573.99
1995-96	1113.07

[Translation]

#### **Bullish Resistance to Bovine Hormone**

2060. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :  
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Bullish resistance to bovine

hormone" appearing in the *Times of India* dated June 19, 1997 ;

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

(c) whether the drug banned in many countries has been permitted in India;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof ;

(e) whether Indian Dairy scientists have fully studied the implications of the use of BGH;

(f) if so, the finding thereof ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the recommendation of the Genetic Engineering approval Committee, Ministry of Environment and Forests have given conditional environment clearance for the commercial use of Bovine Growth Hormone in some selected states. Drug Controller General of India is yet to accord approval for commercial use. Any use of this hormone will depend on its availability, price and return in terms of benefits to users.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The efficacy and safety aspects of the use of BGH on crossbred cows and buffaloes have been studied in limited laboratory and field studies under Indian conditions in controlled experiments at National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal. The increase in milk production due to BGH in cow and buffalo was similar without any observed adverse side effects on the animal health and production.

(g) The Government is considering various steps regarding issues relating to the use of this hormone in India. Work in assessing the benefits in administration of the compound to animals is also in progress at State Agricultural University in Maharashtra.

#### **SC/ST Posts**

2061. SHRI KACHARU BHARU RAUT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes lying vacant throughout the country in the Ministry/Department, category-wise;



(b) whether some persons belonging to other castes are working on the said posts;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government to fill up the backlog ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) The requisite information in being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

### **Vigilance/Corruption Cases**

2062. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of corruption, dishonesty and assets disproportionate to the income of civil servants investigated by the Vigilance Department of Ministry in 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the number of officers (Grade-wise) found involved therein;

(c) the number of complaints received for corruption and dishonesty in 1995-96 and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Vigilance initiate action *suo moto* against the staff suspected to be dishonest and corrupt ;

(e) whether the Ministry have made any review of the functioning of powers of the vigilance section under their control ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (f) There is no Vigilance Department of the Ministry. However, both the departments viz. Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and Department of Fertilizers in the Ministry have separate vigilance units in accordance with the extant guidelines of the Central Vigilance Commission. Eight complaints of corruption against ten officials of the Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals were received in the vigilance unit of that Department and were examined during 1995-96 and 1996-97. No case of corruption or dishonesty in respect of officers of the Department of Fertilizers was investigated by the vigilance unit of that Department in 1995-96 and 1996-97. The Annual Property returns of all Group A and B officers were, however, scrutinised as per the prescribed procedure and no case of disproportionate assets came to light.

### **Discontinuation of Wheat in Open Market**

2063. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN :  
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :  
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALLA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the FCI has discontinued the open sale of wheat in the market ;

(b) if so, the date from which it has been discontinued and the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether this decision of the FCI adversely affects on some States particularly in Kerala ;

(d) whether representations have been received to revive the open sale of wheat by FCI ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ;

(f) whether the Government propose to issue directions to the FCI to revive the open sale of wheat in the market ; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVAN PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir, the Open Market Sale Scheme has been discontinued.

(b) The Open Market Sale Scheme has been discontinued with effect from 1st April, 1997 till further orders due to tight position of wheat stock in the Central Pool.

(c) No reports have been received regarding adverse affect due to discontinuation of open sale of wheat as Rabi season started in April, 1997 and there was ample availability of wheat in wheat producing states from where it was moved to other states on trade account also.

(d) and (e) Government of India have received representations from Kerala Roller Flour Millers Association, Karnataka Roller Flour Mill Association and Confederation of Flour Mills of Southern States for resumption of open sale of wheat to continue with the Open Market Sale Scheme.

(f) and (g) Presently, there is no proposal under consideration with the Government to sell wheat in the open market.

### **Upgradation of Research Organisations**

2064. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken special steps to encourage/strengthen/upgrade research Organisations/

Institutions in the country in Pharma Sector to catch up the Development taking place in the developed countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the main major R&D projects taken up/entrusted to National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research and other R&D organisations and investment in R&D in Pharma Sector during 1997-98 ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A scheme for financial support to Joint Collaborative Research Projects between National Research Laboratories, under Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and industry is being implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) to strengthen/upgrade R&D in pharma sector. Also, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research has been set up under the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals to impart education and undertake Research to catch up with changes taking place in developed countries.

(c) The major R&D projects taken-up and those under negotiations by the national Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) are given in the attached Statement- I. Details of Joint Collaborative Research Projects between National Research Laboratories and Industry are given in the attached Statement -II.

### **Statement- I**

#### **I. Projects in Hand**

1. Agrotechnology of *Artemesia annua*
2. Isolation of artemisine from *Artemesia annua*
3. MDR in *L. Donovan*
4. Controlled release of Diltiazem
5. Acute toxicity studies of some herbal products
6. Immunomodulatory activity of PRO-Immu
7. Stability studies of various Antibiotics & some intermediates
8. Chiralsynthesis of some drugs using Chemo-enzymatic methods
9. Trans-dermal drug delivery systems
10. Bio-availability studies of some anti-tubercular drugs
11. Ionophoretic drug delivery of some peptides
12. Immunomodulatory activity of some plants
13. Process development of some bulk drugs and their intermediates

#### **II. Projects Under Negotiations**

1. Enzymatic Activity of Honey
2. Synthesis and pilot scale preparations of
  - (a) Famcy clovir ;
  - (b) Flubi-profen
  - (c) Itraconazole
  - (d) Albuterol
3. Bio-availability studies of
  - (a) Ampicillin
  - (b) Albuterol.

### **Statement- II**

Sl. No.	Project	National Laboratories	Industrial Partner	Total Project Cost (Rs. lakhs)
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
1.	Development of methods for purification and characterization of PGH Synthase-Cyclooxygenase (cox) I & II	Department of Animal Science University of Hyderabad	Dr. Reddy's Research Foundation Hyderabad	28.48
2.	Design and synthesis of novel agents for the treatment of AIDS	Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad.	Lupin Laboratories Bombay	60.00
3.	Identification of Immunomodulating Potential of products and Extracts of natural origin	IICB, Calcutta	Yet to be finalised	58.03
4.	New drug studies for development of peptides based anti-cancer agent	Centre for Biochemical Technology Dabur (CBT)		954.55
5.	Synthesis and biological evaluation of Camptothecin and podophyllotoxin	IICT	Ranbaxy	118.10
6.	Synthesis and screening of new analogues of quinolone Carboxylic acid against multi-drug resistant bacterial, mycobacterial and fungal pathogens	CDRI	Ranbaxy	310.75

1.	2.	3.	4.	5
7.	Development of traditional herbal drugs as adaptogens/immunomodulators	Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Jammu	Zandu Pharmaceutical works	240.32
8.	New antibacterial beta lactam anti-biotics	Indian Institute of Chemical Tech. Hyderabad.	SOL	90.50
9.	Setting up of two national facilities one at IISc., Bangalore and other one at CDRI, Lucknow for Characterisation of crystals of biological macromolecules of medicinal and Industrial importance. <i>other</i> Strengthening of pharmacological testing facilities at CDRI, Lucknow.	(i) IICT, Bangalore (ii) CDRI, Lucknow	-	54.84 160.50
10.	Sugar and hetrocycle modified nucleosides	National Chemicals Laboratory	Recon	38.63
11.	Novel Hypocholesterolemic Agents Synthesis and biological evaluation of squalene epoxidase inhibitors	Regional Research Laboratory, Trivandrum	Ranbaxy	151.30
12.	P-Aminophenol via Single Step Catalytic hydrogenation of Nitrobenzene.	National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) Pune	NATCO Pharma	28.75
13.	Synthesis and screening of new antimycotic agents	IICT	Ranbaxy Research Laboratory	120.00
14.	Process Validation and biological evaluation of 'Asavas, and 'Arishtas' with special reference to inoculum bearing herbs	Delhi University	Dabur Research Foundations	45.90
15.	Discovery of novel peptidomimetics as Endothelin Receptor Antagonists : de novo synthesis using B. dehydro and B-amino acids and crystallo graphic studies utilising clones receptors.	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur & All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)	Ranbaxy Research Laboratory	196.80

[Translation]

**Setting up of New Centres by ICAR in Bihar**

2065. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :  
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :  
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has decided to set up new agricultural sciences research centres in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plans;

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

(c) the criteria adopted for setting up new centres in the country by the Council ;

(d) whether this criteria is being followed while setting up these centres by the Council;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the special thrust needed for agricultural development in Eastern India, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has a proposal for establishment of new Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the region during 1997-98 with the availability of additional financial resources from the Planning Commission.

(c) to (e) For setting up new Krishi Vigyan Kendra, ICAR constitute an Expert Team under the Chairmanship of an Eminent Scientist, Director of Extension Education of State Agricultural University, a Representative of State Department of Agriculture, Zonal Coordinator of the Zone as Members and a Senior Officer from the Council's Head Quarters as Member-Secretary. Based on the recommendation of the team, the suitability of site for location of a KVK is decided on the basis of the criteria fixed by the Government which included availability of adequate representative cultivable

land in one stretch located as far as possible in central part of the district for developing instructional farm, infrastructural and civic facilities, adequate technical back-stopping from the host institutions and acceptance of funding pattern. These criteria are followed while setting up of new Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

(f) The question does not arise.

[English]

### **Missing of Pakistani National**

2066. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ninety Pakistani nationals in the country are missing;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any efforts have been made to trace these Pakistani nationals and the action taken against them;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the specific measures proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that Pakistani nationals visiting India must go back with a view to check activities of ISI of Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) According to information available, 2903 Pak nationals were reportedly missing/untraced as on 30.4.1997. State-wise details are : Andhra Pradesh-29, Bihar- 35, Delhi- 90, Gujarat- 44, Haryana- 1, Karnataka- 76, Kerala-108, Maharashtra- 1392, Madhya Pradesh-227, Orissa-8, Punjab-8, Rajasthan- 83, Tamil Nadu- 21, Uttar Pradesh- 421 and West Bengal- 360.

(c) to (e) The foreigners Act, 1946 prohibits foreigners from staying unauthorisedly in the country. Powers under this Act have been entrusted to the State Governments/ Union territory Administrations to detect and deport Pak nationals staying in the country unauthorisedly. The Central Government has also been issuing instructions, from time to time, stressing upon the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to launch special drives to detect and deport such Pak nationals.

### **Prof. Lakdawala Committee**

2067. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :  
DR. M. JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accepted the Lakdawala formula for identification of persons below poverty line for the new PDS scheme ;

(b) if not, the other formula accepted for the purpose ;

(c) whether Government have any proposal for the revival of the Prof. Lakadwala Committee on the Public Distribution System;

(d) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh and other states have also requested the Union Government for the revival of the said Committee;

(e) if so, the details ; and

(f) the decision of the Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no Committee under the name and style Lakdawala Committee on Public Distribution System (PDS).

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### **Tribals of Sirmaur H.P.**

2068. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any memorandum has been received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh regarding announcing 'Hatis' in district Sirmaur has tribals and also conducting the census of these tribals;

(b) whether Member of Parliament of that constituency has raised this matter under Rule 377 demanding declaration of this area as tribal area; and

(c) if so, the decision taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The Government of Himachal Pradesh has recommended inclusion of "Hati" in the list of Scheduled Tribes. In so far as conducting the census of "Hatis" is concerned no proposal has been received.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The Government of Himachal Pradesh and the Registrar General of India have been requested to send their views on the proposal.

*[English]***Fertilizer Policy**

2069. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Punjab Haryana for drastic review of fertilizer policy" appearing in the 'Asian Age' dated June 24, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the changes sought by both the State Governments ; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The representatives of Government of Punjab and Haryana in their presentation before the High Powered Fertilizer Pricing Policy Review Committee on 20th June, 1997 made wide ranging suggestions for consideration. Some of these suggestions were re-inclusion of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers under Retention Price cum Subsidy Scheme (RPS) a freeze in prices of fertilizer inputs, revision of secondary freight rates, stability in fertilizer policy, etc.

(c) The Committee is yet to finalise its report and the decision of the Government will be taken in the light of the Committee's recommendations.

**Chuchura Rice Research Centre**

2070. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :  
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :  
SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :  
SHRI ANIL BASU :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the scientists of Chuchura Rice Research Centre, West Bengal have discovered four varieties of high-breed rice this year ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to popularise these varieties of rice in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) whether the Government have provided any Central assistance to the said centre during the last three years;

(f) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(g) whether Government have received any request from the said centre to increase the Central assistance during the current year;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir, the Chinsurah Rice Research Centre, West Bengal has developed four rice hybrids.

(b) These four hybrids are CNRH-1, CNRH-2, CHRH-3, AND CNRH-4. Among these CNRH-3 has been released for cultivation during boro-season by the West Bengal Government. The other three are still under testing stages.

(c) and (d) Like all latest released varieties of crop plants CNRH-3 would be popularised for boro-season cultivation in the state of West Bengal where it has been released.

(e) and (f) Chinsurah Rice Research Centre is one of the cooperating centres under the All India Crop Improvement Project of the ICAR on Rice. Funds approved by ICAR for the centre during last three years are as follows :

(Rs. in lakhs)

<u>1994-95</u>	<u>1995-96</u>	<u>1996-97</u>
9.71	6.80	8.30

(g) to (i) No proposal is pending in the Council concerning enhance assistance to the centre.

**Production of Drugs**

2071. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of some drugs is not adequate and is being supplemented through imports by the canalising agency;

(b) if so, the names of all those drugs alongwith the indigenous production as well as quantum of import of each such drug during the last three years, year-wise ;

(c) whether any pool price, in respect of any drug has been fixed ;

(d) if so, the names of those drugs and the pool price fixed together with the indigenous and import price of each;

(e) whether there is any proposal to abolish the system of pool prices ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (f) As per Import Policy, all drugs, except for a few items listed under negative list can be imported by any person under Open General Licence

(OGL), which has no linkage with the indigenous production. There is no canalisation of imports of drugs through any agency and there is no system of pooled price.

[Translation]

#### Farmers Benefited Under Development of Agriculture

2072. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of farmers benefited under the programmes launched by the Government for the development of agricultural infrastructure for small and marginal farmers during 1996 and 1997 State-wise ;

(b) the nature of benefits accrued to the farmers under the said programme;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate any new programme for the development of agriculture during 1997-98 ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation had launched a scheme for development of infrastructure for small/marginal farmers during 1992-93 with an out lay of Rs. 475.22 crores. During 1992-93 and 1993-94, a total sum of Rs. 462.57 crores was released to the States/UTs. As per the reports from States/UTs, a total of about 114.48 lakh farmers were benefited details are attached in Statement-I. The types of infrastructural facilities created under the scheme, which benefited the farmers are indicated in the Statement-II.

(c) and (d) The scheme on development of agricultural infrastructure for small and marginal farmers is not proposed to be taken up during 1997-98. However, an annual outlay of Rs. 1519 crores has been made for the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for the year 1997-98 for undertaking plan schemes for the development of agriculture.

#### Statement-I

*Number of small and marginal farmers benefited under the Scheme on Development of Infrastructure for the benefit of Small and Marginal Farmers*

S. No.	Name of the State/U.T.	No. of farmers benefited (lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.62
2.	Karnataka	11.81
3.	Kerala	2.96
4.	Tamil Nadu	1.24
5.	Gujarat	8.79
6.	Madhya Pradesh	0.21

1	2	3
7.	Maharashtra	0.20
8.	Rajasthan	0.52 + 110 societies
9.	Goa	0.12
10.	Haryana	1.00
11.	Punjab	0.20
12.	Uttar Pradesh	5.64
13.	Himachal Pradesh	0.58
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00251
15.	Bihar	11.27
16.	Orissa	0.04
17.	West Bengal	60.62
18.	Assam	0.22
19.	Tripura	3.94
20.	Manipur	0.00840
21.	Meghalaya	0.14959
22.	Nagaland	0.12
23.	Sikkim	-
24.	Delhi	0.00191
25.	Pondicherry	1.22
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.00003
27.	Daman & Diu	-
Total		114.48

#### Statement-II

Under this Scheme following major infrastructural facilities have been created in the country :

- Construction of seed godowns (Nos.)	-	11
- Integrated Pest Management Laboratories (Nos.)	-	19
- Fertilizer Laboratories (Nos.)	-	4
- Biological Control Laboratories (Nos.)	-	22
- Soil Laboratories (Nos.)	-	132
- Construction of Fertilizer Warehouse (Nos.)	-	2
- Small tractors, Mini-bulldozers, threshers, power tillers (Nos.)	-	1957
- Seed Laboratories (Nos.)	-	32
- Seed grading Units (Nos.)	-	600
- Wells constructed/strengthened (Nos.)	-	54282
- Pumpsets installed (Nos.)	-	23338
- Deepening of canals (Kms.)	-	1529
- Construction of retaining Wall (Kms.)	-	370
- Sprinklers (Nos.)	-	2863
- Construction of Farms (Nos.)	-	4
- Fish Seed Stocking (Nos.)	-	2
- Motorisation of fishing craft (Nos.)	-	250
- Strengthening of outer bund (Km.)	-	747

- Land development (Ha.)	- 4973
- Seed quality Unit (Nos.)	- 6
- Poultry Units (Nos.)	- 500000
- Pig Breeding Units (Nos.)	- 20000
- Qty. of Fertilizer subsidised (Tonnes)	- 419126
- Buffer Seed Stocking (Qtls.)	- 130000

[English]

#### Contract for Import of Wheat from United States

2073. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a delegation from United States visited India and impressed upon the Government for taking high-quality of wheat at a concessional rate from the US;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined all the aspects including the quality of wheat ;

(c) if so, the total quantity of wheat so far contracted and at rates fixed therefor ; and

(d) the extent to which this rate is lower in comparison to the other countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A US Team had visited India in April, 1997. The purpose of the visit was to review the foodgrains production in India and explore possibilities of import of foodgrains from the USA and to discuss the quality, health and phytosanitary norms in India with reference to the US requirements on the subject. No specific trade/business negotiations were held with the team.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### Foodgrains Supplied to J & K under PDS for Open Market

2074. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Jammu and Kashmir Government has projected the demand of 8.88 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains for the current year;

(b) whether the expert committee has approved the quota of just 3.12 lakh metric tonnes ;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(d) the various kinds of foodgrains supplied for Public Distribution and for open market to the state through various

Channels and the quantity of foodgrains supplied by FCI and profit loss of FCI thus caused during each of the last three years ;

(e) whether the production of foodgrains has been gone up in the State during the last several years; and

(f) if so, the reasons for the heavy increase in the imports of foodgrains especially when there had been allegations that Indian foodgrains are finding their way to Pakistan occupied Kashmir and also to Pakistan via J & K?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The monthly quotas of rice and wheat for Jammu & Kashmir as well as for other States/UTs have been fixed under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) from June, 1997. The requirement of rice and wheat for population Below Poverty Line (BPL) has been worked out so as to provide 10 Kg. foodgrains per family per month. Transitory allocation for population Above Poverty Line (APL) is also being made which has been fixed on the basis of 10 years average lifting minus BPL quotas.

(d) The details of wheat and rice allotted and supplied to Jammu & Kashmir Government under PDS during 1994-95, 1995-96 & 1996-97 as well as quantity sold under Open Sale are as under :

#### UNDER PDS

(Figs. in Lakh Mt)

Year	Wheat		Rice	
	Allot.	Lifting	Allot.	Lifting
1994-95	3.50	1.45	5.20	1.83
1995-96	3.60	1.31	5.28	2.83
1996-97	3.60	1.49 (P)	5.28	3.54 (P)

#### UNDER OPEN SALE

	Quantity sold	
	Wheat	Rice
1994-95	0.70	0.02
1995-96	0.69	Nil
1996-97	0.86 (P)	Nil

(P) Provisional.

The said quantities of foodgrains are issued by FCI on the prices fixed by Ministry of Food & Consumer Affairs. FCI by its preamble is a 'no profit no loss' organisation, hence, there is no question of any profit and loss earned by the Corporation on account of sale of foodgrains. Sales were made at subsidised rates as decided by Government of India

from time to time and subsidy was borne by the Government of India.

(e) The estimated production of foodgrains in Jammu & Kashmir declined in 1994-95 & 1995-96 to 14.43 lakh tonnes & 13.67 lakh tonnes respectively, as compared to 14.43 lakh tonnes in 1993-94. The advance estimated production of foodgrains for 1996-97 is 16.87 lakh tonnes.

(f) Due to decline in production of wheat by 31 lakh tonnes during the Crop Year 1995-96 (marketed during 1996-97) and the consequent fall in procurement of wheat by 41 Lakh tonnes during 1996-97 Rabi Marketing Season, Government took a decision to import 2 million tonnes of wheat.

This was done to augment the availability of wheat in the country and to contain the rising trend in the prices of wheat in the domestic market.

Government are alert about possibility of smuggling of foodgrains across international borders but allegations of such incidents via Jammu & Kashmir borders are unsubstantiated.

#### **Violation of Environmental Law**

2075. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have noticed violation of environmental laws by some State Governments by issuing licences to various polluting industries during the last three years ;

(b) if so, the number of such cases during the said period till date ; and

(c) the remedial steps contemplated by the Government to prevent such violation in future ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) The State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) in Union Territories are responsible for implementation of the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act,

1981 in the various States/Union Territories. Necessary permission from the SPCBs/PCCs is required before discharging effluents emanating from the industries.

No cases of violation of environmental laws by State Governments have come to the notice of the Government while issuing licences to various polluting industries during the last three years.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Scheme to Encourage Cash Crops**

2076. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to encourage for growing cash crops in various States ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the assistance proposed to be provided to each State under this scheme during 1997-98 ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) For increasing production and productivity of cash crops in potential States, following Centrally Sponsored Schemes are already being implemented :

1. Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP)
2. Special Jute Development Programme (SJDP)
3. Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping Systems (SUBACS).
4. Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP).

(c) The State-wise allocation (Central share) for the year 1997-98 under various schemes is given in the attached Statement.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Statement**

*State-wise allocation (Central Share) under various Schemes during 1997-98*

(Rs. in lakh)

State	ICDP	SJDP	SUBACS	OPP
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	150.00	44.56	172.75	1100.00
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	40.00
Assam	—	66.52	45.51	175.00



1	2	3	4	5
Bihar	—	36.21	111.35	100.00
Goa	—	—	16.04	—
Gujarat	88.32	—	122.86	600.00
Haryana	97.44	—	93.90	200.00
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	35.00
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	75.00
Karnataka	51.83	—	192.35	625.00
Kerala	—	—	27.20	50.00
Madhya Pradesh	76.43	—	65.82	1249.00
Maharashtra	275.46	—	440.84	1050.00
Manipur	—	—	12.60	110.00
Meghalaya	—	6.71	—	20.00
Mizoram	—	—	12.70	—
Nagaland	—	—	16.20	—
Orissa	57.53	50.80	52.38	500.00
Punjab	292.28	—	83.66	100.00
Rajasthan	248.47	—	50.37	1100.00
Sikkim	—	—	—	55.00
Tamil Nadu	219.01	—	155.41	875.00
Tripura	—	42.14	16.20	35.00
Uttar Pradesh	63.88	38.87	675.05	575.00
West Bengal	—	180.78	24.18	250.00
Pondicherry	—	—	20.22	—

ICDP= Intensive Cotton Development Programme.

SJDP= Special Jute Development Programme.

SUBACS= Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System.

OPP= Oilseed Production Programme.

### **Setting up of Horticultural Farm in Punjab**

2077. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request for the Punjab State Agricultural Export Promotion Corporation to set up a horticultural farm at the land of agriculturist;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether this type of plan is also extended to other States ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ((DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a)

Government of India have not received any such proposal from the Punjab State Agricultural Export Promotion Corporation.

(b) to (f) Question does not arise.

### **SPG Security**

2078. DR. VALLABHABHAI KATHIRIA :  
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :  
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of VVIPs and other political leaders provided with SPG cover have requested the Government for its withdrawal in view of the high cost of its maintenance;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Requests have been received from Shri V.P. Singh, former Prime Minister and his wife and Shri H.D. Deve Gowda former Prime Minister requesting for withdrawal of SPG.

(c) The requests of the former Prime Ministers are under examination. Schemes for alternative security arrangements based on latest threat perception which will be required in their cases are being drawn up.

### **Scholarship and Welfare Schemes**

2079. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scholarship and pension under various beneficial schemes of the Social Welfare Department are not being disbursed in Uttar Pradesh especially in Kanpur for want of funds;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government and the State Government to provide funds to the social welfare department ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Post-Matric Scholarship to students belonging to SCs & STs and Pre-Matric Scholarship to the Children of those engaged in unclean occupations, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has intimated coverage of 1,44,805 and 49, 179 beneficiaries, respectively, during 1996-97. The State Government has further intimated that in 1996-97 under the Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship, 3,875 beneficiaries were covered in Kanpur with an expenditure of Rs. 75 lakhs. No pension scheme is implemented by Welfare Ministry.

(c) During 1996-97 a Central assistance of Rs. 2070.823 lakhs was released to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh under the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship and Rs. 201.34 lakhs under the scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship. Complete proposals under these two schemes for 1997-98 are awaited from the State Government.

### **Loans to State Financial SC/ST/OBC Development Corporations**

2080. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether J & K State SC/ST/OBC Development Corporations provide loans and assistance to some entrepreneurs ;

(b) if so, whether entrepreneurs not eligible were also provided assistance in J & K; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such instance has come to the notice of this Ministry.

(c) Question does not arise.

### **Report of the Chief Commissioner**

2081. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the disabilities chief commissioner has not been laid in the Parliament ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to inform the Parliament from time to time about the welfare measures taken for the disable persons ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, Central Government shall cause the Annual Report submitted by Chief Commissioner to be laid before each house of the Parliament giving full account of his activities during the previous financial year.

Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has been recently appointed vide Government order dt. 5th June, 97. As per rules framed under the Act, Chief Commissioner shall, as soon as, possible after the end of the financial year not later than 30th day of September in the next year shall prepare and submit an Annual Report to the Government. The Report will be laid before the Parliament as and when received from the Chief Commissioner during 1998.

[Translation]

### **Delhi Police**

2082. KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH :  
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of murder, suicide and death due to Police torture in Delhi during May, June and till date ;

(b) whether the police officers/ personnel responsible for tortures death are merely transferred and the matter has been hushed up and no case is registered against the guilty officials;

(c) whether the police personnel send the innocent persons to jail by implicating them in false cases in case they do not give the statement as per their-wish ; and

(d) if so, the Corrective measures proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid harassment by police to the innocent persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Whereas there was no instance of death in Delhi due to police torture during the period from May, 1997 to 27th July, 1997, the number of cases of murder and suicide reported during the same period was 126 and 252 respectively.

(b) No, Sir. Action as per law is taken in such cases.

(c) and (d) No such instance has come to notice during the aforesaid period. Delhi Police personnel are, however, regularly briefed to ensure that investigations are conducted in an impartial manner. The senior officers of Delhi Police also maintain a close supervision of investigations at hand.

[English]

#### **Drug Abuse**

2083. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA :  
SHRI VIJAY PATEL :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the gravity of durg abuse which is spreading fast among the slum women in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) if so, the details of grants given to Non-Government Organisations for the purpose in each State during the last three years ;

(d) whether about 90% of the grant given to NGOs is meant for eradication and motivation of knowledge about this menace; and

(e) if so, the success achieved so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) While no specific study has been made for assessing the gravity of drug abuse among slum women in the the country, various reports indicate that there is rising incidence of drug abuse amongst certain vulnerable sections of the Society, which *inter alia* include slum women.

(c) to (e) The Ministry is implementing the Scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention since 1985-86 which is a community based approach for building awareness and educating people about ill-effects of drug abuse, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. Under this Scheme, grant-in-aid to the extent of 90% of the approved expenditure as per norms under the Scheme, is released to the voluntary organisations for setting up/maintenance of Deaddiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres, Awareness and Preventive Education Programmes and organising of De-addiction Camps. Under this programme, assistance is given to voluntary organisations for setting up of 123 De-addiction cum-Rehabilitation Centres and 218 Awareness and Counselling Centres all over the country. The number of drug addicts who have registered at these Centres has increased from 1627 in 1985-86 to 3.05 lakhs in 1996-97. The details of grants released to the Centres in each State during the last 3 years is given in the enclosed Statement.

#### **Statement**

*Amount spent under the scheme for prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention during 1994-95 to 1996-97 through Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations- State-wise*

(Rs. in lakhs)				
S.No.	Name of State	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	7.34	10.57	7.05
2.	Andhra Pradesh	15.07	14.85	19.04
3.	Bihar	122.60	103.69	74.71
4.	Goa	10.51	6.41	16.49
5.	Gujarat	43.75	33.55	30.14
6.	Haryana	92.87	46.69	44.59
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	9.30	6.13	3.35
8.	Karnataka	19.33	19.66	23.74
9.	Kerala	82.88	83.56	91.80
10.	Madhya Pradesh	31.63	21.67	15.18
11.	Maharashtra	63.88	55.69	59.14
12.	Manipur	127.36	86.72	77.13
13.	Meghalaya	2.00	3.37	4.72
14.	Mizoram	43.83	29.64	26.30
15.	Nagaland	26.62	13.68	3.41
16.	Orissa	52.36	60.20	37.27
17.	Punjab	43.47	37.98	36.78
18.	Rajasthan	70.95	45.26	35.52
19.	Sikkim	4.52	0.56	1.20

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Tamil Nadu	69.37	90.70	72.77
21.	Tripura	7.10	1.90	2.78
22.	Uttar Pradesh	153.73	133.76	118.66
23.	West Bengal	116.68	80.90	63.49
<i>Union Territory</i>				
24.	Chandigarh	9.31	8.37	8.14
25.	Delhi	108.81	105.89	44.06
26.	Pondicherry	2.43	2.52	1.33

#### Stock of Old Foodgrains

2084. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government still hold a lot of old foodgrains in their godowns; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and also for their non and distribution to the people especially during the last year when there was shortage and prices of foodgrains rose very high?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. (A small quantity of) Around 4.82 lakh MTs of Goodgrains is lying in the godowns of FCI which are more than two years old.

(b) although FCI follows the principle of First-in-First-out in disposal of stocks, due to certain unavoidable circumstances such as movement constraints, closure of depots, upgradation procedures, operational exigencies, low offtake by states, non- acceptance of old stock by some State Governments in PDS etc., such accumulation cannot be eliminated. Last year, FCI issued foodgrains not only under PDS but also under Open Market Sale Scheme(D) to have a sobering affect on the market prices. FCI also auctions old stocks of foodgrains by open tenders.

#### Infrastructural Facilities for Mushroom Processing

2085. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for creation of infrastructural facilities for processing of mushroom in the country ;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ;

(c) the number of States covered under the scheme and the financial assistance given for the purpose, State-Wise ; and

(d) the criteria fixed for giving financial assistance to backward States like Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar for implementation of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) to (d) During the 9th Five Year Plan, including 1997-98, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries proposes to implement a Plan Scheme to provide assistance to joint/ assisted sector undertakings, cooperatives, private sector undertakings, non-Governmental organizations, Voluntary organizations, etc. for setting up of infrastructural facilities for cultivation and processing of mushrooms in the country.

Financial assistance to the Joint/assisted sector undertakings would be available in the form of interest-free loan. In the case of private sector undertakings, cooperatives, Voluntary Organizations and State public sector undertakings belonging to North-Eastern States including Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh financial assistance would be available in the form of grant-in-aid. The financial assistance would be available to the implementing organizations for setting up of compost pastuerisation facilities, spawn lab and canning & processing facilities for mushrooms.

The State-wise details of financial assistance provided during the 8th Five Year Plan are given in the attached Statement.

No specific criteria has been fixed for providing financial assistance for mushroom projects to be set up in backward States like Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar in implementation of the Scheme. Financial assistance by the Ministry is provided on the basis of technical & economic viability of proposal received.

#### Statement

*The statewise details of Financial Assistance provided for setting up of infrastructural facilities for Cultivation & Mushroom processing during the VIIIth Five Year Plan*

Name of the State	Amount of Assistance Released (Rs. in Lakhs)	
1	2	
Andhra Pradesh	-	25.00
Assam	-	20.91
Bihar	-	6.18
Himachal Pradesh	-	23.65
Haryana	-	14.00
Maharashtra	-	126.12
Manipur	-	2.67

1		2
Mizoram	-	29.00
Madhya Pradesh	-	13.49
Nagaland	-	57.25
Orissa	-	11.00
Punjab	-	150.00
Rajasthan	-	25.00
Uttar Pradesh	-	17.25
Tamil Nadu	-	63.00
West Bengal	-	30.00

#### Unfair Investigation

2086. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "City Court assails police for 'Totally unfair' investigation Accused was in jail for 3 years, without evidence" appearing in *The Times of India* dated June 28, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the case mentioned therein; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The accused was acquitted by the Court essentially on the ground that the investigation has failed to reveal any material evidence in support of the charges made against him.

(c) The Deputy Commissioner of Police concerned has been asked to take appropriate action against the Inspector of police involved in the case.

#### Anti- Rabies Vaccine

2087. SHRI PRADEEP BHATTACHARYA :  
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Lack of equipment hampers vaccine production", appearing in the *Statesman* dated June 23, 1997;

(b) if so, whether Pasteur Institute at Calcutta has not produced even a single vial of anti-rabies vaccine from the last five years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken, to streamline the functioning of the Institute and to start the production of anti-rabies vaccine ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Irregularities in NDDB

2088. SHRI MANOJ KUMAR SINHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Government tables diluted note in House" appearing in *The Hindustan Times* dated June 7, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 30th Annual Report of the NDDB for the year 1995-96 along with Review Report was sent to the Secretariats of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 10th April, 1997, for laying on Table of both the Houses. Later the Government felt that the Review Report does not cover all the points. Accordingly, the previous report which was not placed before the House was withdrawn and a fresh review report sent to Rajya Sabha/Lok Sabha Sectt. on 15-5-97.

(c) Question does not arise in view of (b) above.

#### Decline in Foodgrains

2089. SHRI KODANDA RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether agricultural production has declined in some parts of the country due to non-availability of fertilisers and seeds to the farming community ;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reverse the trend and ensure proper land use pattern, crop-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The food grain production during 1996-97 was 198.17 million tonnes which was an all time record. A Statement giving production of foodgrains for 1996-97, State-wise, is attached.

(c) In order to increase the productivity and production of food grains, the Government is implementing various centrally sponsored, crop specific developmental schemes namely, Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals base cropping system areas, Accelerated Maize Development Programme, National Pulses Development Project etc.

#### **Statement**

*Estimate of Production of Total foodgrains, 1996-97*

State	Production (Thousand Tonnes)
	1996-97
	(Likely) As on 16-6-97
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	12628
Assam	3676
Bihar	13813
Gujarat	4943
Haryana	11369
Himachal Pradesh	1538
Jammu and Kashmir	1575
Karnataka	9335
Kerala	873
Madhya Pradesh	19565
Maharashtra	14548
Orissa	4786
Punjab	21566
Rajasthan	13045
Tamil Nadu	7529
Uttar Pradesh	42439
West Bengal	12885
Others	2057
All India	198170

#### **Drug Prices Liabilities Review Committee**

2090. DR. BALI RAM : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether member of the Drug Liabilities Review Committee and top bureaucrats of his Ministry are involved in scandalous collusion;

(b) whether he has seen the cases of recovery relating to Baralgon Ketone of Hoechst, Doxycycline of US Vitamins, Ethambutol of Yash Pharma and Rifampicin of top producer;

(c) the steps taken to fix responsibility and accountability in this regard ; and

(d) who is responsible for determining liability and the reasons as to why the cost experts only certify mathematical accuracy not the liability?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The DPEA liability cases of Baralgon Ketone of M/s Hoechst, Doxycycline of M/s U.S. Vitamins are presently before the Drugs Prices Liabilities Review Committee (DPLRC).

As regards DPEA liabilities in respect of bulk drug Rifampicin, in all, 11 cases based on this bulk drug have been referred to the DPLR Committee for its recommendations. The Committee has already furnished 4 Reports on the Rifampicin cases, to the Govt. In three cases, the Committee has up-held the Govt.'s claim against the parties in toto. In one case, the liability of the party under DPEA has been up-held but the quantum of payment has been reduced by recalculation.

As regards the DPEA liability case of M/s Yash Pharma, the DPLR Committee has finalised its Report ex-parte. This company has approached the Govt. for one more opportunity to represent their case. The company has also deposited 50% of the principal amount with the Govt. into the DPEA and thereafter, the company's request has been accepted.

(d) The liability of the companies are computed by the Deptt. Costs experts are part of the liability determination process. However, such computation are subject to vetting by the DPLR Committee.

#### **Export of Single Super Phosphate to Bangladesh**

2091. SHRI AJMEERA CHNDULAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Benefit meant for Indian farmers go to Bangladesh" appeared in the *Indian Express* dated May 15, 1997;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made on the export of fertilizers to Bangladesh by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Fertilizers;

(c) whether the C & A G has also conducted test audit in which he has revealed that Railways incurred losses amounting to Rs. Four crores between January, 1994 and August, 1996,

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

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No recommendation on export of fertilizers to Bangladesh was made by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Fertilizer Pricing which presented its Report in August, 1992.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Railways have informed that in two draft paras Audit has pointed out losses of Rs. 153.45 lakhs between January 1994 to February 1996 on Northern Railway and Rs. 9.74 lakhs between July 1994 to May 1996 on Eastern Railway on Export consignments of Single Super Phosphate (SSP) to Bangladesh. The Ministry of Railways have stated that normally no separate classification is prescribed for a commodity meant for export. Accordingly no separate classification for movement of SSP for export was prescribed by them and that the traffic in this commodity booked to Bangladesh was charged at the prescribed tariff. Railways have not suffered any loss on this account. This issue has also been examined by the Commercial Committee of Interchange (CCI) consisting of all the Chief Commercial Managers of Zonal Railway who have stated that no separate classification for export traffic of this commodity needs to be prescribed.

[Translation]

### **Agricultural Pricing Policy**

2092. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of farmers has been becoming worse due to wide gap between the price of industrial and agricultural products ;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate any agricultural policy so as to check price rise in agricultural products, in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) The main objectives of the Government's price policy for agricultural produce are aimed at ensuring the remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production and to safeguard the interests of the consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices. The price policy seeks to evolve a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy. The

Government decides the price policy for major agricultural commodities after taking into account recommendations of the CACP, views of State Governments and Central Ministries. CACP while formulating its price policy recommendations *inter-alia*, takes into account the terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture sectors.

The Terms of Trade for agriculture sector has improved in recent years rising from 90.4 during 1993-94 to 91.2 during 1994-95 and further up to 93.9 during 1995-96. Efforts are being made to make the Terms of Trade more favourable towards agriculture.

[English]

### **Sexual Crime against Children**

2093. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is steep increase in the number of cases of sexual crime against children in the country in ganeral and particularly in the matropolitan cities ;

(b) whether at present there is no law in the country dealing exclusively with child abuse ;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether there has been a long pending demand by certain sections of our society that the law regarding the child sexual abuse be redefined for covering the entire range of offences committed against children ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Available information on the incidence of child rape during the years 1991 to 1995 and the incidence of selling & buying of girls for prostitution during the years 1994 to 1996 are given below :

S. No.	Year	Incidence of child rape
1.	1991	3729
2.	1992	3113
3.	1993	3393
4.	1994	3986
5.	1995	4067

### *Selling & Buying of girls for prostitution*

S.No.	Year	Selling	Buying
1.	1994	34	4
2.	1995	17	19

City-wise information relating to incidence of crime against children is not maintained at the Central level.

(b) to (e) The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, supplemented by the Indian Penal Code, prohibits trafficking in human beings including children. High penalties/punishments have been prescribed in cases relating to the prostitution of a child or minor under the Act. The Indian penal Code has provisions for the protection of a child, either male or female, against being used for the purpose of prostitution or any other kind of illicit sexual act.

[Translation]

#### Forest Land on Lease to Industries

2094. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :  
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

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

(a) whether the Government had given the forest land on lease to the various industries to protect the forest reserves ;

(b) if so, whether there have been report of decline in the fertility level of these lands given to the industries under the said policy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) The Central Government

have not approved any lease of forest land to industries under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for protecting forest reserves.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Bio-Fertilizers

2095. SHRI RAJENDRA SINGH RANA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies putting efforts in generating bio-fertilizers ;

(b) whether the public sector chemical and fertilizer companies are planning to advance in bio-fertilizer production in near future; and

(c) if so, the details of the companies producing 100% eco-friendly fertilizer for agriculture ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) Under schemes of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and the Department of Fertilisers, Government have given financial support for setting up of fifty bio-fertiliser production units in different States by various organisations including fertiliser manufacturing companies. The scheme of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation which aims at development and promotion of bio-fertilisers is continued during IX Five Year Plan. A list of companies financed by the Government for production of bio-fertiliser which is considered as an ecofriendly fertiliser is given in the attached Statement.

#### Statement

*Details of grant provided by the Department of agriculture and cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture*

S.No.	Name of the Institution/ Company	Location of the Unit	Grant released (Rs. in lakhs)	Capacity (tonnes/annum)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar	Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar	13.00	75
2.	M/s T. Stanes & Company, Ltd. Coimbatore	Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)	13.00	75
3.	M/s Punjab Agro Industries Corporation	Ludhiana	11.83	75
4.	M/s Rajasthan Agro Industries Corporation	Jaipur	13.00	75
5.	Tamil Nadu (State Govt.)	Salem	26.00	75
6.	Tamil Nadu (State Govt.)	Kudumiamalia Pudukottai Distt.	26.00	75
7.	M/s BAIF	Waghali Pune (Maharashtra)	12.60	75



1	2	3	4	5
8.	MPs Sima Cotton Development & Research Association	Ponneri Distt Coimbatore	13.00	75
9.	M/s IFFCO	Phulpur	13.00	75
10.	M/s SPIC	Suburban area near Madras	13.00	75
11.	M/s NAFED	Indore (M.P.)	13.00	200
12.	M/s Madhya Pradesh State Agro Development Industries Corporation Ltd. Bhopal	Bhopal (M.P.)	9.30	75
13.	Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University	Agricultural Research Station, (Amravati) Guntur Distt.	13.00	75
14.	M/s Orissa Agro Industries Corporation	Rourkela	13.00	75
15.	M/s Gujarat State Fertilizer Co. Ltd. Vadodra	Vadodra	13.00	300
16.	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Kalyani	University	13.00	72
17.	M/s Gujarat State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd.	Nawagam	10.50	75
18.	M/s Madras Fertiliser Ltd. Madras	Manali (Madras)	13.00	75
19.	M/s Godawari Fertiliser & Chemicals Ltd. Secundrabad	Hyderabad	13.00	75
20.	State Government of Kerala	Pattambi	7.83	75
21.	M/s Hindustan Fertiliser Ltd.	Durgapur	12.08	75
22.	M/s N.F.L.	Indore (M.P.)	12.50	75
23.	M/s M.F.L.	Vijayawada (A.P)	12.50	75
24.	M/s KRIBHCO	Surat (Gujarat)	12.50	75
25.	M/s R.C.F.	R & D Campus, Chembur, Bombay	12.50	75
26.	M/s Pondicherry Agro Service & Industries Coporation	Pond icherry	13.00	100
27.	Mizoram	Aizwal	10.49	75
28.	M/s H.F.C.	Sindri	13.00	75
29.	M/s FACT Kerala	Udyog Mandal Cochin	20.00	150
30.	M/s Orissa Agro Industries Corporation	Sambalpur	20.00	150
31.	M/s M.P. State Oils Seeds Growers	Dhar	17.70	150
32.	M/s M.F.L. (A.P.)		0.50	Part payment
33.	Bihar (SCADA)		20.00	150
34.	M/s Assam Agro Industries Dev. Corporation	Khanapara Guwahati	20.00	150

1	2	3	4	5
35.	M/s Gujarat Agro Industries Agro Corporation	Solvent Extraction Plant Post Barja	20.00	150
36.	Nagaland		20.00	150
37.	Karnataka (KCD Corporation)	Bangalore Road	20.00	150
38.	Rajasthan (SFCL)	Suratgarh	20.00	150
39.	M/s Karnataka (RAIC)	Hebbal Road	20.00	150
40.	M/s H.F.C. (Assam)	Silchar	20.00	150
41.	M/s DAIC (Raygada)	Raygada	20.00	150
42.	Himachal Pradesh	Howthoravilla Simla	11.16	50

### Cold Storage Facility

2096. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether 30% of production of fresh fruits, etc. is wasted in transit and storage due to lack of cold storage facilities all over the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to give grant in-aid or subsidy to create cold storage facilities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) No survey has been conducted by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries to assess the loss of fresh fruits, etc. However it is estimated that 25 to 30 per cent of production of fresh fruits, etc. is wasted due to lack of cold storage facilities and perishability of the produce.

(b) and (c) With a view to reduce the post-harvest handling losses for fruits & vegetables and also processed fruit & vegetable products, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries had implemented a plan Scheme during the VIIIth Five Year Plan. It is also proposed to continue the Scheme during the IXth plan period including the year 1997-98, to provide assistance to the Joint/assisted sector undertakings, cooperatives, non-Governmental organizations, voluntary organizations and private sector undertakings, etc. for setting up of cold storages in the country.

Under the proposed Scheme, it is intended to provide assistance to such implementing agency as Joint/assisted sector undertakings, cooperatives, non-Governmental organizations, voluntary organizations, upto 50 per cent of the cost of land, building, plant & machinery and other insulation equipments subject to a maximum of Rs. 1 crore.

In case of such cold storages being set up in North-Eastern states including Sikkim and ITDP areas, the quantum

of assistance would be enhanced to 75 per cent of the cost of land, building, Plant & Machinery and other insulation equipments, etc. subject to a maximum of Rs. 1.25 crore.

In case of such cold storages being set up by private sector undertakings, assistance available is proposed to be 25 per cent of the cost of land, building, plant & machinery and insulation equipments, etc. Subject to a maximum of Rs. 25 lakhs. The assistance available in these cases for setting up of cold storages would be in the form of grant-in-aid.

### Production of Cotton

2097. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of cotton during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the total areas under cultivation of cotton in each State during the said period and at present;

(c) the expected cotton production for the current season and the target fixed during 1997-98;

(d) whether farmers in some States are shifting from cotton to other commercial crops;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor, State-wise ; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to reverse the trend in view of achieving the desired target ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) The estimates of area and production of cotton during each of the last three years i.e., 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, State-wise, is in the attached Statement.

The target of production of cotton for 1997-98 is set at 148 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each. It is, however, too early to assess the area as well as production of cotton for the current year, i.e., 1997-98 as the sowings of cotton is still in progress in some of the States.

(d) to (f) The area coverage under cotton has generally been increasing in the major producing States and as such there is no shift of area away from cotton. Further, in order to

increase the productivity and production of cotton, the Government is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme Intensive Cotton Development Programme in 11 producing States.

**Statement**

*Estimate of Area and Production of Cotton*

State	Area(Thousand Hectares)			Production (Thousand Bales of 170 kgs Each		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Advance)*	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Advance)*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	844.5	1056.8	1007	1425.6	1626.6	1849
Assam	1.7	1.7	2	0.8	0.8	1
Bihar	0.2	0.2		0.5	0.4	
Gujarat	1204.7	1410.4	1524	2269.3	2201.4	2823
Haryana	557.0	646.0	649	1373.0	1283.0	1504
Himachal Pradesh	0.2	0.2		0.4	0.4	
Jammu & Kashmir	0.1	0.1		0.2	0.2	
Karnataka	635.8	673.8	668	822.0	849.1	932
Kerala	13.8	13.8	14	21.8	21.3	21
Madhya Pradesh	477.0	537.0	527	345.7	422.4	437
Maharashtra	2759.9	3065.4	3085	2500.3	2799.2	3143
Manipur	0.1	0.1		0.1	0.1	
Meghalaya	7.5	7.5		5.3	5.3	
Mizoram	1.1	1.0		2.8	2.5	
Nagaland	0.1	0.1		0.3	0.3	
Orissa	6.6	10.9	14	9.7	26.5	28
Punjab	606.0	750.0	742	1779.0	1950.0	1925
Rajasthan	485.9	606.2	654	875.2	1338.3	1363
Tamil Nadu	255.3	265.4	260	440.0	546.8	480
Tripura	2.0	1.1		2.4	1.7	
Uttar Pradesh	10.5	14.5	8	11.6	15.1	7
West Bengal	0.1	0.1		0.1	0.1	
Pondicherry	0.9	1.1		1.5	1.8	
Others	-	-	12	-	-	13
All India	7871.0	9063.4	9166	11883.6	13094.3	14526

\*As on 16-6-97.

*[Translation]***Shortage of Levy Sugar**

2098. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :  
 SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :  
 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :  
 SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :  
 SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :  
 SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government may run out of sugar for distribution through the Public Distribution System by the end of 1997;

(b) if so, whether according to the Ministry there is a shortfall of 10 lakh tonnes in the levy sugar and no sugar would be available for channelising into the Public Distribution System in the last quarter of this year ;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the policy to bring back the incentive scheme to open sugar units set up after 1994 has resulted in loss to the levy sugar stock for 1997-98 ;

(e) whether the Government propose to explore option of getting the sugar on loan from the cooperative and private sugar manufacturers for channelising into the levy system ; and

(f) the other steps being considered to bridge the gap between demand and supply ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVAN PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c) The sugar production during the current crushing season 1996-97 is estimated at about 130 lakh tonnes. After meeting the requirement of levy sugar upto 30th September, 1997, the availability of levy sugar would be about 4.92 lakh tonnes. So far no estimates of sugarcane production for the season 1997-98 are available, and as such, the exact position about production of sugar and its availability for levy cannot be estimated at this stage. The position will be reviewed after receipt of estimates of sugarcane and sugar production from the State Governments.

(d) The Government have formulated a new incentive scheme for the letters of intent issued after 31.3.1994 for establishment of new sugar factories and expansion in the existing units. It generally takes 3-4 years to set up a new sugar factory and as such there would not be any major impact on the availability of levy sugar on account of new Incentive Scheme.

(e) and (f) The position about availability of levy sugar will be reviewed when firm estimates of sugar production during 1997-98 season are available.

*[English]***Voluntary Organisations in Assam**

2099. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of voluntary organisations working for women welfare in Assam and the amount sanctioned to them during each of the last three years ;

(b) whether a few schemes are lying pending with the Union Government for allocation of funds ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) Grants in aid are sanctioned by this Ministry for implementation of Schemes for the Welfare of SCs, STs, OBCs, Minorities, handicapped, aged, street children and other socially and economically disadvantaged beneficiaries thereof include men, women and children.

**Assessment of North-Eastern Council**

2100. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :  
 SHRI JAGMOHAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made an assessment of the work done by the North Eastern Council since its inception in 1972 ;

(b) whether the seven State Government of the North Eastern region have expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of the said Council ;

(c) whether the Council has failed to secure speedy development of infrastructure in the region ; and

(d) the remedial measures in hand, or being contemplated to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The work done by the North Eastern Council is reviewed by the Government on an annual basis.

(b) to (d) The states of the North Eastern region have been demanding restructuring of North Eastern Council for further speedy development of infrastructure in the Region. It has therefore, been decided to restructure the North Eastern Council with the inclusion of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission as Chairman and the Chief Ministers of 7 North Eastern States as Members. The North Eastern Council would shed its role of reviewing security related matters so that the Council can concentrate on economic development.

The scope of the Schemes of the North Eastern Council will include major schemes of inter-State benefit located in individual States in addition to schemes of Inter-State character.

### Functioning of SFCI

2101. SHRI SIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI) has improved its working and profitability during 1996-97 in comparison to the last three years ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Government propose to create the post of Chairman-cum-Managing Director in SFCI ;

(d) if so, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) There has been some improvement in the working and profitability of State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI) in the last three years, including in 1996-97. While the profit for 1996-97 was estimated at about Rs. 2.55 crores, the final picture has not emerged as the accounts have not yet been finalised. Details regarding physical and financial achievements of SFCI for the period from 1993-94 to 1996-97 are given in the attached Statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The present arrangement of a part time chairman and a full time Managing Director is considered suitable for SFCI

### Statement

#### Year-wise profit/loss of SFCI since 1993-94

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Profit (+)/Loss (-)
1993-94	(-) 176.44
1994-95	(+)281.67
1995-96	(+)117.47
1996-97	(+)255.31 (Estimated)

#### Total production of SFCI since 1993-94

(Qty. in lakh quintals)

Year	Kharif	Rabi	Total
1993-94	1.99	1.78	3.77
1994-95	3.10	2.22	5.32
1995-96	3.25	2.53*	5.78
1996-97	3.20	2.03	5.23
		Estimated	Estimated

\* Note : Including 0.68 lakh quintals tomato produced by a private party at Suratgarh and Ladhawal farms.

### Residential Schools for SC/ST/OBC Students

2102. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :  
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJBHAI  
CHIKHALIA :  
SHRIMATI PURNIMA VARMA :  
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of residential schools for scheduled Csttes/Scheduled Tribes/OBC in the country, State-wise and Union Territory-wise ;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to set up such more schools in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria fixed for the same ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) A Statement showing the number of residential schools for SCs and STs set up/ sanctioned/ assisted by the Ministry of Welfare in different States/ UTs is attached. No residential school has been set up/sanctioned/assisted in respect of OBCs by the Ministry of Welfare.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details will be finalised, keeping in view the proposals recieved from the State Govts./UT Administrations/ Non Governmental Organisations.

(d) Question does not arise.

**Statement**

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of residential schools for SC's set up/sanctioned/assisted	No. of residential schools/Ashram Schools/Educational Complex for STs set up/sanctioned/assisted
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25	04
2.	Assam	—	02
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	07
4.	Bihar	12	10
5.	Gujarat	01	05
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	01
7.	Karnataka	26	02
8.	Kerala	—	03
9.	Manipur	01	01
10.	Meghalaya	—	47
11.	Maharashtra	—	01
12.	Madhya Pradesh	15	10
13.	Nagaland	—	03
14.	Orissa	07	24
15.	Rajasthan	07	13
16.	Tamil Nadu	03	01
17.	Tripura	02	—
18.	Uttar Pradesh	39	10
19.	West Bengal	08	04

[Translation]

**Extinction of Medicinal Plants**

2103. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the medicinal herbs found in the forests of Bihar and other states are on the verge of extinction;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Although a number of medicinal plants in the country are declining in the wild and some of them are critically endangered but they cannot be considered to be on the verge of extinction. The main reason for the declining status of these plants is their wanton exploitation for trade.

(c) The steps taken for the conservation of medicinal plants include :

- i. collection of wild plant species covered under Schedule VI of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 from any forest land or specified area has been banned by law.

ii. Export is prohibited of 53 plants or plant portions and their derivatives obtained from the wild covered under Schedule 2 Appendix 2 of the book titled "ITC (HC) classifications of Export and Import Items".

iii. Export of plants other than the above 53 plants requires Legal Procurement Certificate (IPC) from Regional Dy. Director, Wildlife Preservation, Ministry of Environment and Forests or Chief Conservator of Forests or Deputy Conservator of Forests of the State concerned from where these plants have been procured.

iv. The cultivated varieties of the 53 plants/plant portions referred to above can be allowed for export subject to production of certificate of cultivation and a CITES permit, wherever applicable.

v. The export of plants and plant portions are allowed only through the seven major ports at Bombay, Calcutta, Cochin, Delhi, Tuticorin, Madras and Amritsar.

vi. Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities whenever information of illegal trading in wild plants reaches them.

vii. Inter-departmental coordination to control illegal trade has been enhanced with other enforcement organisations like Police, BSF, Customs, ITBP, Coast Guards etc. Training Programmes on wildlife enforcement and implementation are also

conducted for personnel of these organisations every year since 1995.

- viii. All the State/UT Forest Departments have been advised not to freely allow collection of the medicinal plant species which are reported to be endangered in the wild, and promote their cultivation.
- ix. The States & UTs are being assisted for cultivation of medicinal plants through Centrally sponsored schemes.

#### **Voluntary Organisations**

2104. SHRID.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the voluntary organisations operating in various parts of the country are misusing the funds received from the Union Government;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this matter;

(c) if so, the results thereof ; and

(d) the names of the voluntary organisations in Uttar Pradesh to whom Central assistance has been stopped ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Few cases of misutilisation of funds by the voluntary organisations has come to the notice of the Ministry.

(b) and (c) The concerned State Govts. and UT Administrations have been requested to conduct enquiry and report to the Central Government for further action pending completion of the enquiry, release of further instalments of grants in aid have been suspended.

(d) Names of Voluntary organisations in Uttar Pradesh to whom Central assistance has been stopped are given in the attached Statement.

#### **Statement**

S. No.	Name of the Voluntary Organisation
1	2
1.	Akhil Bhartiya Samaj Kalyan Pratishthan, Deoria.
2.	Taradevi Shiksha Samiti, Deoria.
3.	Janjagran Parishad, Allahabad.
4.	Ratan Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan, Faizabad.
5.	Banjara Vikas Parishad, Aligarh.
6.	Bhartiya Samajothan Seva Sansthan, Deoria.
7.	Sanskrit Bhasha Seva Parishad, Deoria.

1	2
8.	Gram Seva Sansthan, Deoria.
9.	Swami Ajarnand Andh Vidyalaya, Haridwar.
10.	KS Shastri Samarak Sansthan, Kanpur.
11.	Manav Vikas Sansthan, Haridwar.
12.	Viklang Kalyan Seva Sansthan, Muzzafarnagar.
13.	Bahujan Hitay Sansthan, Barabanki.
14.	Jahangir Memorial Charitable Society, Allahabad.
15.	Noor. Mohd. Memorial Charitable Society, Allahabad.
16.	Jan Kalyan Shiksha Samiti, Padrauna.
17.	Adarsh Janata Shiksha Samiti, Allahabad.
18.	Urmila Samaj Kalyan, Hardoi.
19.	International Buddha Education Institute, Hapur.
20.	Samaj Kalyan Shiksha Samiti, Deoria.
21.	Tilak Shikshan Samiti, Allahabad.
22.	Ambedkar Shiksha Samiti, Lucknow.
23.	Sarvodaya Gram Avam Mahila Vikas Sansthan, Rampur.

#### **Voluntary Organisations**

2105. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI ;  
SRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

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

(a) the numbers and names of non-Governmental organisations functioning for the development of forests in the country, State-wise;

(b) the amount provided by the Central Government and the State Governments to these organisations during the last two years ;

(c) whether any complaints have been received regarding the misappropriation of funds by these organisations ; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) A State-wise list of 352 non-Governmental organisations who have taken up afforestation/plantation activities under the schemes of the Ministry of Environment & Forests and the Department of Wastelands Development is given in a Statement attached. Financial assistance of Rs. 9.9 crores was provided to them

during 1995-96 and 1996-97. The work of the Non-Governmental Organisations under these schemes is monitored and funds are released only after proper appraisal at each stage.

Occasionally it is found that the work in certain projects is not upto the mark. In such cases the matter is inquired into and the concerned Non-Governmental Organisation is asked to remedy the situation, and funds recovered, if necessary.

### **Statement**

*State-wise List of the Non-governmental Organisations given Assistance for Afforestation Under the Scheme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests*

S.No.	Name of the Non-Governmental Organisations
1	2

### **State**

#### **ANDHRA PRADESH**

1. Action for Collective Tribal Improvement Edu., Distt. Khamam
2. Vyavasayaka Mariyu Sanghi ka Abhiruddi Sanstha, Distt. Khamam A.P.
3. Bright Integrated Rural Dev. Society, Distt. Anantapur, A.P.
4. Nehru Mahila Manila Mandli, A.P Distt Kurnool.
5. Rayalseema Vanasthali Sangam, Distt. Cuddapah, A.P.
6. Purna Mahila Mandli, Distt. Kurnool.
7. Sri Vivekananda Edn. Society Instt. Kurnool.
8. Gramabhyudaya Sevak Sangh Distt. Anantapur.
9. Comprehensive Rural Dev. Society, Distt. Karimnagar
10. Mercy Minority Edu. Society Distt. Anantapur.
11. Jupiter Educational Society Distt. Anantapur.
12. Laxmi Devi Mahila Mandli Distt. Kurnool,
13. Chaitanya Integrated Rural Dev. Society, Distt. Kurnool
14. Ramesh & Krishana Sanskrutika Sangham, Distt. Anantapur.

1	2
15.	Gram Abhyudaya, Distt. Anantapur.
16.	Centre for Rural Integrated Dev. Society, Distt. Anantapur
17.	Guntur Rural Edu. & Dev. Society, Distt. Guntur
18.	Sangameshwara Educational Society Distt. Kurnool.
19.	Gandhi Mahila Mandali, Anantapur
20.	Rural Social Service society, Distt. Cuddapah
21.	Navjeevan Rural Development Asson Anantapur
22.	Crist Rural Dev. & Educational Society, Anantapur
23.	Shri Rakesh Educational Welfare Society, Anantapur
24.	Rural Poor People's Welfare Society, Anantapur
25.	Loyala Rural Dev. Society, Anantapur

#### **BIHAR**

26. Gram Vikas Kendra Jamshedpur.
27. Agrarian Assistance Association, Distt. Dumka.
28. Ranchi Consortium for Community Forestry, Ranchi.
29. Gramin Vikas Prishad, Distt. Deoghar,
30. Singhbhum Gram Unnyan Samiti, East Singhbhum.
31. Vikas Bharti, Gumla.
32. Gramin Vikas Samiti, Distt. Garawe
33. Nature Conservation Society. Distt. Palamau.
34. Dharti Social & Rural Dev. Society, Hazaribagh.

#### **HIMACHAL PRADESH**

35. Himalaya Wastelands Dev. Pollution Control Association, Shimla.
36. Hitkar Society For Rural Dev., Distt. Sirmour.
37. Rural Centre for Human Interests (Ruchi), Sirmour
38. Swati Vikas Sangh, Shimla

#### **KARNATAKA**

39. Bagepalli Rural & Agricultural Development Society, Distt. Kolar.



1	2
40.	Integrated Rural Dev. Society, Kolar
41.	Adarsha Rural & Educational Dev. Society, Kolar.
42.	Poor People Social Service Society, Tumkur
43.	Action Society for Integrated Development, Kolar
<b>MADHYA PRADESH</b>	
44.	Madhya Pradesh Gramin Vikas Mandal, Distt. Balaghat.
45.	National Centre for Human Settlement & Env't., Bhopal.
46.	Prasad Sanskritik Shakshnik Avam Gram Vikas Samiti, Phuljhar
<b>MEGHALAYA</b>	
47.	Maharam Community Hall & Welfare Assn., West Khasi Hills
48.	Nanglong Social Cultural & Sports Welfare Organisation, West Khasi Hills.
<b>ORISSA</b>	
49.	Kasturibai Mahila Samity, Distt. Dhenkanal.
50.	Gandhi Instt. of Technical Advancement, Bhubaneswar.
51.	Akhil Bharat Anusuchit Jati Parishad, Distt. Bhubaneswar.
52.	Cuttack Zilla Harijan Adivasi Seva Sansakar Yojna Distt. Cuttack.
53.	Adivasi Harijan Welfare Agency, Distt. Dhenkanal.
54.	Instt. for Self Employment & Rural Dev, Distt. Puri.
55.	Shishu Raja Club, Distt. Dhenkanal.
56.	Narishakti Mahila Samitee, Puri
<b>RAJASTHAN</b>	
57.	Sevanjali Society, Distt. Banswara
58.	Navodya Van Vatika, Distt. Baran.
<b>TAMIL NADU</b>	
59.	Sempatty Hill Initiators for Eco-Dev., Distt. Dharamapuri.

1	2
60.	Gandhigram Rural Instt. Distt. Dindigul.
61.	Palni Hills Conservation Council Distt., Kodaikanal
62.	Gramodaya Trichy.
63.	ST. Jhon's Educational Society Distt. Salem.
64.	Centre for Peace & Rural Dev. Distt. Dindigul Anna
65.	Sustainable Agr. and Env. Voluntary Action, Distt. Madurai.
66.	Integrated Rural Organisation of Social Services, Distt. Dindigul.
67.	Tribal Dev. Society Distt. Chengalpattu
68.	Society for Community Organisation, People Education. Distt. Tiruchirappalli.
69.	Community Action for Food & Rural Dev.
70.	Centre for Rural Education Research & Dev. Assn, Distt. Dindigul
71.	Integrated Rural Comm. Dev. Society, Distt. P.M.T.
72.	Karunya Trust Centre for Social Action, Distt. Dindigul
73.	Community Action for Rural Dev. Distt. Puttankattai.
74.	Youth Centre for Rehabilitation & Dev. Distt Dindigul
75.	Integrated People's Service Society
76.	Social Research & Education Service Assn, Anna.
77.	Action Group for Rural Orgn., Tirunelveli
<b>UTTAR PRADESH</b>	
78.	Indira Vikas Nursery Distt. Almora.
79.	Central Himalyan Rural Action Group, Distt. Nainital.
80.	Aarohi, Distt. Nainital.
81.	Pan Himalayan Grassroots Dev. Foundation Distt. Almora
82.	Nav Yuvak Vikas Samiti Distt. Pauri Garhwal.
83.	Bal Bharti Vidya Mandir Samiti, Distt. Tehri Garhwal.
84.	Gramin Vikas Samiti Distt. Firozabad.
85.	Kisan Vriksharopan Samiti Distt. Agra

1	2
86.	Sayukat Gramin Seva Samiti Distt. Firozabad.
87.	Sri Kanchan Lal Saguna Seva Sansthan, Distt. Hamirpur
88.	Gyan Vriksharopan Samiti Distt. Firozabad.
89.	Deep Paryavaran Jan Samiti Distt. Muzzafarnagar.
90.	Kumaon Adventure Emt. Society, Almora
91.	Dayal Vriksharopan Samiti, Firozabad
92.	Gramin Youth Vriksharopan Samiti, Firozabad
93.	The Himalayan Trust, Dehra Dun
94.	Gramin Vikas Samiti Shikohabad, Firozabad
95.	Gauri Ganj Mahila Prashikshan Kendra, Sultanpur
96.	Haretikhal Vikas Samiti, Chamoli
<b>WEST BENGAL</b>	
97.	Khayerboni Gram Unnayan Samity Distt. Bankura.
98.	School of Fundamental Research, Calcutta
99.	Vivekananda Lok Shiksha Niketan, Distt. Midnapur.
100.	Liberal Association for Movement of People. Distt. Bankura.
101.	Dhorani Nagar Rural Dev. Society, Distt. Birbhum.
102.	Regional Research & Study Centre, Distt. Midnapur.
103.	Manab Kalayan Khadi Gramudyog Samiti, Distt. Birbhum.
104.	Dr. Ambedkar Society for Socio-Eco. Welfare & Dev., Distt. Midnapur.
105.	Dhorani Roy Memorial Self Employment Training School, Distt. Birbhum.
106.	Milan Bithi Seva Sangha Distt. Bankura.
107.	Purulia Society for Rural Dev. Distt. Purulia.
108.	Midnapur Afforestation & Eco-Restoration Society, Distt. Midnapur.
109.	The Wave of Environment Distt. Midnapur.
110.	Ganga Unnayan Parishad, Distt-Bankura
111.	Bikram Nagar Udyan Sangha, Midnapore

1	2
112.	Manbhum Ananda Ashram Nityananda Trust, Purulia
113.	Society for Movement and Action for Rural Dev., Bankura
114.	Bankura Joypur Rural Dev. & Welfare Orgn., Bankura
115.	Association of Social Welfare and Service, Howrah
116.	Chnandrakona Road Nutan Aalo, Midnapore
117.	National Orgn. of Public Health, Midnapore
118.	Pally Prakriti Welfare Orgn. Midnapore
<b>NATIONAL WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT BOARD, DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT</b>	
<b>ANDHRA PRADESH</b>	
1.	Socio-Economic Educational Dev. Society
2.	Praja Bhartiya Seva Samiti
3.	Rural Education & Economic Dev. Society
4.	Krishnaveni Tree Grower's Society
5.	Integrated Rural Development Welfare Society
6.	Sowjana Youth Association
7.	Rural Development Society
8.	Social Action for Social Development
9.	Venkateshwara Tree Grower's Co-Opertive Society
10.	Rishi Valley School
11.	Peoples Organisation for Rural Poor
12.	Indra Integrated Development Society
13.	Centre for Social Development.
14.	Padma Video Cultural Association
15.	Sadhana
16.	Guntur Rural Educational Development Society
17.	Society for Integrated Rural Dev. Programme
18.	Trust for Rural Upliftment & Education
19.	Youth Action For Rural Dev. Programme
20.	Deccan Development Society

1	2
21.	Sree Durga Educational Society
22.	Rural Development Organisation
23.	Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Energy Plantation Society
24.	Rural Educational & Awareness Development Soc.
25.	Good Samaritan Evangelical & Social Welfare Assn.
26.	Chaitanya Rural Development Association
27.	People's Action in Development
28.	Society for Action with Rural Poor
29.	Bright Integrated Rural Development Society
30.	Navajeevan Seva Sangam
31.	Mother India Community Development Association
32.	Research Integrated Social Development Action
33.	Voluntary Organ. for Integrated Comm. Emanicipation
34.	Seva Bharati
35.	Sri Sita Ramanjaneya Udayamavana Samiti
36.	The Myrada
37.	Action for Girijan Development
38.	Youth for Action
39.	Society for Human Dev. and Rural Prosperity
40.	Shanthi Gramabhudaya Sangam
41.	Social Action for Integrated Development
42.	Ydaya Bhaskara Praja Seva Samiti
43.	Rural Integrated & Social Education Society
44.	Rural Education for Dev. Eco. Emt. Motivation
45.	Harijana Integrated Dev. Society
BIHAR	
46.	Shivani Vriksharopan Van Vikash Gram Samiti
47.	Consortium of Human Ent. & Tech. Nature Assn. CHETNA
48.	Adithi
49.	Grameen Vikas Parishad

1	2
50.	B.N. College, Deptt. of Botany
51.	Santhal Pargana Gramodhyog Samiti
52.	Purnia Zilla Samagra Vikas Parishad
53.	Sarvodaya Seva Sangha
54.	Society for Hill Resources Management School
55.	DRDA, Lohardaga (on behalf of 17 NGO)
56.	Bihar Relief Committee
57.	Santhal Pargana Vikas & Seva Sansthan
58.	Bihar Gramin Antodaya Vikas Parishad
59.	Akhil Bhartiya Kanwariya Seva Sangh
60.	Gyan Sagar
61.	Gramin Vikas Parishad
62.	Development Research Consultants
63.	Mithila Udayamits Vikas Samiti
64.	Parmila Kalyan Samity
65.	Bihar State Forest Development Corporation
DELHI	
66.	Ramjas School
67.	Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan
68.	Ruth Cowell Foundation
GUJARAT	
69.	Sarvodaya Pashu Vikas Sahakari Mandli Ltd.
70.	Centre for Environment Education Nehru Foundation
71.	Self Employed Women Association
72.	Agha Khan Rural Support Programme
73.	Vikram Sarabhai Centre for Development Interaction
74.	Shri Adivasi Majur Karigar & Kamdar Vikas Mandal
75.	Institute for Studies and Transformation
HIMACHAL PRADESH	
76.	Himalayan Wasteland Development & Poll. Conti. Assn.
77.	Mahila Kalyan Evam Vikas Samiti

1	2
78.	Paryavaran Avam Gramin Vikas Sansthan
<b>HARYANA</b>	
79.	Bharat Yatra Centre
80.	Gramin Education Social Welfare
81.	Navyuvak Kala Sangham
82.	Chaubisi Vikas Sangh
83.	Deep Yuva Club
84.	Hayana Nav Yuvak Kala Sangam
85.	Gramin Vikas Anushandhan Kendra
86.	Manesar Project
87.	Hindustan Greening & Welfare Society
88.	PHD Rural Development Foundation
89.	Gehlu Gian Bharti Shikshan Samiti
<b>JAMMU &amp; KASHMIR</b>	
90.	Shri Mata Vaishav Devi Shrine Board
91.	Paryavaran & Wasteland Dev. Coop. Soc. Ltd.
92.	All J & K Ex-Service Welfare Society
<b>KARNATAKA</b>	
93.	Development Alternative of Tumkur
94.	Myrada Chincholi Project
95.	Vikasna Institute for Rural Development
96.	Sh. D. Devaraja Urs Gramabhividdhi Trust
<b>KERALA</b>	
97.	Social Work Research Centre
98.	Peermade Development Society
99.	Solidarity Movement of India
100.	Anakara Vikasana
<b>MADHYA PRADESH</b>	
101.	Paryavaran Avam Vaniki Sahakari Samiti
102.	National Centre for Human Settlement & Environment

1	2
103.	New Vivek Sikshan wa Samajik Karya Sans.
<b>MAHARASHTRA</b>	
104.	Gramin Vikas Mandal
105.	Pragati Agricultural Industrial Training Centre
106.	Yavatmal Zila Shetkari Utpadak Sangh
107.	Water and Land Management Institute
108.	Jeevan Sanstha
109.	Amravati University
110.	Agro-Forestry Federation
111.	Suvid Foundation
112.	Navalbhou Pratisthan
113.	Army Foundation for Environment Conservation
114.	Dhanwantary Medical Foundation
115.	Sandhi Niketan Shikshan Sansthan
116.	National Institute of Rural Integrated Dev.
117.	Jai Malhar Krishi Vikas Partisthan
118.	Jeevan Jyoti Charitable Trust
119.	Foundation Agro-ecological Sociences Utpadak Sangh
120.	Arvind Smruti
121.	BAIF The Bharatiya Agro-India Federation
122.	Smt. Narsabai Mahila Mandal
<b>MANIPUR</b>	
123.	Kayamegi Koikoram Leikai Women's Welfare Assn.
124.	Orgn. for Replacement of Jhum & Shifting Cult. & Advt. of Small Scale
125.	Association for Dev. of Rural Agri Land Industrial Advance Tech.
126.	The Thanlon Area Mahila Mandal
127.	Patzang Khadi & Village Industries
128.	Integrated Rural People Development

1	2
129.	Imgchap Memorial Orphanage & Children Home
130.	Namching Tribal Women Weaving Association
131.	Duilon Joint Farming Association
132.	Natok Kabui Multi-purpose Co-Operative Society Ltd.
133.	The Rural Industries Development Association
134.	Rural Service Agency
135.	Rural Development Agency
136.	Sumchinyum Youth Welfare Association
137.	Rural Development Society
138.	Manipur Eastern Hill People Development Society
139.	South Eastern Rural Development Organisation
140.	Manipur Rural Integrated Social Dev. Council
141.	Integrated Tribal Development Society
142.	Weaker Section Development Association
143.	The Rural Reconstruction Organisation
144.	The Ideal Mother's Association
145.	United Tribal Development Project
146.	United Tribals Development Society
147.	Zelonanglong Baptist Churches Council
<b>MIZORAM</b>	
148.	Mizoram Rural Tribal Development Society
<b>NAGALAND</b>	
149.	Immaluel Society Longsa Mokochung
150.	Likya Women Society
<b>ORISSA</b>	
151.	Rural Development Centre
152.	Gram Unnayan Samiti
153.	Adarsa Sikshya kendra
154.	Om Sri Sri Sidhya Patarani Yuvak Sangha

1	2
155.	Palli Vikas Kendra
156.	Youth Service Centre
157.	Akhil Bharatiya Adivasi Vikas Parishad
<b>RAJASTHAN</b>	
158.	Navyuvak Mandal
159.	Bhouraka Charitable Trust
160.	Paryavaran Sam. Awam Anusandhan Dal
161.	Rajasthan Manv Vikas Samiti
162.	Nehru Nav Yuvak Mandal
163.	Rural Development and Social Welfare Society
164.	The Social Works and Research Centre
165.	Gram Vikas Navyuvak Mandal
<b>SIKKIM</b>	
166.	Denzong Vriksharopan Samiti
167.	Paryavaran Sanrakshan Samiti
168.	Amba Deorali Youth Club
<b>TAMIL NADU</b>	
169.	Sustainable Agricultural and Environment Voluntary Action
170.	Gramdhan Bhoodan Development Sangh
171.	The Institute of Rural Development
172.	The Activists for Social Alternatives
173.	Automitra
174.	Social Welfare Organisation Trust
175.	Human Action for Rural Poor
176.	Madras Literacy Association
177.	Community Action for Rural Development
178.	Rural Community Trust
179.	Goodwil Social Centre
180.	Action Group for Rural Organisation

1	2
181.	Annai Indira Sathiya Samuga Nala Mahalir Mandram
182.	Rural Education and Economic Development Assn.
183.	PREPARE
184.	Pasumai Vala Sangam
185.	Jai Maruthi Trust
186.	Tamil Nadu Ezhai Ulavar Sangam
187.	Association of Bhoodan & Community Dev.
188.	Base for Launching Immencse Service, BLISS
189.	Association for Social Service Vill. Dev.
UTTAR PRADESH	
190.	All India Pradhan Sangh
191.	Urmila Gramodyog Samithi
192.	Banjara Vikas Parishad
193.	Baba Srinath Shikshan Sansthan
194.	Grameen Vikas Vriksharopan Samiti
195.	Dronachal Gramodyog Avam Paryavaran Sansthan
196.	Dayal Vriksharopan Samiti
197.	Nehru Seva Ashram
198.	Kisan Variksharopan Samity
199.	Gramodaya Seva Ashram
200.	Groupious Social Welfare Society
201.	Krishak Evam Samaj Sevi Sanstha
202.	Akhil Bharatiya Vidya Parishad
203.	Jan Manas Vikas Sansthan
204.	Himalayan Ecology and Treatement of Nature
205.	Bake Bihari Sanskrit Sansthan
206.	Randholo Vriksharopan Samiti
207.	Harit Kranti Seva Sanstha
208.	Centre for Improvement of Rural Environment

1	2
209.	Central Himalayan Rural Action Group
210.	Swami Vovakara! Prakritik Avam Samajik Kalyan Sansthan
211.	Banda Gramoyog Uthan Samiti
212.	Sanyukat Gramin Seva Samiti
213.	Pan Himalayan Grassroot Dev. Foundation
214.	Gramodaya Seva Ashram
WEST BENGAL	
215.	Research & Extension Association (RECHA)
216.	Sherpa Deshbandhu Club
217.	Council for Environment and Awareness Development
218.	Dhoraninagar Rural Development Society
219.	Village Welfare Society
220.	Liberal Association for Movement of People
221.	Srikrishna Club
222.	Amoragori Juba Sangha
223.	Balitikuri Bikas Bhawan
224.	AGARAGATI
225.	Dharni Rai Memorial Self-Employment Training School
226.	Hansola Hara Parbati Club
227.	Loka Seva Parishad
228.	Vivekananda Adibasi Kalyan Samiti
229.	Malipubar Samaj Unnayan Samiti
230.	Amar Seva Sangha
231.	Kanchenjanga Tree Plantation Co-operative Soc. Ltd.
232.	Purulia Shabui Sangha
233.	Vivekanand Rural Development Organisation
234.	Karokhali Jana Sevashram.

*[English]***Industrial Status to Agriculture**

2106. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :  
SHRI K.P SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to give industrial status to agriculture ;

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

(c) if not, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) The draft Agriculture Policy Resolution prepared by the Government discussed in the Meeting of the State Agriculture Ministers held on 19th February, 1997 stipulates that "A positive trade and investment climate for agriculture will be created on par with industry. The objective of the policy will be to bestow on the agricultural sector, in as many respects as possible, benefits similar to those obtaining in industry such as easy availability of inputs and infrastructural facilities for the development of agri-business activities and development of effective delivery systems for the purpose."

*[Translation]***National Human Rights Commission**

2107. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Human Rights Commission of India and Pakistan have agreed to work together for expeditious release of the citizens of both the countries imprisoned in each other's Jails:

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the details of the discussions held in this regard : and

(d) the number of persons imprisoned in each other's jails for whose release steps have been taken by these Commission so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan called on the Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission on April 26, 1997. During the discussions the issue of release of Indian and Pakistani prisoners in Pakistan and India respectively also arose among other issues. Possibilities of both the Commissions playing an important role for the speedy release of prisoners in both the countries were considered.

*[English]***Agreement with French on Agricultural Sector**

2108. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the French Government has offered co-operation on marketing of Indian products in Europe and other countries;

(b) whether India and French have signed any agreement in regard to co-operation in the agriculture sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which this collaboration has improved the India's food position and export to Europe Union ; and

(d) if not, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d) An Agreement was signed between India and France on cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Agro-Food Industries on 6th February, 1994. The Agreement envisages development of scientific, technical and economic cooperation between the two countries in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, forestry, rural development and in the agro-food industries. Under this Agreement, both the countries will make efforts at coordinating technical and scientific cooperation as well as economic cooperation by encouraging various organisations of research and training to cooperate or undertake joint research activities. The collaboration can take the form of exchange of scientists and experts, materials and information, training and supply of materials and equipments as well as organization of seminars and workshops. The Agreement will remain in force initially for a period of five years.

In pursuance of this Agreement, both countries developed a work Schedule by mutual consultation in various sectors of agricultural activities. Under the Work Schedule, it was also agreed that there could be an exchange of trade missions between the two countries in order to increase awareness amongst French importers of Indian tropical and off-season fruits and vegetable exports. It was also agreed to take steps to bring quality control and testing standards at par with the European Economic Community's specifications. A Trade Mission was sponsored by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in April, 1995 to promote export of Indian fruits like mangoes, grapes, pomegranates and litchies. APEDA has informed that although there is a good demand of fruits like litchies in affluent markets like European union, India is as present unable to take the benefit of market demand due to its handicaps in production as well as post-harvest management technology. Detailed proposals are now being formulated by APEDA for seeking French technological consultancy on pre and post-harvest management infrastructure as well as quality assurance programme. As these proposals are still at a preliminary stage, the impact of such a proposed collaboration cannot be assessed at this stage.

**Maharashtra-Karnataka Border**

2109. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have made any efforts during the past few months to resolve the Maharashtra-Karnataka border disputes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision on the Mahajan Commission report on border dispute has been taken; and

(d) if so, the details, thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) In November, 1996, on the suggestion of the Home Minister, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra had written to the Chief Minister of Karnataka showing his willingness for mutual discussions on this long pending border dispute.

(c) and (d) As there are differences between the State Governments of Karnataka & Maharashtra over the recommendations of the Mahajan Commission, the Government of India has been of the view that the dispute should be resolved primarily by the two state Governments concerned through discussions and mutual accommodation and it will be glad to render necessary assistance to the State Governments in this regard.

**Naga Problem**

2110. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the main demands of NSCN in Nagaland indicating the main problem in solving this issue;

(b) the number of persons lost their lives during the last three years due to this problem ; and

(c) the concrete steps proposed to be taken by the Government in the near future to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The main demand of NSCN has been for creation of an independent Nagaland out of the Naga inhabited areas in India and Myanmar. The territorial integrity of India is non-negotiable.

(b) The number of persons who lost their lives due to violence generated by the NSCN during 1995, 1996 and 1997 (up to 25.6.97) was 105, 192 and 119 respectively.

(c) The Prime Minister, in a statement in both houses of Parliament on 25 July, 1997 has informed, *inter alia*, that after his visit to Nagaland and other North Eastern States, the Government's willingness to hold unconditional talks with the underground elements had been reiterated and that after talks with the Issak-Muivah group of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, it has now been agreed to cease fire for 3 months with effect from 1 August, 1997 and embark upon political level discussions. Efforts continue to involve other insurgent groups in the peace process.

[Translation]

**River Pollution**

2111. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial assistance has been sought from external agencies for the schemes of cleaning the rivers;

(b) if so, the details of those schemes for which the external assistance is likely to be received and the names of the countries extending financial assistance for various schemes in India ; and

(c) the time by which this financial assistance is likely to be received and the time by which the major rivers are likely to be received and the time by which the major rivers are likely to be made pollution free?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) *Ganga Action Plan Phase-II at Kanpur under Indo-Dutch Environmental Sanitation Programme :*

Recently Royal Netherlands Embassy informed that they have sent the revised draft Side Letter approved by Netherlands Governments to Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. After approval by our Government, the agreement will be signed and the funds will be flowing in 1998-99 . The total assistance expected under this Project from Netherlands is about 51.2 million Dutch Guilders, apart from the technical assistance that shall be provided by them under the Programme.

*Gomati River Action Plan Phase-II (In the city of Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh)*

Overseas Development Administration of U.K. Government, has appointed consultants who have prepared the draft Master plan : which is now being discussed and will be considered by the U.K. Government for financial assistance in course of time. The amount of assistance under this programme is not yet finalised, since the draft master Plan is in the discussion stage. The time frame for availability of the financial assistance for this scheme is expected to be sometime in 1998-99.



**Yamuna Action Plan**

Under Yamuna Action Plan Government of India shall be receiving financial assistance from Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) to the tune of Japanese yen 17.773 billion for the period December, 92-December, 99.

[English]

**Pollution Cases**

2112. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that more than 1500 pollution-related cases have been gathering dust in various courts in Gujarat for the last 15 years or so;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such cases in other States which are pending for more than 10 years ; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken for early disposal of those cases?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Kaziranga and Manas National Parks**

2113. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the long term management plan of the Kaziranga and Manas National Parks in Assam;

(b) the financial support required for this purpose ; and

(c) the assistance given by the World Wide Fund for Nature for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Kaziranga and Manas National Parks in Assam do not have long term management plans. Their management is being guided by annual action plans and the financial support required is also being assessed on annual basis.

(c) The World Wide Fund for Nature has so far committed Rs. 4.30 lakhs for Kaziranga and Rs. 2.10 lakhs for Manas National Parks.

[Translation]

**Funds For Plantation**

2114. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) The quantum of funds allocated for the plantation programme during 1996-97, State-wise;

(b) whether all the States have spent these funds;

(c) if so, whether the Government have received any complaints of irregularities in spending these funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**Normative Cost of Sugar Mills**

2115. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal from the Government of Maharashtra requesting them to accept the revised normative cost of the 27 sugar mills sanctioned in the Seventh Plan;

(b) whether the Government have taken any decision in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (d) The Government have not prescribed any normative cost of sugar factories though the financial institutions while assessing the projects have been going by a certain standard taking into account the financing pattern and the prospect of return on capital. The financial institutions are generally concerned with the debt-equity ratio and the financial viability of the project. Since the State Governments contribute a large part of equity of the cooperatives and also have to guarantee the loans, the question of availability of total finance for a particular unit has to be resolved between them, the cooperative and the financial institutions.

**Inclusion of Districts in Maharashtra**

2116. DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently Maharashtra Government has sent any proposal for including the Belgaon and Kaarwar Districts into Maharashtra State ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

### Rehabilitation of Militants

2117. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to recruit surrendered Punjab militants in police and paramilitary forces; and

(b) if so, the policy of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

### Food Subsidy Bill

2118. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India purchases foodgrains for the Central Pool at the Government fixed price;

(b) whether FCI issues grains to public and various agencies at subsidised rates ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) whether the Food Subsidy Bill is in the increase during the last couple of years ; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Central issue prices of wheat and rice for distribution through the targetted Public Distribution System w.e.f. 1.6.97 are as under :

	Rs. per kg.			Wheat
	Rice		Superfine	
	Common	Fine		
B.P.L.	3.50	3.50	-	2.50
A.P.L.	-	6.50	7.50	4.50

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Subsidy on foodgrains represents (i) the difference between the Economic Cost of foodgrains

and their issue prices, and (ii) carrying cost of foodgrains. While economic cost of foodgrains has increased mainly because of increase in the pooled cost of grains as a result of increases in MSP/naked cost of grains, the issue prices have not increased correspondingly. There have also been increases in the carrying cost because of increase in interest charges and increase in freight rates etc. Following important steps have been taken/are being taken by the FCI to reduce/contain the economic cost and carrying cost:

- (i) Making continuous efforts to achieve the average capacity utilisation of 75% even though the procurement of grains is seasonal.
- (ii) Adhering to the procurement and movement ratio norm of 1:1.35 as fixed by Government to reduce the expenditure on freight.
- (iii) Non-filing up of entry level posts to reduce the administrative cost and increase productivity:
- (iv) Making continuous efforts to reduce shortages in handling of foodgrains ;
- (v) Release of stocks in open Market at prices above the Central Issue Price for PDS.

[Translation]

### Central Assistance for Agriculture in Haryana

2119. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have provided assistance to Haryana for the development of Horticulture and Floriculture since 1990 ;

(b) if so, the details of the financial assistance provided by the Government during each of the last three years ;

(c) whether the State Government has utilised this financial assistance for which it was provided;

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

(e) whether his Ministry has conducted any monitoring to ensure proper utilisation of Central assistance ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Assistance to the State under the Central schemes for development of horticulture is being provided since 1990. Assistance for the Central Scheme of Floriculture is being provided since the commencement of the scheme from 1992-93.

(b) to (d) Central assistance of Rs. 518.38 lakhs was provided by the Government of India during the last three financial years i.e. 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 to the State Government of Haryana under the Central schemes for development of horticulture in Haryana, against which the state government has reported utilisation of Rs. 604.66 lakhs during the same period, including the utilisation of unspent funds from previous years, under the Central schemes. The year-wise details are as indicated below:

(Rs. in lakhs)		
Financial Year	Funds released by Centre	Funds utilised by State
1994-95	214.72	173.63
1995-96	177.60	173.50
1996-97	126.06	257.53
Total	518.38	604.66

(e) and (f) The utilisation of the assistance under the schemes is being monitored by the Government of India through progress reports to be furnished by the State governments, Area officers meetings, field visits by senior officers of the Government and periodic review meetings.

#### **Drip Irrigation Sets Scheme**

2120. DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of arrear of subsidy is pending with the Government;

(b) the estimated requirement of subsidy during 1997-98;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide more additional funds for installation of Drip Irrigation Sets Scheme during the current year ;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are aware that the subsidy provided by the Government to small and marginal farmers particularly for those farmers who belong to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes is reaching to them;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The allocation for the year 1996-97 has been released to the States in total.

(b) to (d) The allocation of funds for meeting the subsidy towards drip irrigation during 1997-98 is Rs. 82.79 crores, which is higher than allocations for the previous years.

(e) to (g) The Government have directed the State Governments to ensure that a minimum of 25% of the sanctioned amount for drip installation is utilised for the benefit of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the respective States. The concerned State Governments have been further directed to work out the details of subsidy flowing to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes including small, marginal and women farmers on a rational basis after taking into account the local conditions and population of these categories of farmers.

#### **Import of Wheat from Australia**

2121. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to import one million tonnes wheat from Australia;

(b) whether steps have been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to review their decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government has authorised import upto 2 Million tonnes of wheat during 1997-98. The State Trading Corporation of India has already contracted for importing 1 Million tonnes of wheat from Australia in the first instance.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Use of Diesel Pump Set for Underground Water**

2122. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Members of Parliament for providing subsidy on diesel pump sets used in agriculture in Rajasthan;

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

(c) the time by which subsidy on diesel pump set is likely to be provided for irrigation purpose indicating the proposed subsidy to be given ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It was replied vide D.O.No. 18-6/97-CU.V dt. 18.6.97. It was replied that at present there is no provision for such subsidy in the schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture.

(English]

### Non-Forest Activities in N.E. Region

2123. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have suspended processing of applications under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in the matter of non-forest activities on forest land in N.E. Region;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have set any target under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act for the compensatory afforestation for the State of Nagaland since inception of the Act.

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) whether any regulation in force affecting private plantations *vis-a-vis* its exploitation by individuals in the light of recent Supreme Court's directions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for discriminatory treatment with reference to similar plantation outside N.E. Region ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) This Ministry has not framed any regulation for private plantations *vis-a-vis* its exploitation by individuals in the light of the recent directions of the Supreme Court.

(f) Does not arise.

### L.C. Jain Committee

2124. SHRI JAGMOHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the main recommendations made for development of Assam by the L.C. Jain Committee;

(b) the number of recommendations accepted and implemented by the Government ; and

(c) the reasons for non-acceptance/non-implementation of the recommendations therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The L.C. Jain Committee made 94 recommendations which primarily concerned the sectors of agriculture, irrigation, education, power, road and railway transport, industrial development, oil, telecommunication, postal services and flood control. Out of these, action on 62 recommendations were required to be taken by the State Government. 25 recommendations were to be acted upon by various departments/ministries of Govt. of India. These included, *inter alia* :

(i) Financing a major portion for flood control programme.

(ii) Setting up of a training institute by NE Railway.

(iii) Programme of management studies to be included in the III to be set up under the Assam Accord.

(iv) Establishment of a Central University at Tezpur.

(v) Setting up of a Gas Cracker based Petro-chemical Complex.

(vi) Setting up of a new company for execution of the oil refinery project.

(vii) A 15 years perspective plan keeping in view all the potential volume of traffic through inland water system.

The Planning Commission addressed the Ministries and the State Govt. to examine the recommendations relating to them and to indicate the extent to which these can be implemented from within the available resources. It was indicated to them that the Ministries/State Govt. could consider incorporation of feasible and viable recommendations setting priorities for implementation of the scheme over more than one plan. Many of these recommendations were accordingly accepted/implemented through 8th Plan.

One of the major recommendations of the L.C. Jain Committee Report regarding pattern of Central assistance to Assam has also been accepted by Planning Commission. Accordingly, from 1991-92 onwards Assam is provided such assistance in the ratio of 90% grant and 10% loan as against the previous pattern of 70% loan and 30% grant.

[Translation]

**Cholesterol in Refined Oils**

2125. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :  
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "In refined tel se bhi badhata hai cholesterol" published in the 'Navbharat Times', dated July 21, 1997;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government about the sale of such refined oils and duping the consumers and changing the colour of oil with the help of chemicals;

(c) whether the Government propose to register cases against such companies for cheating the consumers and for making false publicity through television and radio;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF  
FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS  
PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir.

As per literature, cholesterol contents in refined tel (vegetable oils) are nil to negligible. The process of conventional refining of oils with the help of chemicals removes a portion of sterols along with the colour. The cholesterol contents in different oils are as under :

oil	Cholesterol (Milligram per 100 gram oil)
1	2
Corn	1
Rice bran	1
Coconut	tr3
Palm	3-4
Palm kernel	1
Peanut	tr1
Soyabean	1
Sunflower	-
safflower	tr
Olive	-

1	2
Castor	-
Cottonseed	1-2
Linseed	2
Rapeseed	tr 4
Sesame	-
Cocoa butter	1-2

Tr = Trace amounts

Source : Bailey's Industrial Oil & fat Products, Vol- I.

**TADA Detenus**

2126. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :  
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested by the Government under TADA during the last three years ;

(b) the details of the persons released on recommendations of the review Committees, State-wise;

(c) whether some detenu have not been released despite the recommendations of the review Committees ; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**Production of foodgrains**

2127. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated or propose to formulate any plan to upgrade technology indigenously or in collaboration with the advanced countries for enhancing production and productivity of foodgrains and cash crops during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Government have proposed to upgrade technologies both indigenously be conducting research in

Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institute spread all over the country as well as in collaboration with advanced countries/international research organisations.

Indigenously constant efforts are being made to evolve high yielding varieties of foodgrains and cash crops which are resistant to biotic and abiotic stresses by using biotechnological techniques. Evolved large number of highyielding varieties of foodgrains including wheat, hybrids of rice, maize and sorghum. Evolved high yielding hybrids and varieties of cash crops like cotton, sugarcane, tobacco and jute.

In collaboration with advanced foreign countries the following projects are undertaken :

"Overcoming production constraints to sorghum in rainfed environment in India" has been taken up by NR-C Sorghum with Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research.

"Development & use of hybrid rice technology" has been taken up by Dte. of Rice Research with UNDP.

"Improvement of rainfed rice" has been taken up by CRRI with International Rice Research Institute, Philippines.

"Maize & wheat improvement" have been taken up by Dte. of Maize Research and Dte. of Wheat Research respectively with International Centre for Wheat & Maize Improvement (CMMYT).

"Pasture land Improvement" has been taken up by IGFRI, Jhansi with United Kingdom.

(c) The question does not arise.

#### **Prawn Farming**

2128. SHRI SARADA TADIPARTHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention to the Government has been drawn to news item captioned "Stress on eco-Friendly Aqua Culture Practices", appearing in the *News Time* dated June 6, 1997 ; and

(b) if so, the present position of prawn farming in view of the Supreme Court orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 11.12.1996 has ordered that no shrimp ponds can be constructed or set up within the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) as defined in the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 and that the shrimp culture ponds already set up in the Coastal Regulation Zone shall be demolished and removed

before 31.3.1997. However, the Supreme Court's direction do not apply to the traditional and improved traditional types of technologies practised by the farming community in the coastal low lying areas. The Supreme Court also ordered that the Government shall constitute an authority under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and shall confer on the said authority all the powers necessary to protect the ecologically fragile coastal areas, seashore, waterfront and other coastal areas, and specially to deal with the situation created by the shrimp culture industries in the coastal States/UTs. The Supreme Court has further directed that shrimp culture ponds outside Coastal Regulation Zone area may be set up with the prior approval of such an Authority.

A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking a review of their judgement. The Matter is *sub-judice*.

Rajya Sabha has passed the Aquaculture Authority Bill, 1997 on the 20th March, 1997. The Bill seeks to, *inter alia*, regulate the activities connected with aquaculture in the coastal areas. When the Bill was to be taken up in the Lok Sabha, the fact that the Supreme Court has stayed operation of its judgement became known and, therefore, the bill was not moved in the Lok Sabha. Subsequently, the Court has extended the stay on the operation of its judgement till the 20th August, 1997.

#### **Cattle Breeding Schemes in Rajasthan**

2129. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether main livelihood of the drought prone Western Rajasthan people is cattle breeding;

(b) if so, the steps the Government are taking to safeguard the interests of farmers of these districts especially Barmer, Jaisalmer and Bikaner; and

(c) the details of the scheme formulated to enhance and promote cattle breeding in these desert and underdeveloped districts of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steps taken consist of establishment of cattle breeding farms for supply of high quality of germ plasm and extension activities for supply of breeding inputs to the farmers.

(c) Government of Rajasthan is implementing the following schemes in the district of Barmer, Jaisalmer and Bikaner :

(i) Key village scheme (ii) ICDP (iii) Gopal Yojana and (iv) cattle breeding farms for Rath and Tharparkar breeds. Besides these there are veterinary hospitals and dispensaries to provide health coverage and guidance to the farmers.

Government of Rajasthan is also implementing a World Bank assisted project on agriculture development (ADP) under which an amount of Rs. 631.95 lakh was released from 1992-93 to 1994-95.

A Central Cattle Breeding Farm is also functioning at Suratgarh which maintains Tharparkar breed of cattle which is most suitable to the desert districts.

### **Food Processing Industries**

2130. SHRI VIJAY PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage the food processing industries dealing with perishable items and export the same ;

(a) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) to (c) Most of the raw materials used by food processing industries are perishable in nature. Various steps taken by the Government for development of food processing industries deal with processing and preservation of such raw materials, resulting in enhancement of level of domestic consumption as well as export.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries is also Operating various plan Schemes for promoting food processing industries.

### **Pollution by Oil and Grease**

2131. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that there has been accumulation of tar ball (oil) on the beaches from Thannirbhavi to Padubidri in Dakshina Kannada District in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons for mixing of oil and grease materials in water;

(c) whether oil and grease material in water would lead to the depletion of oxygen resulting in the death of aquatic life; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Accumulation of Tar ball on the beaches from Tannirbhavi to Padubidri in Dakshina Kannada district in Karnataka has been reported.

Tar balls are formed due to churning action of wind, water and current during monsoons and washed into the shore. They mainly result from routine tank washing and deballasting. The occurrence of tar balls on the beaches along the west coast of India is a seasonal phenomena. They occur with the onset of monsoons.

(c) and (d) The tar balls do not deplete dissolved oxygen in sea water. There is no significant impact on marine life.

### **Ecologically Critical Areas**

2132. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the areas identified as ecologically critical by National Afforestation and Eco-development Board during the last three years in the country;

(b) whether any study has been made on its impact; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken exclusively for eco-recognition in those areas ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) Guidelines for the afforestation schemes of the National Afforestation & Eco-Development Board (NAEB) indicate the nature of the areas which should be addressed on priority by projects under these schemes. A major emphasis in the schemes is on afforestation of ecologically fragile areas such as Western Himalayas; Aravallies, Western Ghats; etc. Individual project proposals are prepared by the respective State Governments on the basis of their estimation of the local situation. The NAEB does not itself identify specific sites as ecologically critical.

### **Welfare Schemes for Delhi**

2133. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the welfare schemes being implemented by the Ministry in the National Capital Territory of Delhi; and

(b) the funds allocated for the purpose, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE ( SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) The details of the schemes of the Ministry of Welfare under implementation in various States/UTs, including the National Capital Territory of Delhi alongwith the funds allocated for each scheme for the year 1997-98 are given in the attached Statement. No allocation of funds is made separately for individual State/ U.T. The schemes for Tribal Welfare have not been included, as the National Capital Territory of Delhi is not a Tribal State.

**Statement**

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Budget Allocation for 1997-98 (Rupees in Crores)
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1	2	3
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**WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES**

1.	Aid to "Voluntary Organisations for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes.	20.00
2.	Special Central Assistance to Special Component plan	326.60
3.	Post Matric Scholarship	65.00
4.	PCR and Atrocities	15.50
5.	Girls Hostels	8.00
6.	National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC).	96.00
7.	Scheduled Caste Development Corporation (SCDC).	45.00
8.	National Safai Karmacharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC).	10.00
9.	Book Banks	3.60
10.	Boys' Hostels	11.00
11.	Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers	120.00
12.	Pre-Matric Scholarship	2.00
13.	Interest Subsidy to NSFDC	--
14.	Coaching and Allied	3.00
15.	Supporting Project of All India nature of SCs	0.50
16.	Special Educational Development Programme	3.80
17.	Upgradation of merit of SC/ST students	1.00
18.	Ambedkar Foundation	40.00

**WELFARE OF THE HANDICAPPED**

1.	Scheme of assistance to disabled persons for purchase/fitting of aids and appliances	15.00
2.	Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Rehabilitation of leprosy cured persons	1.50
3.	Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the Disabled.	23.70
4.	Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Establishment and Development of Special Schools.	2.50

1	2	3
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5.	Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Persons with Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation.	1.00
6.	Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Employment of the Handicapped	0.20

**SOCIAL DEFENCE SERVICES**

1.	Welfare of the Aged	12.50
2.	Welfare of the Street Children	6.00
3.	Beggary Prevention	0.55
4.	Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social mal adjustment	2.000
5.	Organisation Assistance to Voluntary Social Welfare Organisation	0.12
6.	Scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention	17.50
7.	Assistance to Homes (Shishu Greh)	1.00

**WELFARE OF MINORITIES**

1.	Pre Examination Coaching Scheme for Weaker Sections based on economic criteria.	2.50
2.	National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation.	41.00

**WELFARE OF BACKWARD CLASSES**

1.	National Backward Class Finance and Development Corporation	47.00
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[Translation]

**Awards to Agriculture Scientists**

2134. SHRI JAI SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture awards have been announced so as to encourage the young scientists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of scientists proposed to be given awards and the amount to be given under these awards, award-wise ;

(d) the names of agriculture scientists who would be given awards for 1996 ;



(e) the details of awards to be given by the Indian Council for Agricultural Research in addition to these awards; and

(f) the criteria prescribed for the selection to confer these awards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A total of 54 ICAR Awards were given away on 16th July, 1997 under the following 8 different categories :

- (i) Best Institution Awards, 1996
- (ii) Vasant Rao Naik Award for research application in Agriculture, 1996
- (iii) Jawaharlal Nehru Awards for Outstanding Post-graduate Agricultural research, 1996
- (iv) Outstanding Woman Agricultural Scientist Award, 1996
- (v) Hari Om Ashram Trust Award, 1995-96
- (vi) ICAR Awards for team Research 1996
- (vii) ICAR Young Scientists Awards for Agricultural Research, 1995-96
- (viii) Dr. Rajendra Prasad Puraskar For Technical Books in Hindi in the field of Agriculture and Allied subjects 1994-96.

(c) The number of scientists and the prize money are as under :

- (i) Best Institution Awards, 1996  
Prize amount : Rs. 1 lakh each  
  
No. of Institutions : 3
- (ii) Vasant Rao Naik Award for Research Application in Agriculture, 1996  
  
Prize amount : Rs. 1 lakh  
  
No. of Scientists : 1
- (iii) Jawahar Lal Nehru Award for Outstanding Post Graduate-Agriculture Research, 96  
Prize amount : Rs. 10,000/- each  
No. of Scientists : 19

(iv) Outstanding Women Agricultural Scientist Award, 1996.  
Prize Amount : Rs. 25,000/- each  
No. of Scientists : 2

(v) Hari Om Ashram Trust Awards, 95  
Prize amount : Rs. 20,000/- each  
No. of Scientists : 5 (7 associates)

(vi) ICAR Awards for Team Research, 1994-96  
Prize amount : Rs. 50,000/- each  
No. of Scientists : 8 (60 associates)

(vii) ICAR Young Scientists Awards for Agricultural Research, 1996-97  
Prize amount : Rs 10,000/- each.  
No. of Scientists : 7

(viii) Dr. Rajendra Prasad Puraskar for Technical Books in Hindi in the field of agriculture and allied subjects, 1994-96  
Prize amount : Rs. 20,000/- each  
No. of awardees : 9 (7 associates)

Total No. of awardees : 128 including 74 associates).

(d) List is given the attached Statement.

(e) The details of awards to be given by the Indian Council for Agricultural Research in addition to these awards are as under :

- (i) Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Memorial Award for Agricultural Research- Once in three years  
No. of awards-9  
Prize money : Rs. 1 lakh  
No. of categories : 7
- (ii) Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Awards for Outstanding Agricultural Research in Tribal Areas--once in two years  
No. of awards : 2  
Prize money : Rs. 50,000/-  
No. of Categories -2
- (iii) Best KVK (Krishi Vigyan Kendra) Awards--once in two years.  
No. of awards :2  
Prize Money : Rs. 50,000/-
- (iv) Outstanding Extension Scientists Worker Awards- Once in three years  
No. of awards : 4  
Prize Money : Rs. 10,000/-
- (v) ICAR Awards for Outstanding teachers--once in two years.  
No. of awards : 8  
Prize money : Rs. 20,000/-  
No. of Categories : 7

(f) The criteria prescribed for the selection to confer these awards are different for different awards. For example, the criteria for the Best Institution Award is as follows :

- (i) All the Institutions under the ICAR system including State Agricultural Universities are eligible.
- (ii) Outstanding contribution of applied and basic Significance anyone or more disciplines as evidenced by research output, patents obtained and technologies developed and extent of their adoption.
- (iii) Economic Impact in terms of production growth, import substitution, export promotion and industrialisation.
- (iv) Achievements towards food and nutrition security.
- (v) Achievements towards ecological security leading to natural resources protection.
- (vi) Accomplishments in human resource development.
- (vii) Innovations introduced in research training and Education as well as development of Inter Institutional linkages.
- (viii) Generation of additional funds from sources outside the ICAR/SAU system.
- (ix) Knowledge generated and disseminated.

#### **Statement**

##### *List of Awardees*

#### 1. BEST INSTITUTION AWARD, 1996

	No. of Awards	Awardee
a. State Agricultural University	1	CCS HAU, Hisar
b. National Institute & NRC/ Project Directorate	2	(i) CIFA, Bhubaneswar (ii) Dte. of Rice Research Hyderabad

#### 2. VASANTRAO NAIK AWARD FOR RESEARCH APPLICATIONS IN AGRICULTURE, 1996.

Dr. S. D. Ugale

#### 3. JAWAHARLAL NEHRU AWARD, 1996

Subject Groups	No. of Awards	Final recommendation
1. Crop Sciences	2	(i) Dr. A.K. Sarial
Crops Improvement		IARI, New Delhi. (ii) Dr. A.K. Chhabra CCS HAU, Hisar & Dr. (Mrs.) S.K. Sharma CPRS, Jalandhar, Joint Award
2. Crop Protection Microbiology	2	(i) Dr. P.B. Mohite TNAU, Coimbatore (ii) Dr. (Mrs.) H.K. Jyothi KSSRDI, Bangalore & Dr. M. Kochu Babu CPCRI, Kasaragod
3. Soil Science and Natural Resource Management & Agronomy	2	(i) Dr. S.B. Gupta IGAU, Raipur. (ii) Dr. D. Burman IGFRI, Jhansi
4. Horticulture	2	(i) Dr. (Mrs.) P.A. Valsala KAU, Vellanikkara (ii) Dr. T.N. Balamohan KVK, Tiruchirapalli
5. Engineering and Tech (Dairy Food and Post Harvest Tech. etc)	2	(i) Dr. C.D. Durairaj TNAU, Coimbatore (ii) Dr. D.K. Das OUAT, Bhubaneswar
6. Animal Production and Veterinary Sciences	3	(i) Dr. Parimal Roy TNV & ASU, Madras (ii) Dr. J. Sahoo CCS HAU, Hisar (iii) Dr. N.H. Kelawala Gau, Anand
7. Fisheries	1	(i) Dr. C.M.K. Nair KAU, Kochi
8. Social Sciences Including Home Science	2	(i) Dr. D.V. Subba Rao Delhi Univ, Delhi. (ii) Dr. S. Somasundaram TNAU, Triuchirapalli & Dr. (Mrs) K. Aruna APAU, Hyderabad Joint Award

#### 4. OUTSTANDING WOMEN AGRIL. SCIENTIST AWARD, 1996

S. No.	Candidate(s)	
1.	Dr. Prem Dureja, IARI, Pusa	Joint Award
2.	Dr. Swarn Lata Arya, CSWCR & TI, Chandigarh	

#### 5. HARI OM ASHRAM TRUST AWARDS, 1995-96 AWARD WINNERS

	No. of Awards	Awardees
1. Crop Science	1	(i) Dr. S. Kannaiyan
2. Horticulture	1	(ii) Dr. V.S. Korikanthimath Dr. M.N. Venugopal Dr. Rajendra Hegde Dr. Ravindra Mulge
3. Resource Management	1	(iii) Dr. D. Rama Rao Sh. U. Muralidhar
4. Animal Science	1	(iv) Dr. Amresh Kumar & (v) Dr. S.K. Dwivedi Joint Award Dr. M.C. Sharma Dr. D. Swarup Dr. S. R. Sharma

#### 6. ICAR TEAM AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING MULTI-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED SCIENCES FOR 1994-96

##### *Crop Improvement*

##### 1. Dr. H.S. Gupta – Team Leader

Mr. A.C. Sharma	Dr. V. Mahajan
Mrs. S. Sardana	Sh. A. Pattanayak
Dr. B.K. Sarma	Ms. B. Bhattacharjee
Dr. D.K. Pandey	

##### *Crop improvement*

##### 2. Dr. Mohammad Yunus--Team Leader

Dr. R.B. Srivastava	Sh. R.S. Lamba
Dr. B. Yadav	Dr. S. Acharya
Dr. A. S. Redhu	Dr. M.L. Saini
Dr. S.R. Verma	Dr. P.K. Verma
Dr. S.K. Sethi	Sh. Y.P. Solanki
Dr. R.P. Singh	Dr. M.S. Beniwal
Dr. I.S. Pawar	Dr. S.S. Karwasra

Dr. S.C. Sharma

Dr. I. Singh

Dr. R.K. Rana

Dr. S.S. Dhanda

Dr. V.P. Singh

Dr. S.S. Grakh

Dr. B. Ram

Sh. A. Gupta

Dr. (Mrs) Shashi Madan

Dr. B.D. Sharma

Dr. R.K. Nanwal

Dr. D. Singh

##### *Natural Resource Management*

##### 3. Dr. J.S. Samra--Team Leader

Sh. S.P. Mittal

Dr. Y. Agnihotri

Sh. R.C. Bansal

Dr. (Mrs) Swarn Lata Arya

##### *Engineering & Technology*

##### 4. Dr. Mathew George--Team Leader

Dr. (Mrs) G. Padmaja

Dr. S.N. Moorthy

Dr. S.K. Nanda

Dr. P. Rajamma

##### *Horticulture Sciences*

##### 5. Dr. P.N. Ravindran--Team Leader

Mr. K. Nirmal Babu

Dr. (Mrs) J. Rema

Dr. B. Sasikumar

Mr. K. Samsudeen

Miss Minoo Divakaran

Ms. Geetha S. Pillai

Miss Sajina A.

Ms. Mini P. Mathai

Mr. John C. Zachariah

Mrs. Manjula C.

##### *Fisheries*

##### 6. Dr. Niranjan Sarangi--Team Leader

Shri S.D. Roy

Shri R. Soundararajan

Shri. K. Dorairaj

Dr. S. Michael Raj

##### *Animal Production*

##### 7. Dr. S.M. Totey--Team Leader

Dr. K.B.C. Appa Rao

Dr. M. Taneja

##### *Animal Nutrition*

##### 8. Prof. K. Pradhan--Team Leader

Dr. S.K. Bhatia

Dr. (Mrs) Sadhana Singh

Dr. S. Singh

## 7. ICAR YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD, 1995-96

S. No.	Group	No. of Awards	Name of awardees
1.	Crop Science (Crop improvement & protection)	2	(i) Dr. H.K. Chaudhary HPKV, Palampur (ii) Dr. S. Mohan Kumar TNAU, Coimbatore.
2.	Soil Science, Agronomy and Agroforestry	2	(i) Dr. Rajendra Hegde IISR, Madikori (ii) Nil
3.	Horticultural Science	1	(i) Dr. Debabrata Sarkar CPRI, Simla
4.	Engineering	1	(i) Dr. Rajendra Singh IIT, Kharagpur
5.	Animal Science	2	(i) Dr. Naba K. Praharaj Project Dte. on Poultry, Rajendranagar (ii) Nil
6.	Fisheries & Aquatic life science	1	Nil
7.	Social Science & Home Science	1	(i) Dr. P.S. Birthal National Centre for Agril Eco & Policy Research, Pusa

## 8. DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD PURASKAR 1994-96

S.No.	Category	No. of Awards	Candidates
1.	Crop Science	1	(i) Dr. Ram Asrae Singh & Dr. Jagdish Chandra Bhatt (ii) Hari Shankar Singh
2.	Soil & Agronomy	1	(i) Dr. Krishna Kant Vyas Dr. Sukhpal Chand Bhandari Dr. Shiv Dayal Singh
3.	Horticulture	1	(i) Nempal Singh Pramod Joshi
4.	Engineering	1	(i) Dr. R.P. Kachru Dr. Prabhat Kumar Srivastava
5.	Animal Health	1	(i) Dr. Brij Bhusan Bhatia Dr. Prem Pratap Singh Chauhan
6.	Animal Production	1	(i) Dr. V.D. Mudgal Dr. K.K. Singhal
7.	Fisheries	1	(i) Dr. (Mrs) Kiran Dubey
8.	Social Science	1	(i) Dr. Vijay Pal Singh Arora

*[English]***Closure of Mines**

2135. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any directions have been issued by the District Collector to close all such mines which fall under the forest area of district Satna in Madhya Pradesh ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the reaction of the Central Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 12.12.1996 has directed all the State Governments to ensure cessation of all non-forest activities, including mining, which had been going on in forest land without the prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. As per the information received from the State Forest Department, on the directions of the District Collector to Divisional, Forest Officer, Satna for compliance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Orders, the Forest Department has closed down 40 such mines so far.

(c) Under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, no non-forest activity can be permitted on forest land without the prior approval of the Central Government.

*[Translation]***Categories of Scheduled Castes**

2136. SHRI TILAK RAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh High Court has quashed the order of the State Government Dividing the Scheduled Castes into four categories;

(b) if so, the salient features of the order issued by the State Government and the broad features of the ruling given by the High Court in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government are contemplating to take any *suo moto* action for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes in view of the ruling of the High Court;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected from the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***National Institute of Research on Jute and Allied Fibre Technology**

2137. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :  
SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Research on Jute and Allied Fibre Technology (NIRJAFT) is the pioneering Institute for technological research in jute and allied fibre; and

(b) if so, the details of major achievements made by the Institute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Major achievements of the institute are :

1. Grading of raw jute, which has been accepted as the basis for quality evaluation of raw jute by Bureau of Indian Standards (IS:271-1975).
2. Development of grading aids such as graded jute album and jute sample boxes.
3. Upgradation of low quality baky jute by a specific fungal culture for the benefit of jute growers and jute industry at large.
4. Bacterial cultures for accelerating jute retting.
5. Chemical and microbiological degumming of ramie.
6. Development of jute ribboner machine for retting of jute in a smaller volume of water.
7. Development of small scale jute spinning plant.
8. Development of various testing and processing instruments and equipment namely, bundle strength tester, air flow fineness meter, bulk density meter, colour and lustre meter, yarn hairiness meter etc.
9. Development of different jute based/jute polypropylene blended products such as, book binding cloth, decorative fabric, union fabric, high performance jute fabric, carpets, "Caplon" blankets etc.
10. Development of technology of (a) wrap spun, (b) twin spun and (c) core spun yarn for value-added products.

11. Development of non-wovens suitable for canal lining, agricultural mulch and also for making fabric to control soil erosion.

12. Particle board and pulp and paper from jute sticks.

### **Price Rise due to Export of Rice**

2138. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of rice results price rise in the domestic market; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVAN PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) Export of non-basmati rice of common consumption may lead to rise in the price of rice in the domestic market. A proposal to place non-basmati rice in the restricted list is under the Government's consideration.

### **Misuse of Central Assistance Meant for Cyclone**

2139. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has misused cyclone funds;

(b) if so, the total amount allocated to the State Government for providing relief to the cyclone victims ;

(c) the amount out of it distributed among the victims and the amount still unspent with the State Government ;

(d) whether the Union Government have obtained the details from the State Government about the use of funds which were provided for cyclone victims;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the action taken by the Government in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No report has been received about misuse of funds released by the Government of India to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for relief measures in the wake of cyclone of October-November, 1996.

(b) to (f) Government of India had released R. 142.00 crores to the Government of Andhra Pradesh from the National Fund for Calamity Relief in the wake of cyclones of October-November, 1996, in addition to Rs. 93.14 crores released as Central share of the State Calamity Relief Fund for 1996-97. According to the reports received from the State Government, the entire funds have been utilised.

### **Forest Cover**

2140. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to a recent study, only 8% of the landmass of the capital is green;

(b) if so, the other facts brought out in the study ; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Delhi has 1.7% of the geographical area under forest cover as per State of Forest Report, 1995 published by Forest Survey of India.

(b) and (c) Out of total 26 sq.km area under forest cover, 16 sq.km. is having dense forest and 10 sq.km area comprises of open forest. There has been an increase of 4 sq.km of forest cover between 1993 and 1995 assessments of forest cover. The increase is due to plantations.

[Translation]

### **Productivity of Farms of Various Institutions under ICAR**

2141. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the institutes under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have thousands of acres of farms;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) if so, whether the productivity of these farms is satisfactory ;

(d) if so, the area of farms under the agriculture and veterinary institutes and the details of products produced in these farms during the last three years, year-wise; alongwith the amount incurred on these farms annually; and

(e) the manner in which the utilisation of such big farms could be made to mobilise more resources for these institutes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Sir, the Institutes under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have the land area ranging from 0.27 ha. to 2961 ha.

(b) the names of the Institutes and the area of their research farms are given in the attached Statement.

(c) Productivity of research farms is satisfactory.

(d) Information as desired is being collected.

(e) Revolving Fund Scheme is being given to the Institutes for multiplication of seed/ planting material/prototype for resource generation.

**Statement****Area of Research Farms and list of ICAR Institutes/NRCs/PDs**

Sl. No.	Name of the Plan Scheme	Location	Total Area in Ha.
1	2	3	4
<b>INSTITUTES</b>			
1.	Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology	Bombay	19.09
2.	Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture	Madars	65.39
3.	Central Agriculture Research Institute	Port Blair	98.63
4.	Central Arid Zone Research Institute	Jodhpur	1119.57
5.	Central Avian Research Institute	Izatnagar	15.49
6.	Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute	Barrackpore	11.64
7.	Central Institute of Research on Goat	Makhdoom	302.00
8.	Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture	Bhubaneshwar	165.52
9.	Central Institute for Post Harvest Engg. & Technology	Ludhiana	42.00
10.	Central Institute for Research on Buffalo	Hisar	667.75
11.	Central Institute of Subtropical Horticulture	Lucknow	146.00
12.	Central Institute of Fisheries Technology	Cochin	5.67
13.	Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering	Bhopal	92.00
14.	Central Institute of Cotton Research	Nagpur	176.08
15.	Central Institute of Fisheries Education	Bombay	123.00
16.	Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture	Srinagar	60.00
17.	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute	Cochin	0.27
18.	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute	Kasargod	390.54
19.	Central Potato Research Institute	Shimla	549.00
20.	Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture	Hyderabad	376.46
21.	Central Research Institute for Jute & Allied Fibres	Barrackpore	329.66
22.	Central Rice Research Institute	Cuttack	102.20
23.	Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute	Avikanagar	2961.02
24.	Central Soil & Water Con. Research & Training Instt.	Dehradun	1260.70
25.	Central Soil Salinity Research Institute	Karnal	136.82
26.	Central Tobacco Research Institute	Rajahmundry	273.80
27.	Central Tuber Crops Research Institute	Trivandrum	68.18
28.	ICAR Res. Complex for Goa	Goa	53.26
29.	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region	Shillong	22.19
30.	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	New Delhi	480.00

1	2	3	4
31.	Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute	New Delhi	7.47
32.	Indian Grassland & Fodder Research Institute	Jhansi	535.00
33.	Indian Institute of Horticultural Research	Bangalore	1014.60
34.	Indian Institute of Soil Science	Bhopal	50.00
35.	Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research	Lucknow	190.55
36.	Indian Instt. of Spices Res.	Calicut	129.78
37.	Indian Lac Research Institute	Ranchi	49.00
38.	Indian Veterinary Research Institute	Izatnagar	1830.00
39.	Indian Institute of Pulses Research	Kanpur	84.00
40.	Jute Technological Research Laboratory	Calcutta	1.65
41.	National Academy for Agricultural Research Management	Hyderabad	50.00
42.*	National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources & NIAG	Karnal	30.35
43.	National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources	Lucknow	37.39
44.	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	New Delhi	140.15
45.	National Bureau of Soil Survey & Land Use Planning	Nagpur	19.19
46.	National Dairy Research Institute	Karnal	557.74
47.	National Institute of Animal Nutrition & Physiology	Bangalore	20.22
48.	Sugarcane Breeding Institute	Coimbatore	80.19
49.	Vivekanand Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Shala	Almora	84.00
50.	Water Technology Centre for Eastern Region	Bhubaneswar	69.37
51.	NRC - Biotechnology (Part of IVRI)	Izatnagar	included in IVRI
52.	N.R.C. - Onion and Garlic	Godra (Nasik)	40.00
53.	N.R.C. - Meat & Meat Product	Izatnagar	included in IVRI
54.	N.R.C. - Oilseed Palm	Eluru	62.30
55.	NRC for Women in Agriculture	Bhubaneswar	30.00
56.	N.R.C. - Cold Water Fisheries	Bhimtal	4.40
57.	N.R.C. Equine	Hisar	768.92
58.	NRC - Biotechnology (Part of NDRI)	Karnal	included in NDRI
59.	NRC - DNA Fingerprinting	New Delhi	included in IARI
60.	NRC - Pest Management	New Delhi	4.50
61.	N.R.C. - Biotechnology (Crop Science)	New Delhi	included in NBPGR
62.	N.R.C. - Cashew	Puttur	147.00
63.	N.R.C. - Orchids	Tadong	22.50
64.	N.R.C. - Banana	Trichy	36.00
65.	N.R.C. - Weed Science	Jabalpur	60.70
66.	N.R.C. - Rapeseed & Mustard	Bharatpur	40.00



1	2	3	4
67.	N.R.C. - Camel	Bikaner	824.00
68.	N.R.C. - Yak	Dirang	71.62
69.	N.R.C. - Arid Horticulture	Bikaner	124.58
70.	N.R.C. - Soyabean	Indore	56.70
71.	N.R.C. - Grapes	Pune	44.78
72.	N.R.C. - Groundnut	Junagadh	100.00
73.	N.R.C. - Mushroom	Solan	1.00
74.	N.R.C. - Medicinal & Aromatic Plants	Anand	20.00
75.	N.R.C. - Agro-forestry	Jhansi	86.00
76.	N.R.C. - Sorghum	Hyderabad	29.54
77.	N.R.C. - Citrus	Nagpur	100.00
PROJECT DIRECTORATES			
78.	P.D. - Biological Control	Bangalore	0.86
79.	P.D. - Cropping System Research	Modipuram	50.80
80.	P.D. - Rice	Hyderabad	30.00
81.	P.D. - Maize	New Delhi	included in IARI
82.	P.D. - Oilseed	Hyderabad	58.50
83.	P.D. - Wheat Research	Karnal	38.04
84.	P.D. - Cattle	Meerut	12.14
			17960.18

\* NIAG merged with NBAGR.

#### Setting up of Rice Research Centre in Gujarat

2142. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of rice producing areas in Gujarat particularly in tribal, backward and hilly areas of the State;

(b) whether the Government have set up or propose to be set up a Rice Research Centre in the State ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The rice producing hilly tribal areas in Gujarat are located in parts of Chotaudaipur and Balashinor.

(b) The main rice research station under All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Project (ICAR) in Gujarat is located at Nawagaon in Khaira District. The State Government has agricultural research centre located at Vyra, Navasari and Derol.

(c) There is no proposal to set up any more Research Centre in the State.

[English]

#### Policy on Agriculture

2143. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any comprehensive agriculture policy from the Government of Andhra Pradesh which aims at boosting agriculture production and better marketing of farmers produce at a remunerative price ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the Government of Andhra Pradesh has achieved the food production targets ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) No Comprehensive Agriculture Policy has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) The actual production of foodgrains in Andhra Pradesh during 1995-96 is estimated at 11.58 million tonnes against a target of 13.74 million tonnes. A list of Central/ Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the agricultural development under implementation in Andhra Pradesh is given in the attached Statement.

**Statement**

S. No.	Name of Schemes
1	2
1.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme--Rice.
2.	Sustainable Development of Sugarcane based Cropping System.
3.	Intensive Cotton Development Programme.
4.	Special Jute Development Programme.
5.	National Pulses Development Project.
6.	Oilseeds Production Programme.
7.	Oil Palm Dev. Programme
8.	Maize Programme.
9.	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas.
10.	Balanced and Integrated use of Fertiliser.
11.	Development of Fertiliser use in Low Consumption & Rainfed Areas.
12.	National Project on Development and use of Bio-fertilisers.
13.	Integrated Seed Development Scheme.
14.	Streamlining of certified Seeds Production of important Identified Vegetable Crops.
15.	N.S.P.III
16.	Grants in Aid to States/UTs for Setting/Strengthening of State Bio-Control laboratories under Integrated Pest Management Centres.
17.	Grants in Aid to States/UTs for Setting/Strengthening of State Bio-Control laboratories under Implementation of Insecticides Act.
18.	Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among small Farmers.
19.	Exchange of Farmers within the Country.
20.	Farmers Scientists Interaction.
21.	State Land Use Board.
22.	Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects.
23.	Development of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants.
24.	Use of Plastics in Agriculture.
25.	Development of Commercial Floriculture.
26.	Development of Mushroom.
27.	Integrated Development of Tropical, Arid Temperate Zone Fruits.
28.	Integrated Development Programme of Cashewnut.
29.	Development of Root & Tuber Crops.
30.	Development of Betelvine.
31.	Development of Vegetables.
32.	Integrated Development of Cocoa.
33.	Integrated Development of Spices.
34.	Fresh Water Fish Farms.

1	2
35.	Brackish Water Fish Farm.
36.	Development Agencies.
37.	Welfare of Fishermen.
38.	Fishing Harbour Facilities at Minor Ports
39.	Trg. & Extension (Fisheries)
40.	Coastal Marine Fisheries.
41.	Marine Fishing Regulation Act.
42.	Inland Fisheries Statistics
43.	Central Project Unit
44.	Inland Fish Marketing
45.	Investment in Debentures of LDBs.
46.	Non Overdue Cover Scheme.
47.	Special Scheme for SC/STs
48.	Failed Well Compensation Fund Scheme
49.	Assistance to Women's Cooperatives.
50.	Assistance to Weaker Section Cooperatives.
51.	Timely Reporting Scheme.
52.	Improvement of Crop Statistics.
53.	Establishment of Agency for Crop estimation survey on fruits, vegetables and minor crops/dignostic study.
54.	Livestock Census.
55.	Agricultural Census.

#### **Direct Payment System**

2144. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has implemented direct payment system for its workers in all its godowns in Kerala;

(b) if so, the reasons for not implementing the same at Mavelikkara, Chalakkudy and West Hill in the State; and

(c) the time by which the direct payment system is likely to be introduced in all the godowns in the Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is not possible to give any time frame. Change of mode of engagement of labour from contract labour system, which is permissible under the law, depends on a number of

factors, like issuance of notification by the appropriate Govt., i.e. the Ministry of Labour, prohibiting employment of contract labour in the godowns/depots of FCI under the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970. That Ministry has not yet notified all the godowns for this purpose.

[Translation]

#### **Situation in North-East**

2145. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the then Prime Minister and other Ministers/Officers had met the representatives of some terrorist organisations of North-Eastern States in the recent past outside the country and held talks with them;

(b) if so, the names of such terrorist organisations with whom discussions were held;

(c) the date on which such discussions were held and the location thereof; and

(d) the outcome of such discussions held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Discussions have been held with the Issak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland.

(c) It is not in public interest to disclose such details at this stage.

(d) The Prime Minister in a statement to both the Houses of Parliament on 25 July, 1997 informed, *inter alia*, that after talks with the Issak-Muivah Group of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, it has now been agreed to cease fire for 3 months with effect from 1 August, 1997 and embark upon Political level discussions.

[English]

### Wild Life Sanctuaries

2146. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wild life sanctuaries in the country having religious places inside them;

(b) whether due to rush of pilgrims and vehicles disturb the wild life of these sanctuaries; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the State Governments/UTs and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### Labours in KRIBHCO

2147. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oriya labourers working in KRIBHCO at Surat have been removed from the services ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the High Court of Gujarat have given any direction about the continuation of services of such labourers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some of the units of KRIBHCO including Surat are locked out;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government have taken or propose to be taken some steps to regularise the services of labourers belonging to Oriya; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The High Court of Gujarat in February, 1994 ordered that contract labourers employed by the previous contractor would be continued even if the Urea bagging contract is awarded to another contractor. These instructions have been implemented.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

(g) and (h) There is no proposal to regularise them as they are employees of contractor.

### Ammonia and Urea Plants in Andhra Pradesh

2148. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether DCL Polyesters Ltd., has drawn up plants to diversify into fertilizer industry by setting up Ammonia and Urea Plants in Andhra Pradesh with an estimated cost of Rs. 1600 crores;

(b) if so, the annual installed capacity per day of this project;

(c) whether any location has been found for setting up this project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) DCL Polyesters Ltd., Hyderabad has formulated a project to set up a naphtha based ammonia-urea plant at Peddapuram, in East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 1600 crores for the manufacture of 2200 tonnes per day of urea.

### Compensation to Farmers by IFFCO

2149. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of farmers have become jobless with the turning of their fertile fields into non-productive due to spreading of untreated chemical waste into them;

(b) whether the IFFCO Plant, Phulpur has not taken any steps to rehabilitate such farmers by enrolling them as farmers besides making suitable cash compensation to them;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide jobs to the farmers by enrolling them as contractors?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) From the information made available, no fertile lands around IFFCO Phulpur plant have become non-productive due to spreading of untreated chemical waste. Since 1994, no releases of effluent have been made by IFFCO. Phulpur plant as it is almost entirely being treated and recycled for internal use.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Role of Armed Forces**

2150. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to define the role of the armed forces and other agencies fighting against terrorism in the country especially in North-Eastern States and Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether the former Director-General of Punjab Police has made demand to this effect and has written a letter to the Prime Minister in this regard ; and

(c) if so, the time by which the Government is likely to take a decision on this issue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The role of the Armed Forces and other agencies fighting against terrorism in the country especially in North-Eastern States and Jammu and Kashmir has already been defined as that of carrying-out counter-insurgency operations and providing security to the people and vital installations in close coordination with the State Governments.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. No time-frame can be prescribed for final decisions on the various suggestions put-forward.

[English]

#### **Nexus between Bank Scam and LTTE**

2151. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Intelligence Bureau has discovered links between Indian Bank scam and diversion of money to LTTE of Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government have taken a note of intelligence report and moved accordingly;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Intelligence Bureau has no information about diversion of money of LTTE of Sri Lanka in the Indian Bank Scam. As such, no report in this regard has been furnished by Intelligence Bureau to the Ministry.

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

#### **Delhi Milk Scheme**

2152. SHRI L. RAMANA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the present level of distribution of milk by the Delhi Milk Scheme;

(b) the wastage on account of leakage in view of poor quality of plastic bags;

(c) the steps proposed to use better quality of bags and extend the distribution network to far flung colonies of North-West Delhi ; and

(d) the measures taken to modernise the Delhi Milk Scheme to augment the production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The present level of distribution of milk by the Delhi Milk Scheme is 3.3 lakh litres per day.

(b) On an average, 100 litres of milk is wasted on account of leakage from plastic bags. However, this leakage is due to various reasons such as voltage fluctuation, machine faults etc.

(c) The percentage of leaky pouches is only about 0.5% which is negligible. DMS is presently supplying milk through 421 milk booths located in North-West Delhi. However, new milk booths are being opened including far-flung areas of North-West Delhi, inhabited by poor people.

(d) Modernisation of the Delhi Milk Scheme is being done continuously by replacing obsolete plants and machinery as and when it is necessary. DMS is presently operating below its installed capacity.

#### **Jumbo Prawn Cultivation**

2153. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two member team's report on 'Jumbo Prawn Cultivation' has been examined by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the previous reports presented to the Supreme Court have been sought to be controverted by this two men committee report; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to implement the judgement of the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Although no such report has come to the notice of the Government, a Report on assessment of ground realities regarding the impact of Shrimp Farming activities on environment in coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu has been recently received, which was prepared by a joint team of 10 experts from the Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai and the Central Institute of Brackish-water Aquaculture, Chennai.

The Main conclusions in the report are that the benefits accrued out of shrimp farming activities are for exceeding the negative impacts on the environment and that any action inhibiting the shrimp farming activities would result in complete collapse of the present rural economy in coastal areas. The study further indicates that the negative impacts of shrimp farming are generally of feeble nature and can be easily curbed.

(c) and (d) A Petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking review of its judgement dated 11.12.96. The matter is *sub judice*.

#### **Financial Assistance to Handicapped Persons**

2154. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR :  
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR :  
SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :  
SHRI K.S. RAYUDU :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to give financial assistance to the handicapped/totally disabled persons under any scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(d) the details of the provision for reservation for the handicapped persons in Central Government Services;

(e) whether the provision of 3% reservation in the Government jobs for handicapped and disabled is being implemented in the Ministries & Public Sector Undertakings of the Government ;

(f) if so, the number of such persons employed during the last one year and the percentage yet to be filled in out of the left over quota,

(g) whether the Chief Commissioner of Handicapped has since been appointed; and

(h) if so, the date on which he has been appointed and if not, the reasons for not filling the post since February, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) A National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation has been registered on 24.1.97 under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 to provide opportunities for skill development and loan assistance on easy terms to the disabled persons to set up self-employment ventures.

(d) As per Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and full participation) Act, 1995, Central Government is required to appoint in every establishment such percentage of vacancies not less than three per cent for persons or class of persons with disability of which one per cent each shall be reserved for persons suffering from (i) blindness or low vision; (ii) hearing impairment; (iii) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy in the posts identified for each disability.

(e) and (f) The required information has been called for from concerned Ministries/Depts. and public sector undertakings.

(g) and (h) Appointment of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities at the National level has been made by Government order dated 5.6.97

#### **Mobile Vans under Public Distribution System**

2155. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have worked out "Mobile Vans Scheme to supply essential commodities" and to distribute food supply to hilly and other far flung areas in the country;

(b) if so, the extent to which this scheme has achieved success, State-wise;

(c) the financial assistance provided to each State for purchase of mobile vans during 1997 till date;

(d) whether some States have failed to avail of this scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of 103295 Fair Price Shops (FPS) in the former Revamped PDS areas 52932 FPS are covered under Door Step delivery scheme. State-wise position of coverage of FPS under door-step delivery scheme is given in the Statement - I attached .

(c) State-Wise financial assistance provided under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for purchase of mobile vans/trucks during 1997 till date (upto 31.7.97) is given in the Statement- II attached.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Only 7 States have availed of the financial assistance under this scheme during 1997 till 31st July, 1997. The reasons relate mainly to non-submission of proposals, ineligibility of proposals on account of non-submission of utilisation certificates of past assistance sanctioned under the scheme and the limited budget provision available in the last quarter of the 1996-97 financial year.

#### Statement-I

*Statement Indicating the State-wise Fair Price Shops in the former Revamped PDS Areas and their Coverage under Door-Step Delivery Scheme*

S.No.	State/UT	Total No. of FPS in RPDS areas	No. FPS under door-step delivery
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8233	8233
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	928	928
3.	Assam	4117	4117
4.	Bihar	9402	1854
5.	Gujarat	4738	776
6.	Haryana	2132	2132
7.	Himanchal Pradesh	171	64
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	642	10
9.	Karnataka	8185	8142
10.	Kerala	1530	1515
11.	Madhya Pradesh	7575	7575
12.	Maharashtra	13755	2500
13.	Manipur	604	604
14.	Meghalaya	3839	nil
15.	Mizoram	957	180
16.	Nagaland	269	nil
17.	Orissa	9444	nil
18.	Rajasthan	9257	9234
19.	Sikkim	253	54
20.	Tamil Nadu	2365	1282
21.	Tripura	517	nil
22.	Uttar Pradesh	10298	3630
23.	West Bengal	3840	nil
24.	A & N Islands	67	67
25.	D & N Haveli	71	nil
26.	Daman & Diu	71	nil
27.	Lakshadweep	35	35
Total :		103295	52932

#### Statement-II

*Statement Indicating the State-wise Financial Assistance sanctioned under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for purchase of Mobile Vans/Trucks during the Year 1997 (1.1.97 to 31.7.97)*

		(Rs. in lakhs)
Sl. No.	State	Amount
1.	Andhra Pradesh	56.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	38.61
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	26.27
4.	Kerala	32.00
5.	Madhya Pradesh	80.00
6.	Maharashtra	80.00
7.	Mizoram	35.08
Total		347.99

#### Police-Criminal Nexus

2156. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Pachas Hazar Rupye Har Roj Dakar Jati Hai Delhi Police" appearing in *Jansatta*, dated May 16, 1997;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. However, the inquiry so far made by the Delhi Police has not established either the allegation of mis-appropriation of the part of the money seized from the premises of the dealer in question in the course of the raid conducted by the police nor the allegation that the dealers in lottery tickets were made to pay any illegal gratification to the SHO of the local Police Station.

#### Dumping of Hazardous Wastes

2157. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :  
SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE :  
DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEY :

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

(a) whether Australian hazardous waste (Copper ash, lead waste and scrap, zinc waste and scrap etc.) are being

dumped in India in violation of the 'Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes';

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the total quantum of such hazardous wastes dumped in India since the adoption of the Basel Convention ;

(d) whether the Government have taken up the matter with the concerned countries;

(e) if so, the result thereof ; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for the disposal of such hazardous wastes ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) No, Sir. Hazardous wastes are not being dumped in India in violation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, 1989.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

(f) The import of hazardous wastes is regulated under Rule 11 of the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. According to these Rules, the import of hazardous wastes from any country to India is not permitted for dumping and disposal.

[Translation]

#### **Ration Allowance to Delhi Police Personnel**

2158. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAJ :  
KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering or propose to consider the demand for ration allowance to Delhi police personnel ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The matter had been referred to the Fifth Pay Commission but the Commission have not favoured grant of ration allowance to the Delhi Police Personnel. Further, a Civil Writ Petition has been filed in Delhi High Court by some personnel of Delhi Police praying for sanction of ration money to Delhi Police Personnel. The matter is *subjudice*. However, the Delhi Police have been asked to furnish a detailed proposal in justification of the demand to enable the Government to examine the issue in detail.

#### **Setting up of Food Processing Industries**

2159. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :  
SHRI MAHAVIR LAL BISHVAKARMA :  
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :  
SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :  
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :  
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up food processing industries during the current year in various states ;

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

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred and the time by which the industries are likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up any food processing industries units directly in any state. However, under the developmental plan Schemes being operated by Ministry of Food Processing Industries, financial assistance is extended to state Government Organisations Joint Sector/Assisted Sector Projects, Cooperatives, Voluntary Agencies, Non-Government Organisations etc. for development of food processing industries. The plan outlay for the schemes during 1997-98 is Rs. 60 crores. Our schemes are project specific and not area or state specific.

[English]

#### **Prices of Common Medicines**

2160. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a big difference between wholesale and retail prices of some common medicines;

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

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) In a competitive environment, in order to capture a larger market share, companies tend to offer attractive commissions to wholesalers retailers of the drugs and medicines resulting in difference between the two prices.

(b) Under the current drug policy approximately 50 percent of the medicines are under price control. While these products are sold at the government notified prices, in the



case of non-scheduled formulations, companies are free to fix their own prices.

(c) For medicines outside price control whichever abnormal price increase of commonly used drugs is noticed if such rise is unjustified then action under DPCO can be initiated.

#### Production/ Import of Life Saving Drugs

2161. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the number, names, domestic production, requirement, imports and retail prices respectively of life saving drugs during the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to revive the ailing Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL) in view of the rise in prices of life-saving drugs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Details regarding production, imports exports of bulk drugs etc. are given in the Annual publication of Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals titled 'Indian Drugs statistics', copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) The issue of future of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL) is under consideration of the Government and a decision is likely to be taken soon.

[Translation]

#### Self Employment Schemes

2162. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :  
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some blocks of Ludhiana district in Punjab have been selected for advancing loan to Scheduled Castes and Minorities for self employment ;

(b) if so, the names of the blocks ;

(c) whether the Government have selected blocks in other States of the country also under this scheme;

(d) if so, the names of the States and blocks selected till now ; and

(e) the criteria adopted for the selection of blocks ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. In Ludhiana District loans are advanced to Scheduled Castes for self employment.

Further, no block in Ludhiana District has been selected for advancing loans to Minorities.

(b) The block-wise details are not maintained in the Ministry.

(c) The Central Government does not involve in selection of Blocks under this scheme. The scheme is implemented through the State-level Channelising Agencies for identifying the beneficiaries at the district/ block level keeping in mind the actual requirement, type of project, priority areas, etc.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to (b) and (c) above.

(e) The Central Government does not release funds Block wise. As such the question of criteria for the same does not arise.

#### Increase in the Prices of Wheat and Rice

2163. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :  
SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSIWAL :  
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have hiked the prices of wheat and rice under the Public Distribution Scheme particularly in Delhi recently ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Central Issue Prices (CIP) of wheat and rice have been revised w.e.f. 1.6.1997.

(b) The C.I.P. have been revised after the gap of 3 years. During the last 3 years the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for procurement of foodgrains was increased thrice resulting in a steep hike in food subsidy in the Central budget and necessitating revision of the CIP. The CIP for families below poverty line (BPL) and families above poverty line (APL) have been fixed separately with the launching of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) with effect from 1.6.1997. The CIP before and after the revision are shown below :

#### Central Issue Price

	(Rs. per Qtl.)			
	Rice			
	Wheat	Common	Fine	Superfine
With effect from 1.2.94	402	537	617	648
With effect from 1.6.97				
For families below poverty line				
(BPL)	250	350	350	-
For families above poverty line				
(APL)	450	-	650	750

Based on the revision of CIP, the Government of NCT of Delhi also revised the issue prices at the Fair Price Shops (FPS) level. As TPDS is yet to be launched in Delhi foodgrains are issued to the State Government at CIP for APL families. The State Government has revised FPS level issue prices accordingly as under :

*Prices fixed by Government of NCT of Delhi*

		(Rs. Per Qtl.)			
		Rice			
	Wheat	Common	Fine	Superfine	
With effect from 1.2.94	427	-	-	690	
With effect from 1.6.97	500	-	-	800	

[English]

**ULFA Activists and Bodo Insurgents**

2164. SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of hardcore ULFA cadres and Bodo insurgents arrested during the last four months indicating the details of weapons seized from them in Assam ;

(b) the number of attacks made by militants and persons killed as a result thereof during the said period ;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the militants have drawn out plans to levy taxes on the people much in the style of its counterparts in Nagaland despite army vigil in that region ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) According to reports received from Govt. of Assam, during the period April, 1997 to 18th July, 1997 the number of militants arrested is 359. A total of 40 weapons of different assortment have been recovered from them.

(b) According to reports received from the Govt. of Assam the number of attack by ULFA and Bodo militants on the Police/security forces/Army etc. during the above period are 40 which have caused death of 31 persons.

(c) and (d) To counter the extortion drive by militants, Government has further stepped up measures to nab militants. Steps taken in this regard include, *inter alia*, deployment of Para-Military Forces and Army in the State. Coordinated action by Army, Para-Military & State Police for counter insurgency operations, declaration of United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) and National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) as unlawful associations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. Regular review of the situation, both, at State and Central Government level is being made.

**Participation of India in UN Conference**

2165. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI :

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

(a) whether India has participated in the UN Conference held in New York as a follow up of Earth Summit held five years ago ;

(b) if so, whether India has taken up the question of global warming and ozone depletion and their consequences with the developed countries ;

(c) if so, the details thereof and resolutions made in this regards ;

(d) the likely impact thereof on the pace of industrialisation and development in the country ;

(e) whether developed countries have provided some assistance to developing countries ;

(f) if so, the amount received by India ;

(g) whether the summit failed to achieve any agreement in the environment sector ; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (h) The Indian delegation, alongwith those of several other developing countries, took up the question of global warming and ozone depletion and emphasised the need for the developed countries to maintain the obligations imposed on them by the relevant conventions and ensure an adequate transfer of technologies and financial resources to the developing countries. The final outcome on these issues recognised that, so far, insufficient progress had been made by many developed countries in meeting their aim to return to green house gas emission at 1990 levels by the end of 2000 and emphasised the need for such countries to strengthen their commitments. It further ensured that no obligations are presently imposed on developing countries in respect of green house gas emission. The position of many countries is, however, still evolving and a further review is scheduled to take place at the Third session of the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Climate Change later this year. The issue of ozone depletion was also addressed and it was decided that the Montreal Protocol should be strengthened.

The need for adequate financial assistance through various multilateral fora such as the Global Environment Facility, the Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund etc. was also

emphasised. Donor countries were urged to provide new and additional financial resources. So far, funds in excess of US \$ 100million have been approved for India for projects relating to global warming and ozone depletion.

[Translation]

### Substandard Electrical Goods

2166. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale substandard items especially the electrical instruments available in the market which are harmful to the consumers;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ban the sale of such substandard items;

(c) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards have carried out raids to expose the sale of such substandard items especially the electrical items during the last two years ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI. RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Some instances of sale of substandard goods including electrical goods have been brought to the notice of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

(b) Under the Voluntary Certification Scheme of the Bureau of Indian Standards, the licensees have to ensure conformity of the products to Indian Standards. As a part of surveillance activity, BIS purchases "standard mark" goods from the market for testing. In case the samples do not meet the requirements of the Standards, action is taken against the manufacturers under the relevant provisions of the BIS Act. However, household electrical appliances like water heaters, irons, stoves and radiators are covered under mandatory certification and cannot be sold without the 'ISI' mark. Action against non-implementation of mandatory certification is taken by the respective State Govt. agencies under the relevant Quality Control Orders.

(c) and (d) State-wise distribution of the raids conducted by BIS during 1995-96 and 1996-97, is given in the attached Statement.

### Statement

*State-wise distribution of raids conducted by BIS during 1995-96 and 1996-97*

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Product	State
1	2	3	4
<b>1995-96</b>			
1.	Kamakshi Enterprises, Vijayawada	Stable Bleaching Powder	AP
2.	Banarsi Das & Co. Delhi	M.S. Tubes	Delhi
3.	Mesh Industries, Delhi	Gas Stoves	Delhi
4.	Krishna Water Meter, Delhi	Water Meter	Delhi
5.	Ghazipur Dairy Farm Area, Delhi	Cement	Delhi
6.	Daulat Ram Gupta, Samalakhia	Cement	Haryana
7.	Praxiz Engineer Pvt Ltd., Saharanpur	Electric Iron & Mixer	Haryana
8.	Ashok Lamps/Stellar Lamps Bangalore	G.L. Lamps	Karnataka
9.	Rekha Cement & Chemicals, Gulbarga	Cement	Karnataka
10.	Traders of M.S. Tubes in Pune	M.S. Pipes	Maharashtra
11.	Chandrakant & Co, Bombay	Fire Extinguisher	Maharashtra
12.	Aims food Products, Bombay	Corn Flakes	Maharashtra
13.	Classic Ispat Pvt. Ltd., Derabasi	M.S. Tubes	Punjab
14.	Kamal Paints, Calcutta	Paints & Mixer	W.B.

1	2	3	4
<b>1996-97</b>			
15.	Balaji Enterprises, Hyderabad	Diesel	A.P.
16.	Citi Air-conditioning Inds, Delhi	Room Air Conditioners	Delhi
17.	Bishan Kumar Goel, Delhi	Cement	Delhi
18.	Dharamraj Yadav, Delhi	GLS Lamps	Delhi
19.	Shivhans Electric Co, Delhi	GLS Lamps	Delhi
20.	Anchor Electricals Pvt Ltd., United Marketing, Valsad	MCBs	Gujarat
21.	Aditya Cement Co., Rajkot	Cement	Gujarat
22.	Switchcraft Industries, Valsad	MCBs	Gujarat
23.	Prince Pipe & Fittings P. Ltd. Silvasa.	UPVC Pipes	Gujarat
24.	Akshay Pumps & Engg. Pvt. Ltd. Ahmedabad	Submersible/ Monoset Pumps	Gujarat
25.	Narayana Industries, Bangalore	Submersible Pumps	Karnataka
26.	Thapar Concast Ltd., Ludhiana	M.S. Tubes	Punjab
27.	Atul Engineering Enterprises Ludhiana	M.S. Tubes	Punjab
28.	Himalaya Industries, Agra	SCI Soil Pipes and Fittings	U.P.
29.	Himalaya Cement, Shikohabad	Cement	U.P.
30.	Vishal Pipe Udyog Ltd., Sikandrabad	M.S. Tubes	U.P.
31.	Agarwal Tubes Pvt Ltd., Muzaffarnagar	M.S. Tubes	U.P.
32.	Singhal Pesticides Industries, Muzaffarnagar	Endosulfan 35% EC	U.P.
33.	Shivalik Tubes Pvt Ltd., Muzaffarnagar	M.S. Tubes	U.P.
34.	Deluxe Cement Mills P. Ltd., Meerut	Cement	U.P.
35.	B.M. Cement P. Ltd, Meerut	Cement	U.P.
36.	S.D. Cements P. Ltd, Meerut	Cement	U.P.
37.	Shree Cement Indus., Shikohabad	Cement	U.P.
38.	M.R. Lamps, Meerut	GLS Lamps	U.P.
39.	Gulab Cements P. Ltd, Meerut	Cement	U.P.
40.	R.C. Rubber Product, Calcutta	Rubber, Canvas Boots, Miners	W.B.
41.	Yonex Electro Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta	Water Filter Candles	W.B.
42.	Vijay Industries, Gujarat	Cement	Gujarat

[English]

**Survey on Availability of Cultivated Land**

2167. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to assess the extent and availability of cultivated and cultivable land in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the areas of these lands, separately, State-wise ;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to assess the availability of cultivated and cultivable land in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (f) The extent and availability of cultivated and cultivable land in the country is assessed annually by the system of reporting Land Utilisation Statistics.

The Statement enclosed provide the State-wise details of cultivated and cultivable land for the year 1994-95 (latest).

**Statement**

*Cultivated and Cultivable area in India, 1994-95*

(Provisional)

(Thousand hectares)

State/Union Territory	Net Sown Area	Current fallows	Total Cultivated area(2+3)	Other fallow lands	Land under Misc. tree crops and goves etc.	Cultivable Waste land	Total Cultivable area (4+5+6+7)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andhra Pradesh	10365	2726	13091	1745	247	779	15862
Arunchal Pradesh	150	25	175	49	44	-	268
Assam*	2777	72	2849	70	220	89	3228
Bihar	7380	1922	9302	965	342	371	10980
Goa	138	-	138	-	1	59	198
Gujarat	9609	737	10346	28	4	1977	12355
Haryana	3559	156	3715	-	4	14	3733
Himachal Pradesh*	572	50	622	21	46	120	809
Jammu & Kashmir	733	96	829	7	72	141	1049
Karnataka	10419	1284	11703	422	326	444	12895
Kerala	2239	48	2287	29	32	83	2431
Madhya Pradesh	19662	825	20487	789	25	1476	22777
Maharashtra	17897	1023	10920	1075	192	989	21176
Manipur*	226	-	226	-	7	1	234
Meghalaya	201	66	267	166	160	484	1077

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Mizoram*	65	183	248	259	3	74	584
Nagaland	206	117	323	97	137	82	639
Orissa*	6303	149	6452	243	867	487	8049
Punjab	4210	36	4246	2	2	5	4255
Rajasthan	17021	1669	18690	1832	17	5165	25704
Sikkim*	95	4	99	9	5	1	114
Tamil Nadu	5790	1001	6791	1030	219	303	8343
Tripura*	277	4	281	1	27	1	318
Uttar Pradesh	17315	1126	18441	879	539	972	20831
West Bengal	5464	210	5674	34	77	62	5847
A & N Islands*	38	1	39	3	14	13	69
Chandigarh*	3	-	3	-	-	-	3
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	24	-	24	-	-	-	24
Daman & Diu*	4	-	4	-	1	2	7
Delhi	37	1	48	9	1	10	68
Lakshadweep	3	-	3	-	-	-	3
Pondicherry	27	2	29	2	1	2	34
All-India	142819	13533	156352	9766	3632	14206	183956

\*In the absence of data for the year 1994-95 latest available information has been utilised.

#### **Nexus between Extremists in M. P. and LTTE**

2168. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has communicated to the Ministry that there exists a nexus between the extremists in M.P. and LTTE of Sri Lanka which has been of great concern for them; and

(b) if so, the response of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh had submitted a Memorandum to the Prime Minister during the visit of the Prime Minister to Madhya Pradesh on 17.6.1997, raising Various issues related to the development of the State. In the Chapter relating to the Ministry of Home Affairs there was a

mention that the naxalite outfits of the State have learnt the technique of mine blast from LTTE Cadre secretly operating in Tamil Nadu. However, there is no report about the existence of any nexus between the extremists of Madhya Pradesh and LTTE.

#### **Degradation of Coastal Eco System**

2169. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the growing degradation of coastal eco system in the country ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether the sea erosion has been increasing every year ;

(d) if so, the details thereof for each of the last three years ; and

(e) the measures adopted or proposed to be adopted to stop sea erosion ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

#### **Misuse of Overhead Coloured Lights**

2170. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the blatant misuse of blue, red and coloured lights overhead on cars in Delhi ;

(b) if so, the norms and guidelines laid down for use of such lights ; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent such misuse and the resultant disturbance to road traffic in Delhi caused thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules, 1993 provide that no motor vehicle owner, except certain specified categories, shall allow or fix any coloured light in the front and on top of the roof other than the rear of the motor vehicle provided that this provision shall not apply to the internal lighting indicator.

(c) A special drive was launched by Delhi Police to prosecute the violators for misuse of coloured lights which resulted in 53 cases of prosecution during first six months of 1997.

[Translation]

#### **Gap between Support Price and Purchase Price**

2171. PROF. RREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the gap between the support price and the consumer purchase price is constantly increasing in the country ;

(b) if not, the support price of the potato and apple in Himachal Pradesh and estimated minimum and optimum consumer purchase price of items in the country ;

(c) whether the interests of consumers are being affected adversely due to this gap ; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

#### **THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Minimum Support Prices**

(MSP) for agricultural commodities are announced by Government based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural costs and prices (CACAP) which fixes the MSP on the basis of cost of production etc. for the entire crop year. MSP are in the nature of minimum remunerative prices payable to farmers in the event of significant fall in market prices of these commodities so as to protect the income of the farmers. MSP, therefore, may not move in tandem with consumer purchase prices, because the consumer purchase prices are retail prices, which are influenced by, *inter alia*, the overall supply and demand conditions of the commodity, trading costs and margins, prevailing market conditions etc. While MSP is a constant price for the entire period of the crop year, market prices keep fluctuating.

(c) and (d) Government has accorded the highest priority to protect the interests of the consumers. Apart from certain long-term measures to increase the production of essential commodities, imports of commodities which are in short supply are encouraged to augment the availability of these items. Some of the commodities are also supplied through the Public Distribution System and Cooperative Stores at prices which are below market levels. Further, stringent actions are being taken against hoarders and black marketeers and others indulging in unfair trade practices under the Essential Commodities Act and prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act etc. by the State/UT Governments.

#### **National Live Stock Policy**

2172. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are contemplating to formulate any National Live Stock Policy ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the draft policy has been prepared and sent to the State Governments for their opinion; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the State Governments in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Formulation of a National Livestock Policy is being contemplated to steer the growth of the livestock sector in an organised and coordinated manner and to enhance production and overall efficiency. The policy approach include, *inter alia*

(i) participation of the small producers in the process of growth and globalisation

(ii) intensification of breeding services for genetic improvements

- (iii) focus on development of feed and fodder resources
- (iv) reorganisation of extension and training activities
- (v) bringing about efficiency in the processing sector
- (vi) control and eradication of animal diseases
- (vii) promotion of sustainability of the growth in the sector.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the draft National Livestock Policy and approach to the livestock sector in the Ninth Plan were discussed in detail at the Conference of the State Ministers for Animal Husbandry and Dairying in December, 1996. The approach and policy issues were largely endorsed at this meeting by the State Governments.

[English]

#### **National Fertilizer Limited**

2173. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karsan of Turkey has slapped a counter claim against the National Fertilizer Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the details of compensation sought from NFL ; and

(d) the total loss suffered till date by NFL in the deal ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNCHALAM) : (a) to (c) M/s. Karsan Limited have filed a counter claim of US\$ 50.15 million against M/s. National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) in the arbitration case before International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Paris.

(d) M/s. National Fertilizers Ltd. had filed a compensation claim of US\$ 53.05 million for losses incurred on account of advance payment made for supply of urea, interest loss, liquidated damages etc.

[Translation]

#### **Violence in Tihar Jail**

2174. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :  
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a violent fight/clash had taken place between two groups of undertrial prisoners recently in Tihar Jail in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether enquiry has been conducted into this incident;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof ; and

(d) the action taken against the persons found guilty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The enquiry conducted into the incident has revealed that the fight took place as a consequence of an incident of beating of a prisoner belonging to one group by prisoners belonging to another rival group.

(d) A criminal case has been registered at Police Station Hari Nagar against the inmates involved in the fight. The two groups have since been segregated and lodged separately. Delhi Police have been informed to provide adequate security to the said inmates while escorting them for production before courts and referral to outside hospital.

[English]

#### **Rehabilitation of Slum Dwellers**

2175. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Chandigarh Administration about deforestation of reserved forest land or any other proposal about it with a view to rehabilitate the slum-dwellers and to give possession to some allottees of the industrial plots ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any action has been taken on the proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) No such proposal has been received by the Ministry under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Vacant Posts for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe**

2176. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts vacant under various categories in his Ministry/departments State-wise;

(b) the steps taken to clear the said backlog ;



(c) whether other persons are working on the posts in place of posts reserved for Scheduled caste and Scheduled tribe ;

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

(e) the concrete steps taken to clear the entire backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### **Pollution by Cement Factories**

2177. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been conducted into the pollution emanating from the cement factories in Madhya Pradesh ;

(b) if so, whether the report has been submitted in this regard ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board conducts regular inspection and air monitoring of cement industries in the State. The Board has selected cement units located near Nayagaon (Mandsaur), Damoh and Maihar-Satna for an indepth study. Under this study field data collection, source and ambient air monitoring have been conducted so far. The study is in progress.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In case any such industry fails to meet the prescribed standards, action is taken against the defaulting unit as per the provisions of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[English]

### **Missing of Foodgrains from FCI Godowns**

2178. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :  
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :  
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

DR. ASIM BALA :  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :  
LT. GEN. PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI :  
SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH :  
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI :  
PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS :  
SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN :  
SHRI SUNIL KHAN :  
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :  
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :  
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :  
SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR :  
SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY :  
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether thousand of tonnes of wheat and rice worth crores of rupees are missing from the Food Corporation of India Godowns as appeared in the 'Pioneer' dated July 3, 1997 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantity and cost of missing of rice stock ;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard ;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof ; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the guilty persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Due to certain discrepancies in the figures of stock position maintained by the Government *vis-a-vis* the Food Corporation of India, the Government is conducting an exercise to reconcile stock figures. The discrepancy is reportedly owing to the fact that the Central Pool stocks are held by FCI and State Governments and their agencies. A Special Audit has also been ordered by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, which is scheduled to be completed by 30th September, 1997.

### **Production in Farms Subsidy**

2179. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether farm subsidy began in early 1980s in the country ;

(b) if so whether the farm subsidy has provided more pains and less gains since its inception;

(c) whether the policy of increasing the subsidy is bad for both the economy and policies ;

(d) if so, the total subsidy being provided at present to the farm sector ;

(e) whether any concrete measures are being considered by the Government to reduce the subsidy on the farm products;

(f) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government have taken any decision in this regard ;

(h) if so, the details thereof ; and

(i) if not, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken and the extent to which the farm subsidy is being reduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) The subsidies for farm sector had begun even earlier to 1980s. However, its quantum increased substantially in early 1980s. The subsidies for farm sector had been one of the main factors responsible for increasing agricultural production and productivity by motivating the farmers to adopt improved techniques of production and modern inputs. This has helped the country to come out of the food grain shortages, reduce imports and attain self-sufficiency. However, a large and dis-proportionate subsidies not only divert scarce resources from productive investment but also result in misuse and over utilisation of the resources.

(d) Major agricultural input subsidies given to farmers are fertilisers, irrigation, power and credit subsidy. Direct subsidy on Urea is given by the Central Government to manufacturers of fertilisers to make available the fertilisers at reduced rates to the farmers. Urea is subsidised and sold at a uniform price of Rs. 3660 per tonne throughout the country.

in addition, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing, from Rabi 1992-93, a scheme of Concession on Sale of Phosphatic and potassic (P & K) Fertilisers to the farmers on the following :

Product	Rs. per Tonne rate of concession from 1.4.997
Indigenous DAP	3750
Imported DAP	2250
MOP	2000
SSP	6000
Indigenous Complexes	1149-3320

The provision in R.E. 1996-97 and in B.E. 1997-98 for the payment of subsidy on Urea and concession on P & K fertilisers is given below :

	Rs. in crores	
	Subsidy on Urea	Concession on P&K Fertilisers
R.E. 1996-97	6093	1674
B.E. 1997-98	7190	2000

Besides above, subsidies on irrigation and power are given indirectly by the State Governments charging lower rates than that of actual costs in the attached Statement.

(e) There is no proposal under consideration to reduce the subsidy for the farm sector.

(f) to (i) Question do not arise.

### Statement

#### Details of Subsidies to Agriculture Sector

						(Rs. Crores)
Item	1992-93 (Actuals)	1993-94 (Actuals)	1994-95 (Actuals)	1995-96 (Actuals)	1996-97@ (RE)	1997-98+ (BE)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
<b>Subsidy to Agriculture Sector through inputs</b>						
1. fertiliser (Total)	5796	4562	5769	6735	7767	9190
1.1 Indigenous fertiliser	4800	3800	4075	4300	4743	5240
1.2 Imported fertiliser	996	762	1166	1935	1350	1950

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1.3 Sale of decontrolled fertiliser with Concession to farmers	-	-	528	500	1674	2000
2. Electricity*	1927	2400	2423	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
3. Irrigation**	5235	5872	6685	75234£	N.A.	N.A.

Source : 1. Fertilisers : Expenditure Budget 1997-98, Vol.I of Central Government.  
2. Electricity and irrigation : Central Statistical Organisation.

Note : N.A. Not available.  
\* Electricity includes all subsidies to electricity Boards and Corporations. Separate estimates of Electricity subsidy accountable exclusively to agricultural sector is not available.  
\*\* The rates for supply of water to farmers are kept low as a matter of policy, resulting in losses to the Government irrigation system. The excess of operating costs over the gross revenue is treated as imputed irrigation subsidy.  
£ Quick estimates.  
@ Revised estimates.  
+ Budget estimates.

#### Price of Urea

2180. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to enhance the price of Urea;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Government propose to extend any incentives agriculturists in case the price of fertilizers is increased ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### Unorganised Voluntary Organisations

2181. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received applications for recognition from certain unrecognised voluntary organisations functioning in the field of human welfare in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the time by which recognition is likely to be accorded to them ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Ministry of Welfare have not system of according recognition to voluntary organisations for purposes of release of grants in aid for implementation of welfare schemes.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

#### Import of Inferior Wheat

2182. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :  
SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH :  
SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV :  
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :  
SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the wheat imported by FCI from Argentina and STC from Canada has been found of inferior quality ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and loss suffered as a result thereof, separately;

(c) the details of foreign exchange involved in this deal;

(d) whether the quantity of wheat imported has been found unfit for human consumption;

(e) if so, the details thereof ;

(f) the extent to which this wheat has been distributed to the Fair Price Shops ;

(g) whether cases have come to the notice where the quality of wheat imported was different to the quality of wheat contracted for ; and

(h) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (h) No Sir. The wheat imported from Canada and Argentina conforms to the quality parameters under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and the phytosanitary norms prescribed by the Government of India and is fit for human consumption. However, the percentage of damaged grains in one wheat consignment from Argentina was found to be in excess of the contractual specifications. No losses has been reported so far on this accounts. The wheat imports contracts with Argentina and Canada involve foreign expenditure to the tune of Rs. 238 cores. The entire quantity of imported wheat has been added to the Central Pool to be distributed through Public Distribution Scheme and other welfare schemes of the Government.

### **New Strategy for Sugar Export**

2183. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of sugar has registered a sharp decline after deregularisation of the sugar export ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government have asked APEDA to formulate a new strategy for pushing the export of sugar in view of its tardy progress ;

(d) the total quantity of sugar exported after decanalisation of sugar export by ISIGEIC and STC out of thier allocated quota;

(e) the reasons for lower export of sugar by these organisations; and

(f) the time by which a new strategy is likely to be formulated to boost the export of sugar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (f) Government has decanalised export of sugar w.e.f. 15.1.97 and the export of sugar is now being carried out through Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, under Ministry of Commerce. Ministry of Food has placed a quantity of 2.5 lakh tonnes of freesale sugar out of 1996-97 season's production at the disposal of Directorate General Foreign Trade (DGFT)/ Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for commercial exports. In addition Government has also placed a quantity of 36,300 mts. of freesale sugar/raw sugar out of 1996-97 season's production for export of Preferential quotas to EEC & USA, through Indian Sugar & General Industry Export Import Corporation (ISGIEIC) Ltd., at the disposal of DGFT/ APEDA.

After decanalisation of sugar exports w.e.f. 15.1.97 M/s. ISGIEIC Ltd. and STC of India has exported a quantity of about 1.60 lakh tonnes & about 0.17 lakh tonnes respectively

upto 30.06.97. As per information furnished by APEDA, they have issued Registration cum Allocation Certificates (RCACs) for a quantity of about 2.10 lakh tonnes of sugar (including preferential quota exports) upto 30.6.97 and as per the information so far furnished by various exporters to APEDA, a quantity of about 0.74 lakh tonnes (including preferential quotas) has been physically exported out of India upto 30.6.97.

Since the export of sugar has been decanalised and only quantitative restrictions apply, the extent of export has to be determined by the international demand and supply situation and prices prevalent in international market.

[Translation]

### **Assistance for Litchi and other Fruits Cultivation**

2184. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of Litchi, sweet lime, panifal and other varieties of fresh fruit is very low in the country ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any extension centres have been set up for providing assistance to farmers in the cultivation of these fruits ;

(d) if so, the details thereof, centre-wise and location-wise;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of fruit in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) As per the latest data available, the production of litchi in the country was 3.33 lakh tonnes during 1994-95. The production data for sweet lime and panifal are not available. However, the production of fresh fruits including these crops is not very low in the country as India occupies second position in the world in production of fresh fruits.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) In order to provide assistance to farmers, extension centres have not been set up specifically for cultivation of these crops. The assistance to farmers for cultivation of fruit crops is provided through State Horticulture/ Agriculture Department and for technology know-how through State Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes.

(f) In order to increase production of fruits in the country, Government of India under the Central Sector Scheme on Integrated Development of Fruits is providing assistance for area expansion, improving productivity through input supply,

rejuvenation, establishment of nurseries & tissue culture unit for providing quality planting material, demonstration and training of farmers besides State Govt. plan schemes. In addition, the assistance is also being extended for various purpose in this regard through the following scheme :

- (i) Use of plastic in agriculture
- (ii) Development of bee keeping for improving crop productivity
- (iii) Establishment of Nutritional garden in rural areas
- (iv) Integrated project on Management of post harvest infrastructure of horticultural crops
- (v) Development of marketing of Horticulture produce through participation in soft loan.

[English]

#### **Subsidy on Fertilizer**

2185. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which subsidy on Ammonium Chloride Fertilizer will be introduced by the Government to obviate the discrepancies in this regard; and

(b) the steps taken for an expeditious decision on this account?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration.

[Translation]

#### **Liberalisation Policy in Agriculture Sector**

2186. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to liberalise the policies in agriculture sector further ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) A Draft Agriculture Policy Resolution prepared by the Government to accelerate and improve the economic viability of agriculture was discussed in a meeting of State Agriculture Ministers held at New Delhi on 19th Feb, 1997

The thrust areas of the draft Resolution are:

- (i) removal of regional and crop imbalances.
- (ii) increase in investment in the agriculture sector;
- (iii) grant of facilities to agriculture as are available for industry without the regulatory and tax collection mechanise of the industrial sector;
- (iv) Making available inputs at reasonable rates to the farmers in the proximity of their fields;
- (v) easy availability of credit at reasonable rates of interest to the farmers ;
- (vi) human resource development ;
- (vii) focus on agricultural research ; and
- (viii) relaxation of controls in agriculture sector.

The draft Resolution is under finalisation keeping in view the suggestions made in the conference.

[English]

#### **Drug Price Control Order**

2187. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :  
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI  
CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been decided to put monopoly drugs under the Drug (Price) Control Order, 1995 while reducing the earlier list;

(b) whether the Government have identified such monopoly drugs for bringing them under the control order, 1995;

(c) if so, the details there of and the action taken by the Government for bringing these drugs under the control order; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) The criteria for keeping the drugs under price control, as laid down in the 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986', include in the First Schedule of DPCO '95 has been done accordingly. The list of drugs kept under price control on account of monopoly situation is given in the attached Statement.

**Statement****List of Drugs kept under Price Control on Account of Monopoly Situation**

1. Sulphadiazine
2. Framycetin
3. Verapamil
4. Amikacin Sulphate
5. Glipizide
6. Spironolactone
7. Pentoxifylline
8. Amodiaquin
9. Sulphamoxole
10. Frusemide
11. Pheniramine Maleate
12. Chloroxylenols
13. Becampicillin
14. Lincomycin
15. Chlorpropamide
16. Mebhydr Oline
17. Chlorpromazine
18. Methendienone
19. Phenyl Butazone
20. Lynestranol
21. Salazosulphapyrine
22. Diosmine
23. Trimipramine
24. Mefenamicacid

**Charging High Price for Seeds and Fertilizers**

2188. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether rural farmers in U.P. are paying higher prices in comparison to the price fixed by the Government for purchasing seeds and fertilizers ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) wheter the Government are aware that most of the farmers are deprived of the benefit of the wasteland reclamation scheme;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken by the Government for effective implementation of this scheme; and

(f) the action taken against the officers found guilty in implementation of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir, In the case of seeds, there is no statutory control on sale price. No reports have been received about high prices being charged for seeds. In the case of fertilizers, urea is subject to statutory control while diammonium phosphate (DAP) , Muriate of Potash (MOP) and various complexes are de-controlled, but sold at a price indicated by the Government. There are no reports of prices higher than the controlled price for urea or indicated prices for the other fertilizers being charged to farmers in U.P.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. The Department of Waste-Lands Development of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment has informed that the Integrated Waste-Lands Development Project is being implemented in 16 districts of U.P. with 100% Central assistance.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) The scheme is being implemented effectively.

(f) Question does not arise.

**Non-Lifting of Foodgrains Quota by States**

2189. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of wheat allotted to Jammu and Kahsmir during the last three years ;

(b) whether distributed wheat and rice are not reaching to the genuine poor for which quotas were allotted to the States ;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether some States have not lifted wheat/rice quota last year when there was shortage of food and the prices of foodgrains went up very high; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) The quantity of wheat allotted to

Jammu & Kashmir under PDS/RPDS during the last three years is as under :

fig. in 000 tonnes	
Year	Quantity
1994-95	350.00
1995-96	360.00
1996-97	360.00

(b) and (c) The allotment of foodgrains (rice and wheat) under Public Distribution System is made from the Central Pool for the State as a whole. Sub-allocations of foodgrains within the State and their transportation and distribution to consumers from Fair Price Shops is the sole responsibility of the State Government.

(d) and (e) The offtake of foodgrains is dependent upon many factors including parity of prices in the open market *vis-a-vis* PDS issue prices and availability of foodgrains in the open market. The total offtake of rice and wheat for all States/UTs. under PDS/RPDS during 1996-97, was 110.14 lakh tonnes and 83.70 lakh tonnes as compared to 93.33 lakh tonnes and 51.59 lakh tonnes respectively in 1995-96.

[Translation]

#### SC/ST/OBC Population

2190. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU  
YADAV :  
SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the population of each State as per the 1991 census with the break up percentage of SCs/STs/OBCs and women;

(b) the measures taken for providing reservation in employment as well as in the political financial and academic fields as per the provisions of the constitution;

(c) whether the number of OBCs has been worked out in the states; and

(d) if so, the list of those alongwith that of SCs and STs?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Information in respect of SCs, STs and Women are given in the Statements I, II and III attached. There has been no census of OBCs in 1991.

(b) Government has provided reservation of 15% and 7.5% to the SCs and STs, respectively, in services in Central Government, Public Sector Undertakings and the Nationalised/Public Sector Banks and Central Universities. Political Reservation for SCs & STs is provided in Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies and Panchayati Raj Institutions. Reservation in States' services and States' educational institutions is provided as per percentage of population of SC/ST in that State. 27% reservation has already been provided to the Backward Classes in employment under the Central Government. The proposal relating to political reservation and reservation in the Educational Institutions is under consideration in the Government of India. Political reservation of 33% in Panchayati Raj Institutions is provided for women.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The lists of SCs/STs are contained in the Manual of Election Law published by the Ministry of Law & Justice (Department of Legislative Affairs).

#### Statement-I

*Statement showing the total population of States/UTs and %age of SC Population to State Population as per 1991 Census*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Total population	SC population	% age of SC population to State population
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6,65,08,008	1,05, 92,066	15.93
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8,64,558	4,052	0.47
3.	Assam	2,24,14,322	16,59,412	7.40
4.	Bihar	8,63,74,465	1,25,71,700	14.55
5.	Goa	11,69,793	24,364	2.08
6.	Gujarat	4,13,09,582	30,69,358	7.41
7.	Haryana	1,64,63,648	32,50,933	19.75
8.	Himachal Pradesh	51,70,877	13,10,296	25.34
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	77,18,700	N.A.	-

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Karnataka	4,49,77,201	73,69,279	16.38
11.	Kerala	2,90,98,518	28,86,522	9.92
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6,61,81,170	96,26,679	14.55
13.	Maharashtra	789,37,187	87,57,842	11.09
14.	Manipur	18,37,149	37,105	2.02
15.	Meghalaya	17,74,778	9,072	0.51
16.	Mizoram	6,89,756	691	0.10
17.	Nagaland	12,09,546	-	-
18.	Orissa	3,16,59,736	51,29,314	16.20
19.	Punjab	2,02,81,969	57,42,528	28.31
20.	Rajasthan	4,40,05,990	76,07,820	17.29
21.	Sikkim	4,06,457	24,034	5.93
22.	Tamil Nadu	5,58,58,946	1,07,12,266	19.18
23.	Tripura	27,57,205	4,51,116	16.36
24.	Uttar Pradesh	13,91,12,287	2,92,76,455	21.05
25.	West Bengal	6,80,77,965	1,60,80,611	23.62
26.	Andman & Nicobar Islands	2,80,661	-	-
27.	Chandigarh	6,42,015	1,05,977	16.51
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1,38,477	2,730	1.97
29.	Daman & Diu	1,01,586	3,891	3.83
30.	Delhi	94,20,644	17,94,836	19.05
31.	Lakshadweep	51,707	-	-
32.	Pondicherry	8,07,705	1,31,278	16.35

**Statement-II**

*Statement showing total population, Scheduled Tribe Population and Percentage of Scheduled Tribe Population W.R.T. Total Population in all the States/Union Territories (1991)*

S.No.	State/Union Territory	Total Population	Scheduled Tribe	Percentage of Total Population
1	2	3	4	5
	INDIA	846,302,688*	67,758,380**	8.08**
<b>States</b>				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	66,508,008	4,199,481	6.31
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8,64,558	550,351	63.66
3.	Assam	22,414,322	2,874,441	12.82
4.	Bihar	86,374,465	6,616,914	7.66
5.	Goa	1,169,793	376	0.03
6.	Gujarat	41,309,582	6,161,775	14.92
7.	Haryana	16,463,648	-	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5,170,877	218,349	4.22



1	2	3	4	5
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	7,718,700*	N.A.	-
10.	Karnataka	44,977,201	1,915,691	4.26
11.	Kerala	29,098,518	320,967	1.10
12.	Madhya Pradesh	66,181,170	15,399,034	23.27
13.	Maharashtra	78,937,187	7,318,281	9.27
14.	Manipur	1,837,149	632,173	34.41
15.	Meghalaya	1,774,778	1,517,927	85.53
16.	Mizoram	689,756	653,565	94.75
17.	Nagaland	1,209,546	1,060,822	87.70
18.	Orissa	31,659,736	7,032,214	22.21
19.	Punjab	20,281,969	-	-
20.	Rajasthan	44,005,990	5,474,881	12.44
21.	Sikkim	406,457	90,901	22.36
22.	Tamil Nadu	55,858,946	574,194	1.03
23.	Tripura	2,757,205	853,345	30.95
24.	Uttar Pradesh	139,112,287	287,901	0.21
25.	West Bengal	68,077,965	3,808,760	5.59
<i>Union Territories</i>				
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	280,661	26,770	9.54
2.	Chandigarh	642,015	-	-
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	138,477	109,380	78.99
4.	Daman & Diu	101,586	11,724	11.54
5.	Delhi	9,420,644	-	-
6.	Lakshadweep	51,707	48,163	93.15
7.	Pondicherry	807,785	-	-

\* The Census was not held in J & K in 1991 and hence Projected Population has been shown for J & K.

\*\* Excluding Jammu & Kashmir where Census was not held in 1991.

-- Indicates that no Scheduled Tribe has been notified in the referent State/U.T.

N.A. stands for Not available.

**Statement III***Statement showing Women Population of the Country-State/UT-wise*

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Area	Population			Sex ratio (Females per 1000 males)
			Persons	Males	Females	
1	2	3	4	5	6	(7)
INDIA		Total	84,63,02,688	43,92,30,458	40,70,72,230	927
		Rural	62,86,91,676	32,43,21,614	30,43,70,062	939
		Urban	21,76,11,012	11,49,08,844	10,27,02,168	894
States						
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Total	6,65,08,008	3,37,24,581	3,27,83,427	972
		Rural	4,86,20,882	2,45,91,875	2,40,29,007	977
		Urban	1,78,87,126	91,32,706	87,54,420	959
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Total	8,64,558	4,65,004	3,99,554	859
		Rural	7,53,930	4,00,966	3,52,964	880
		Urban	1,10,628	64,038	46,590	728
3.	Assam	Total	2,24,14,322	1,16,57,989	1,07,56,333	923
		Rural	1,99,26,527	1,03,04,161	96,22,366	934
		Urban	24,87,795	13,53,828	11,33,967	838
4.	Bihar	Total	8,63,74,465	4,52,02,091	4,11,72,374	911
		Rural	7,50,21,453	3,90,45,095	3,59,76,358	921
		Urban	1,13,53,012	61,56,996	51,96,016	844
5.	Goa	Total	11,69,793	5,94,790	5,75,003	967
		Rural	6,90,041	3,46,169	3,43,872	993
		Urban	4,79,752	2,48,621	2,31,131	930
6.	Gujarat	Total	4,13,09,582	2,13,55,209	1,99,54,373	934
		Rural	2,70,63,521	1,38,84,299	1,31,79,222	949
		Urban	1,42,46,061	74,70,910	67,75,151	907
7.	Haryana	Total	1,64,63,648	88,27,474	76,36,174	865
		Rural	1,24,08,904	66,57,334	57,51,570	864
		Urban	40,54,744	21,70,140	18,84,604	868
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Total	51,70,877	2,61,747	25,53,410	976
		Rural	47,21,681	23,72,193	23,49,488	990
		Urban	4,49,196	2,45,274	2,03,922	831
9.	Jammu & Kashmir@	Total	77,18,700	40,14,100	37,04,600	923
		Rural	58,79,300	30,42,209	28,37,091	933
		Urban	18,39,400	9,71,891	8,67,509	893
10.	Karnataka	Total	4,49,77,201	2,29,51,917	2,20,25,284	960
		Rural	3,10,69,413	1,57,44,942	1,53,24,471	973
		Urban	1,39,07,788	72,06,975	67,00,813	930

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11.	Kerala	Total	2,90,98,518	1,42,88,995	1,48,09,523	1036
		Rural	2,14,18,224	1,05,12,788	1,09,05,436	1037
		Urban	76,80,294	37,76,207	39,04,087	1034
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Total	6,61,81,170	3,42,67,293	3,19,13,877	931
		Rural	5,08,42,333	2,61,64,353	2,46,77,980	943
		Urban	1,53,38,837	81,02,940	72,35,897	893
13.	Maharashtra	Total	7,89,37,187	4,08,25,618	3,81,11,569	934
		Rural	4,83,95,601	2,45,36,280	2,38,59,321	972
		Urban	3,05,41,586	1,62,89,338	1,42,52,248	875
14.	Manipur	Total	18,37,149	9,38,359	8,98,790	958
		Rural	13,31,504	6,82,395	6,49,109	951
		Urban	5,05,645	2,55,964	2,49,681	975
15.	Meghalaya	Total	17,74,778	9,07,687	8,67,091	955
		Rural	14,44,731	7,34,866	7,09,866	966
		Urban	3,30,047	1,72,822	1,57,225	910
16.	Mizoram	Total	6,89,756	3,58,978	3,30,778	921
		Rural	3,71,810	1,94,414	1,77,396	912
		Urban	3,17,946	1,64,564	1,53,382	932
17.	Nagaland	Total	12,09,546	64,12,282	5,68,264	886
		Rural	10,01,323	5,22,235	4,79,088	917
		Urban	2,08,223	1,19,047	89,176	749
18.	Orissa	Total	3,16,59,736	1,60,64,146	1,55,95,590	971
		Rural	2,74,24,753	1,37,94,955	1,36,29,798	988
		Urban	42,34,983	22,69,191	19,65,792	866
19.	Punjab	Total	2,02,81,969	1,07,78,034	95,03,935	882
		Rural	1,42,88,744	75,69,423	67,19,321	888
		Urban	59,93,225	33,08,611	27,84,614	868
20.	Rajasthan	Total	4,40,05,990	2,30,42,780	2,09,63,210	910
		Rural	3,39,38,877	1,76,96,463	1,62,52,414	919
		Urban	1,00,67,113	53,56,317	47,10,796	879
21.	Sikkim	Total	4,06,457	2,16,427	1,90,030	878
		Rural	3,69,451	1,95,277	1,74,174	892
		Urban	37,006	21,150	15,856	750
22.	Tamil Nadu	Total	5,58,58,946	2,82,98,975	2,75,59,971	974
		Rural	3,67,81,354	1,85,67,717	1,82,13,637	981
		Urban	1,90,77,592	97,31,258	93,46,334	960
23.	Tripura	Total	27,57,205	14,17,930	13,39,275	945
		Rural	23,35,484	12,02,529	11,32,955	942
		Urban	4,21,721	2,15,401	2,06,320	958

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Total	13,91,12,287	7,40,36,957	6,50,75,330	879
		Rural	11,15,06,372	5,91,97,138	5,23,09,234	884
		Urban	2,76,05,915	1,48,39,819	1,27,66,096	860
25.	West Bengal	Total	6,80,77,965	3,55,10,633	3,25,67,332	917
		Rural	4,93,70,364	2,54,42,210	2,39,28,154	940
		Urban	1,87,07,601	1,00,68,423	86,39,178	858
<i>Union Territories</i>						
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Total	2,80,661	1,54,369	1,26,292	818
		Rural	2,05,706	1,11,986	93,720	837
		Urban	74,955	42,383	32,572	769
2.	Chandigarh	Total	6,42,015	35,86,214	2,83,401	790
		Rural	66,186	40,548	25,638	632
		Urban	5,75,829	3,18,066	2,57,763	810
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Total	1,38,477	70,953	67,524	952
		Rural	1,26,752	64,499	62,253	965
		Urban	11,725	6,454	5,271	817
4.	Daman and Diu	Total	1,01,586	51,595	49,991	969
		Rural	54,043	28,111	25,932	922
		Urban	47,543	23,484	24,059	1024
5.	Delhi	Total	94,20,644	51,55,512	42,65,132	827
		Rural	9,49,019	5,25,056	4,23,963	807
		Urban	84,71,625	46,30,456	38,41,169	830
6.	Lakshadweep	Total	51,707	26,618	25,089	943
		Rural	22,593	11,530	11,063	959
		Urban	29,114	15,088	14,026	930
7.	Pondicherry	Total	8,07,785	4,08,081	3,99,704	979
		Rural	2,90,800	1,47,599	1,43,201	970
		Urban	5,16,985	2,60,482	2,56,503	985

\* Figures for India include the population of Jammu & Kashmir as projected.

② Figures for Jammu & Kashmir are as projected by the Standing Committee of Experts on Population Projections. (October, 1989)

Source : Census of India 1991. Series - 1 India. Paper-2 of 1992. Final Population Totals : Brief Analysis of Primary Census Abstract ; Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India.

[English]

### Operation Flood

2191. SHRI P. KODANDARAMAIAH :  
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the role of Central Government in implementing 'Operation Flood';

(b) the financial assistance given to different States during the last three years and up to March 31, 1997;

(c) whether the districts of Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh covered under the scheme; and

(d) if so, the assistance being provided during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Operation Flood a Central Sector Plan Scheme, was being implemented through National Dairy Development Board. The Central Govt. provided guidelines. All the foreign assistance was routed through Central Govt.

(b) Statement -I is attached.

(c) Statement -II is attached.

(d) Operation Flood funding came to close on April, 1996.

**Statement-I**

Sl. No.	Institutions	Year				Total 1996-97
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 Apr' 96 (Prov.)	1996-97 May' 96 to Mar'97 (Spill Over)	
1.	Andaman Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	426.11	458.06	48.08	251.39	299.47
3.	Assam	0.09	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	191.39	104.31	114.21	21.61	135.82
5.	Delhi	341.84	1123.51	728.91	131.58	860.49
6.	Goa	24.07	25.46	2.98	0.64	3.62
7.	Gujarat	7958.09	6305.29	2826.65	572.66	3399.31
8.	Haryana	373.34	199.16	35.61	1.22	36.83
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5.22	49.87	26.11	1.81	27.92
10.	Karnataka	508.76	979.25	575.59	363.12	938.71
11.	Kerala	240.25	401.16	63.76	41.79	105.55
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.02	2.12	45.08	0.00	45.08
13.	Madhya Pradesh	42.43	461.27	0.00	1.12	1.12
14.	Maharashtra	178.62	2339.78	1311.18	345.39	1656.57
15.	Manipur	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Mizoram	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Nagaland	0.91	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Orissa	68.69	138.14	31.58	2.25	33.83
19.	Pondicherry	0.85	34.18	14.50	2.53	17.03
20.	Punjab	182.09	359.97	233.75	16.87	250.62
21.	Rajasthan	356.55	492.65	236.86	5.26	231.60
22.	Sikkim	0.07	0.11	0.19	0.00	0.19
23.	Tamil Nadu	569.87	596.78	154.26	2.79	157.05
24.	Tripura	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	1861.67	2374.16	460.07	927.15	1387.22
26.	West Bengal	2658.61	1566.41	264.29	4.84	269.13
Total release to States		15904.68	18011.76	6699.94	2694.02	9393.96

Note : The Operation Flood-III has culminated on 30.04.96.

**Statement - II**

*The Districts covered under Operation Flood in Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh are as given below :*

**KARNATAKA**

Bangalore	Chikmaglur
Kolar	Mysore
Belgaum	Mandya
Bijapur	Raichur
Dharwad	Bellary
North Kanara	South Kanara
Gulbarga	Shimoga
Bidar	Chitradurga
Hassan	Tumkur

**UTTAR PRADESH**

Agra	Jaunpur
Aligarh	Kanpur
Allahabad	Lucknow
Ballia	Mainpuri
Barabanki	Mathura
Bidaun	Meerut
Bijnor	Mirzapur
Bulandshar	Moradabad
Etah	Muxafarnagar
Etawa	Raibareilly
Farrukhabad	Saharanpur
Fatehpur	Sitapur
Gaziabad	Sultanpur
Gazipur	Unnao
Hardoi	Varanasi

**Discrepancy in Rice Stock**

2192. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :  
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :  
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :  
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been reported that rice worth Rs. 1400 crore is missing from the PDS as appearing in the '*Indian Express*', dated July 3, 1997;

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

(c) whether the Government have ordered special audit into the discrepancy in rice stocks between the figures of Food Ministry and the Food Corporation of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The assumption that rice is missing from the FCI godowns as published in '*Indian Express*' dated July 3, 1997 is due to discrepancies in stocks arising out of differences in reporting methods adopted by Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs and the FCI. However, the discrepancies are being reconciled.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Government have ordered a special audit of stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The audit report is awaited.

**Price Exemption of Doxycycline**

2193. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doxycycline was exempted from price control on the basis of R&D;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date on which the exemption was withdrawn and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The exemption on bulk drug Doxycycline and its formulations from price control was granted by the Government on the basis of the recommendations of the Expert Group on Technology Issues constituted for this purpose. This exemption was granted for a period of three years from 25.8.95 to 28.4.98 to M/s. Ranbaxy Ltd.

(c) However, following receipt of complaints that the exemption was granted without fully examining all aspects, the same Expert Group was asked by the Government to take a fresh look at the case. The members of the Expert Group gave their views on various aspects related to grant of the exemption. The report of the Committee was examined by the Government, and it was decided to withdraw the exemption. The exemption was withdrawn vide Notification No. 616 (E) dated 3.9.96.

**Production and Stock of Sugar**

2194. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :  
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :  
SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN :  
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar produced by various States during the last three years, State-wise;

- (b) whether there has been a fall in sugar production;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether sugar output during this season has been lower than the previous year;
- (e) whether March, 1997 onward there has been no improvement in the sugar out put;
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (g) the total stock of sugar as on March 31, 1997 and the latest position of the sugar procurment till now;
- (h) the steps the Government propose to take to meet the demand and production of Sugar;
- (i) whether there are conflicting reports on production of sugar and on oneside and the Government say the production of sugar has been fully achieved and on the otherside Government are issuing instructions to import more sugar; and
- (j) if so, the facts thereof and the total import of sugar made so far and likely to import during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) A statement giving Statewise production of Sugar during the last three sugar years is attached.

(b) and (c) The sugar production which was 98.24 lakh tonnes during the season 1993-94, increased to 146.43 lakh tonnes in 1994-95 and further to 164.29 lakh tonnes in 1995-96.

(d) The sugar production during current 1996-97 season upto 30th June was 127.61 lakh tonnes as against 160.42 lakh tonnes on the corresponding date last year.

(e) and (f) The production of sugar which was 106.05 lakh tonnes upto 31st March, 1997 for the current 1996-97 season rose to 127.61 lakh tonnes as on 30th June, 1997.

(g) The total stocks of Indigenous sugar with the factories as on 31.3.97 were about 114.62 lakh tonnes. Under the present policy of partial control 40% of the sugar production is being released as levy sugar for Public Distribution System. accordingly a quantity of 48.07 lakh tonnes has been released for consumption upto 30th September, 1997.

(h) to (j) With the carry over stock at the beginning of the season and the production during the current 1996-97 season, there would be sufficient availability of sugar to meet the internal requirement for the season 1996-97. No imports have been made during the current sugar season so far.

### **Statement**

*Statement showing State-wise Production of Sugar during the Seasons 1993-94 to 1995-96 (In Lakh Tonnes)*

Sl. No.	States	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96 (Provisional)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Punjab	3.11	3.19	6.32
2.	Haryana	3.08	3.43	4.54
3.	Rajasthan	0.16	0.18	0.31
4.	Uttar Pradesh	27.15	36.09	43.60
5.	Madhya Pradesh	0.37	0.70	1.29
6.	Gujarat	8.26	7.59	11.26
7.	Maharashtra	27.46	50.25	53.76
8.	Bihar	2.21	3.94	3.79
9.	Assam	0.04	0.07	0.07
10.	Orissa	0.24	0.44	0.82

1	2	3	4	5
11.	West Bengal	0.05	0.07	0.08
12.	Nagaland	0.01	0.01	0.01
13.	Andhra Pradesh	6.47	8.74	8.66
14.	Karnataka	8.31	12.25	12.67
15.	Tamilnadu	10.85	18.59	16.22
16.	Pondicherry	0.37	0.62	0.57
17.	Kerala	0.02	0.11	0.13
18.	Goa	0.08	0.16	0.19
	All India	98.24	146.43	164.29

#### Support Price of Jute

2195. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :  
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that prices of raw jute has declined during the last two months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the jute growers have been facing serious crisis due to non remunerative price fixed for raw jute and the Jute Corporation of India is also not procuring raw jute from the growers;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to fix the support price of raw jute in view to protect the interest of the growers and to start procurement from the growers by the JCI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Large jute crop of 97.5 lakh bales during 1996-97 leaving an estimated carry over stock of over 24 lakh bales as also the good prospects during 1997-98 are the main factors for declining trend in the prices of raw jute.

(c) to (e) The Government has already announced the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for raw jute for TD-grade of Assam for the year 1997-98 at Rs. 570 per quintal as against

MSP of Rs. 510 per quintal for the year 1996-97. This price is also Rs. 20 per qtl. higher than that of Rs. 550 per qtl. recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. While announcing the MSP, the Government has taken into account all relevant factors including cost of production.

The Government has already advised the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) to step up procurement of jute. The following measures have already been taken to protect the interest of the raw jute growers;

(i) JCI have been directed to start MSP operations.

(ii) A sum of Rs. 10 crores has been released by the Ministry of Textiles to JCI to start MSP operations.

(iii) Reserve Bank of India have also authorised JCI an enhanced credit limit of Rs. 10.00 crores valid upto July, 1997.

(iv) Government of India has also sanctioned a Bank guarantee for Rs. 33 crores for MSP operations by JCI.

(v) Further budgetary support will be given to JCI to enhance the activities on MSP operations.

The Hon. Minister of Textiles had already written to the Hon. Minister of Food and the Hon. Minister of Fertilisers and Chemicals to instruct the FCI and other fertiliser companies respectively to place the orders for jute bags.

[Translation]

#### Scholarship Schemes to SC/ST

2196. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of amount sanctioned under the scholarship scheme for studies of the students belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes during the last three years;



(b) whether the Government are considering to increase the amount of scholarship in view of the souring prices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The Central assistance released to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Central Assistance Released
1994-95	96.35
1995-96	144.86
1996-97	179.93

(b) and (c) The maintenance allowance rates under the scheme have already been increased by about 50% in case of professional and technical courses and by about 30% in case of non-professional and non-technical courses, with effect from 1.10.1995.

[English]

### Setting up of Agri. Market

2197. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has set up a "Agri Market" in the State;

(b) if so, the details of such markets in the country, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to set up such markets in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of regulated markets set up in different States including Karnataka, are given in the attached Statement.

(c) Except Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Manipur and Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep, all the States have enacted Agricultural Produce Market Acts.

However, the Government is pursuing with the States/ Union Territories that have not yet enacted legislation for regulation of agricultural produce markets, to enact their legislation at the earliest.

### Statement

*Number of Wholesale Assembling and Regulated Markets as on 31.3.1997*

S. No.	State/UT	Wholesale Market	Regulated Principal	Markets/ Sub-Markets	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	823	244	579(1)	823
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	172	15	19	34
4.	Bihar	*443	122	706	828
5.	Goa	11	1	4	5
6.	Gujarat	384	154	225	379
7.	Haryana	275	100	175	275
8.	H.P.	35	8	27	35
9.	J & K	26	APMR Act not yet passed		
10.	Karnataka	462	133	329	462
11.	Kerala	348	5	-	5(2)
12.	Madhya Pradesh	607	296	311	607
13.	Maharashtra	829	258	571	829

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Manipur	20	-	-	-
15.	Meghalaya	101	-	-	-
16.	Mizoram	8	APMR Act not yet passed		
17.	Nagaland	16	-	-	-
18.	Orissa	163	57	87	144
19.	Punjab	670	143	527	670
20.	Rajasthan	380	123	257	380
21.	Sikkim	10	APMR Act not yet passed		
22.	Tamil Nadu	300	270	-	270
23.	Tripura	84	21	-	21
24.	Uttar Pradesh	645	262	383	645
25.	West Bengal	279	44	496	540
26.	A & N Island	-	APMR Act not yet passed		
27.	Chandigarh	3	1	2	3
28.	D & N Haveli	-	APMR Act not yet passed		
29.	Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-
30.	Delhi	25	7	10	17
31.	Lakshdweep	-	APMR Act not yet passed		
32.	Pondicherry	5	4	1	5
Total		7134	2268	4709	6977

Note : \* Figures are provisional.

1. Represents additional markets at places other than Head quarters of market committees.

[Translation]

#### Constitution of Hindi Advisory Committees

2198. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his ministry has constituted the Hindi Advisory Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Agricultural Universities/ Institutes/ Centres/ Undertakings/Corporations under his Ministry are using only English language in their official and research works ;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up any Official Language Implementation Committee to look into the functioning of these organisations and to nominate any non-official member in all such Committees;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether any special issue of periodicals is being published by the above organisations in the Golden Jubilee Year of Independence;

(h) if so, the details thereof and the details of periodicals brought out in Hindi/English and other Languages on monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and yearly basis by these organisations at present, organisation-wise:

(i) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(j) the steps taken to make the official language a medium in agriculture education and research work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) Hindi Advisory Committee has been reconstituted in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in the Ministry of

Agriculture. Hindi Advisory Committee is being reconstituted in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (Department of Agricultural Research and Education). A Hindi Advisory Committee is also being constituted for the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying.

(c) to (f) In the official work of the undertakings and Corporations under the Control of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation viz. State Farms Corporation of India (SFCl), New Delhi. National Seeds Corporation (NSC), New Delhi and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), New Delhi in addition to English, Hindi is also being used as per the guidelines of the Department of Official Language. According to the progress reports received for the quarter ended on 31.3.1997, percentage of original correspondence done in Hindi by SFCl, NSC and NCDC is 29%, 47% & 72% respectively.

Agricultural Universities come under the purview of the State Governments. However, out of 29 Agriculture Universities, in addition to English teaching is done in Indian Language in Six Universities viz. G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, Indira Gandhi Agriculture University, Raipur, Jawaharlal Nehru Agriculture University, Jabalpur, Rajasthan Agriculture University, Bikaner and Narendra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology, Faizabad and Agriculture Science University, Bangalore. In the four national Institutes, deemed to be Universities, medium of instruction is English as the students studying there come from non-Hindi speaking states as well as foreign countries. However for those who do not have

knowledge of English, training programmes are conducted in Hindi. Students and Scientists are encouraged to publish their papers in Indian Languages. Books and Instruction material is also being published in English.

In most of the organisations and institutes under the Ministry of Agriculture, Official Language implementation committees have been set up to review the use of Hindi in their official work. As per the directions of the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, there is no provision to nominate non official persons in these Committees.

(g) and (i) As per the information available in Ministry of Agriculture details of the periodicals being brought out by the Organisations and Institutes under the Ministry of Agriculture is given in the attached Statement. Subject matter of these periodicals is related to technical, scientific and research work. However, these Institutes have been requested to bring out the forthcoming issue of their periodicals as special issue in the Golden Jubilee year of Independence. According to the information received 'Kheti' published by ICAR and "CIFNET News Bulletin" published by Central Institute of Fisheries, Nautical & Engineering Training are bringing out special issues.

(j) A Committee is being Constituted to produce University level text books and reference books relating to Agricultural Sciences in Hindi and other Indian languages in order to make Hindi a medium of Agricultural Education and Research.

### **Statement**

#### *Periodicals being Published by the Organisations/Institutes under the Ministry of Agriculture*

S. No.	Name of the Institute	Periodical	Periodicity
1	2	3	4
1.	Dte. of Economics & Statistics, New Delhi	Krishi Samiksha (Hindi)	Monthly
2.	Dte. of Extension New Delhi	(1) Intensive Agriculture (English) (2) Agriculture Extension Review (English) (3) Unnat Krishi (Hindi) (4) Krishi Vistar Samiksha (Hindi)	Bi Monthly
3.	National Council for Cooperative Training New Delhi.	Hindi Bulletin (Hindi)	Yearly
4.	National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, Gurgaon.	NOVOD Newsletter (Hindi & English)	Yearly

1	2	3	4
5.	National Federation of * Labour Cooperatives Ltd., new Delhi	Labour Coops' (English)	Quarterly
6.	National Cooperative Development Corporation, New Delhi	* N.C.D.C. Bulletin (English)	Bimonthly
7.	National Cooperative Union of India New Delhi	* The Cooperator (English)	Monthly
8.	Dte. of Cashewnut Development, Cochin	* The Cashew (English)	Quarterly
9.	Coconut Development Board, Cochin	1. Indian Coconut Journal (English) 2. Bhartiya Nariyal Patrika (Hindi) 3. Indian Nallikera Journal (Malyalam)	Quarterly
10.	Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training Cochin	New Bulletin (English)	Half yearly
11.	Integrated Fisheries Project, Cochin	Newsletter	Half yearly
12.	Indian Council of Agricultural Research New Delhi.	**1. Kheti (Hindi) 2. Phal Phool (Hindi) 3. Chayanika (Hindi) 4. Indian Journal of Animal Sciences (English) 5. Indian Journal of Agricultural Sciences (English) 6. Indian Horticulture (English) 7. Indian Farming (English) 8. ICAR News (English) 9. ICAR Reporter (English)	Monthly Quarterly Quarterly Monthly Monthly Quarterly Monthly Quarterly Quarterly

\* These Periodicals contain some articles/translations in Hindi also.

\*\* Institute-wise information is not maintained.

[English]

### Export of Soil

2199. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a news item captioned "India exporting its soil abroad almost for free" appearing in the *Asian Age*, dated June 28, 1997;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to protect flora and fauna in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The news item has referred to a study by the Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI), Canada, according to which 25 microbiological organisms of India have been patented by US based drug manufacturing companies including Bristol-Myers, Lepetit Labs, Pfizer and Merck. It has been reported that the current export-import policy, the Indian Wildlife Protection Act and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species do not regulate export of soil samples or microbiological organisms from India. The news item further refers to the meeting of experts organised by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in New Delhi on 10 June, 1997 on the subjects of developing a national legislation to govern transfer of and access to the flora and fauna of the country.

The Government is aware of the study of RAFI. Patents referred to in the study have been granted for products or processes based on the microorganisms. Microorganisms themselves have not been patented. It is true that at present Export Import policy, the Indian Wildlife Protection Act 1972, and International Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species do not regulate export of soil samples or microorganisms from India.

The Ministry of Environment & Forests had organised consultations in New Delhi on 10 June, 1997 in which the subject of developing a legislation to regulate access to biological resources of the country formed part of the agenda.

The Ministry of Environment & Forests is in the process of finalising a legislation to regulate access to the flora and fauna including the microorganisms contained in soil or sediment of the country.

### Smuggling of Arms and Drugs in North-Eastern States

2200. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that smuggling of arms and drugs is taking place via North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Security Forces deployed along the borders have been alerted and are kept apprised about any reports of smuggling of arms and drugs. Narcotics Control Bureau have taken several steps in close coordination with the Governments of North-Eastern States for checking smuggling of drugs and the position is reviewed from time to time at various levels. Besides modernisation/upgradation of State Police Forces by grant of Central financial assistance, information received from various sources is shared with the State Governments for taking appropriate steps for checking smuggling of arms and drugs. The other steps taken are to intensify patrolling in the border areas, erection of observation Post Towers, increase in the number of Nakas, supply of sophisticated gadgets including night vision devices, jeeps, tractors, motor cycles and motor boats as well as the reduction of gaps between Border Out Posts in vulnerable areas.

[Translation]

### Santhal Tribal Refugees

2201. SHRI SIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether lakhs of Santhal tribal refugees are living in a very pitiable condition in the refugee camps in certain areas of Kokrajhar district of Assam and there is acute shortage of food, drinking water, shelter, medical facilities and proper care;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the arrangement made for them;

(c) whether a Parliamentary Group of five members recently visited these refugee camps and found the arrangements unsatisfactory; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to provide compensation to them and the arrangements made to sent them back to their homes?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### Forest Land

2202. SHRI D.P. YADAV :  
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :

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

(a) the area in hectares of forest land in Uttar Pradesh and other States shown as barren land;

(b) the area out of it falling in backward areas;

(c) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has submitted any proposal to make the barren land fertile in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### **Ambedkar Villages in UP**

2203. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5431 dated 12.9.1996 regarding 'Ambedkar Villages' in Uttar Pradesh and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) Complete information is still to be received from the Government of U.P. The details will be placed on the table of the House on receipt of the complete information from the State Government.

[Translation]

#### **Sick Sugar Mills in Uttar Pradesh**

2204. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh sick and closed at present, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the farmers had to burn their sugarcane as sugar mills had not purchased the same;

(c) if so, the steps taken to check recurrence of such situation;

(d) whether any efforts are being made to revive sick sugar mills in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Under the provisions of the Sick

Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, companies 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. As per the BIFR, the following two sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh are sick and closed at present :

(i) Swadeshi Mining and Manufacturing Company Limited, Anandnagar, Gorakhpur.

(ii) Cawnpore Sugar Works Ltd. Gauri Factory branch, Gauribazar, Deoria.

(b) and (c) No report about the burning of sugarcane by the farmers has been received from any State Government so far for the current season, 1996-97.

(d) & (e) Sugar mills have themselves to prepare schemes for rehabilitation/modernisation and get them approved by the financial institutions. Financial assistance is also available from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at concessional rates of interest for such rehabilitation/modernisation schemes, subject to fulfilment of the conditions laid down.

[English]

#### **Foreign Investment**

2205. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA :  
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United States accounts for almost 20 per cent of foreign investment in the food processing sector in India in 1996-97 ;

(b) if so, the other countries who have invested in food processing in India and the US and other countries investment during 1996-97; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the US and other countries have agreed to invest more during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) The foreign investment by USA's companies during 1996-97 in the food processing sector in India accounts for about 76.6% of the total foreign investment approved during this period.

(b) Apart from the companies of USA, proposals have also been received from companies of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bermuda, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mauritius, Netherlands, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, U.K. and Non-Resident Indians. Total foreign investment during 1996-97 by US companies is Rs. 3,424 crores approx., and from other countries Rs. 1,046 crores approx.

(c) The earlier trend of investment is expected to continue by US & other countries in the Food Processing sector in India.

### **Synthetic Drug Abuse**

2206. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there are alarming increase in Synthetic drug abuse in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take steps to check the increase in number of synthetic drug cases ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the details of guidelines issued by the Union Government to State Governments to check the cases of drug abuse ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) As per the reports received from the voluntary organisations assisted by this Ministry, under the Scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention, there is an increasing trend in the use of synthetic drug abuse in the country.

(b) to (d) The Ministry is implementing the scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention which a community based approach for building awareness and educating people about ill-effects of drug abuse, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addiction. Under this Scheme, grant-in-aid to the extent of 90% of the approved expenditure as per norms under the Scheme is released to the voluntary organisations for setting up/maintenance of Deaddiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres, Awareness and Counselling Centres for Awareness and Preventive Education Programmes and organising of De-addiction camps.

### **Indian Drug Co. in the Dock**

2207. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Dumping by China puts Indian Drug Cos. in the dock" appearing in 'The Observer of Business and Politics' dated July 10, 1997 ;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the Indian Drug companies ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No complaint has been received by the Government regarding dumping of Metronidazole by China in the Indian market.

(d) Under Indian Customs Tariff Act and the rules framed thereunder, a product is deemed to be dumped, if it is exported from any country at less than its normal value. An anti-dumping duty can be imposed only after it is established that there is dumping and that the dumped imports caused are threaten to cause material injury to the domestic industry or materially retard the establishment of the domestic industry. All the Petitions against dumping should be submitted to the Government for the purpose of conducting investigations for imposing of anti-dumping duties. An investigation regarding dumped imports would normally be initiated only upon receipt of written Petition by or on behalf of the affected domestic industry.

### **Task Force on Traffic Control**

2208. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of registered road accidents and the number of persons died due to these accidents in NCT, Delhi during the last three years ;

(b) the steps taken by the Delhi Traffic police to check road accidents to regulate traffic and to apprehend the offending drivers;

(c) whether the Lt. Governor of Delhi had set up task force on traffic control in the Capital ;

(d) if so, the achievements made by the task force, so far;

(e) whether the number of road casualties came down and traffic bottlenecks removed as a result thereof; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The requisite information is as follows :

Year	No of accidents	No. of Persons killed
1994	9050	1884
1995	10138	2070
1996	11315	2091

(b) The steps being taken by Delhi Traffic Police to prevent road accidents in Delhi include strict enforcement of traffic rules, upgradation of traffic signal system, construction of road dividers, speed breakers and such other features and educating the public about the road safety measures. It has also been decided to introduce Mass Rapid Transit System

(M.R.T.S.) as a long term strategy to cope up with the rapidly increasing volume of traffic in Delhi.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. However, the Committee was set up only in February, 1997 and it is too early to evaluate its impact on overall traffic management.

#### **Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve**

2209. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the villagers living within the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve are agitating for opening its core zone to them;

(b) if so, the date from which the villagers access to the Biosphere Reserve has been stopped;

(c) whether poachers and hunters now operate without check in the reserve area;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to protect the Biosphere?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has reported that from time to time they have received letters and representations from the local people to open the core zone area for tourism and trekking.

(b) Any entry into the core zone of the Biosphere Reserve has been prohibited since 18.2.1983.

(c) No Sir. The State Government has reported that regular patrolling of area is done by the staff employed for the purpose who keep a strict watch and control on any poaching and hunting.

(d) and (e) Does not arise. However, eco-development activities in the buffer zone are undertaken with the cooperation and involvement of the local people.

#### **Production of Fruit and Vegetable in Gujarat**

2210. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Gujarat in the production of fruit and vegetable as compared to other States in the country ;

(b) the type of assistance provided to Gujarat by the Indian council for Agricultural Research for research work in the field of fruit and vegetable;

(c) the details of the amount sanctioned by the Government for this purpose during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 and the actual amount spent thereon;

(d) the details of the assistance provided to Gujarat by the Government in the production processing and marketing of fruit and vegetable; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to promote and the development of fruit and vegetable in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Gujarat occupies 7th position in the production of fruits and 12th position in the production of vegetables in the country.

(b) and (c) The Indian Council of Agricultural research is providing assistance through All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on fruits and vegetables and research Centres of Indian Institute of Horticultural Research. Besides, Assistance is also being provided through *ad hoc* cess fund schemes on various crops to State Agricultural University. The details of the amount sanctioned year-wise in this regard are given in the attached Statements-I and II.

(d) and (e) In order to promote cultivation of fruits and vegetables in the country (including Gujarat) Govt. of India is implementing following schemes (besides State plan schemes) under which assistance planting materials, input supply for improving productivity, demonstration, training etc.

(i) Integrated development of fruits.

(ii) Production and supply of vegetable seeds.

(iii) Development of root and tuber crops.

(iv) Development of mushroom.

(v) Use of plastic in agriculture

(vi) Establishment of nutritional garden in rural areas

(vii) Development of bee keeping for improving crop productivity.

Govt. of India through National Horticulture Board is extending soft loan assistance for creation of infrastructure for post harvest handling and marketing facilities for fruits and vegetables. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is also providing assistance to cooperatives of fruits and vegetables producers for the development of infrastructure for marketing and processing in the form of loan. Ministry of Food Processing Industries on the other hand, is providing assistance for establishing processing units. Besides, Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority is providing assistance through various schemes for export promotion including infrastructure development and air freight subsidy. Assistance in these cases are provided on case to case basis on demand.



**Statement-I**

**Statement Showing the Details Financial Assistance Provided to the State Govt. of Gujarat by the ICAR for Research Work in the Field of Fruits & Vegetables**

ICAR is providing financial support through ;

- (i) Institute/NRC/PD/Regional Stations of the Institute
- (ii) AICRP Centres
- (iii) Ad-hoc A.P. Cess fund scheme

The Details are as under :

						(Rs in Lakhs)
S. No.	Name of the Institute/AICRP	Name of the Centre with Location	Funds released by ICAR as 75% Share			Total
			1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	
1.	AICRP on Tropical Fruits	Fruit Research Station GANDEVI, under G.A.U Banaskantha (Gujarat)	4.65	3.22	3.25	11.12
2.	AICRP on Sub-tropical Fruits	Agricultural Experiment Station, PARIYA, GAU, Banaskantha (Gujarat)	3.90	5.33	4.41	13.64
3.	AICRP on Arid Zone Fruits	Date Palm Research Station, Gujarat Agricultural University NUNDRA - (Kachchh) (Gujarat)	3.37	3.67	4.28	11.32
4.	AICRP on Arid Zone Fruits	S.K. Nagar (DANTIWADA) GAU(Gujarat)	4.47	4.68	5.13	14.28
5.	AICRP on Vegetable Crops	JUNAGADH, GAU (Gujarat)	2.47	2.52	2.58	7.57
6.	AICRP on Potato	DEESA, GAU (Gujarat)	6.17	6.32	5.09	17.58
<b>INSTITUTE</b>						
1.	Indian Instt. of Horticultural Research, Bangalore Research Station	Central Horticulture Experimental Station, Godhra (Gujarat)	33.21	36.70	49.22	119.13 (100% ICAR Share)

**Statement-II**

Title of the Scheme	Location	Total Outlay	Duration	Funds Released
1	2	3	4	5
<b>FRUITS</b>				
Screening of Anola Phyllanthus emblica L.) germplasm for high sex-ratio (Female : Male) and development of hybrids . (F. No. - 9-35/91-Hort-I)	Gujarat Agri. University Anand.(Deptt. of Hort.)	Rs. 3,92,960	5 years (1.4.94 to 31.3.99)	2,71,376/-

1	2	3	4	5
"Development of processed products based on Spota" (F.No.27-8/91-Hort.I)	Agril. College of Forestry and Horticulture, GAU, Navasari (Gujarat)	Rs. 8,05,800	4 years (1.4.94 to 31.3.97)	7,62,566/-
" To develop strategies for the pest management in Amla, Embica Officinalis". (F.No.16--18/94--Hort.I)	Dptt. of Entomology, B.A College of April. GAU, Anand (Gujarat)	Rs.2,28,200	3 years (1.2.93 to 31.1.96)	44,200/-
VEGETABLES				
"Development of high yielding true Potato Seed (TPS) hybrids for maximisation of yield in Gujarat" (F. No. 8-12/94-Hort. II)	Potato Research Station. GAU, Deesa (Gujarat)	Rs. 7,98,820	4 years (18.11.95 to 7.11.99)	3,36,355/-
"ICAR Research Network Project on promotion of Hybrid Research in Vegetable Crops". (F.No. 15- /95- Hort.II)	GAU Campus, Anand (Gujarat)	Rs. 12,32,600	3 years (1.10.95 to 31.3.98)	9,42,800/-

**North Eastern Council**

2211. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :  
SHRI CHITTA BASU :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a plan to reconstitute the North Eastern Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there was a Conference of the Prime Minister with the State Chief Ministers of the NEC States recently ; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Prime Minister had held a meeting with Chief Ministers of all the 7 North Eastern States on 20th and 21st June, 1997. It was decided in the meeting to Planning Commission as Chairman and the Chief Ministers of the restructure the North Eastern Council with the Deputy Chaiman, 7 North Eastern States as Members. The NEC would also have powers to sanction schemes once approved by the Council within its aproved Budget Subject to such conditions as may be laid down by the Central Government.

The scope of the schemes of the North Eastern Council will include major schemes of Inter-State benefit located in individual states in addition to schemes of inter-state character. The NEC would shed its role of reviewing security related matters.

*[Translation]***Foreign Assistance to Voluntary Organisations**

2212. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have sought information form the State Governments regarding obtaining of foreign assistance by the voluntary organisations ;

(b) if so, the names of the States which have sent this information ;

(c) the names of the States which have not sent this information ; and

(d) the time by which the States have been asked to furnish this information ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) Section 6 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 provides, inter alia, that no association having a definite cultural, economic, educational, religious or social programme shall accept foreign contribution unless such association registers itself with the Central Government in accordance with the rules made under the Act. The Act further provides that every such association may, if it is not registered with the Central Government, accept any foreign contribution only after obtaining the prior permission of the Central Government. The associations so registered or permitted by the Central Government to accept foreign contribution are required to submit annual accounts in the prescribed form giving details

of receipt and utilisation of foreign contribution. An annual report based on the information received from such association is prepared by the Central Government and copies thereof sent to the State Governments for their information and report on violation, if any, of the provisions of the Act by the concerned associations.

[English]

#### **Development of Animal Husbandry Sector**

2213. DR. ARUN KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the main thrust on which Ninth Plan proposals are being formulated for development of Animal Husbandry sector ;

(b) the special areas of interest identified for the North-East region and the financial outlays earmarked during the Ninth Plan period including the current financial year ;

(c) whether the proposals include establishment of a State Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science University as proposed by the Government of Assam ;

(d) whether the Assam Livestock and Poultry Corporation Ltd. had submitted an employment generating scheme titled "Integrated District Livestock and Poultry Development Centre"; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the allocation made for the project during the Ninth Plan and the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The main thrust areas on which the Ninth Plan proposals have been formulated relate to improving the production and productivity potential of the livestock with the objective of improving the income, nutrition and employment opportunities in rural areas. The Ninth Plan proposals have not yet been approved by the Planning Commission. However, for the current financial year, 1997-98., a minimum of 10% of the Department's budget has been earmarked for the North East. Special areas prioritised for North East are genetic upgradation of stock, higher allocation for piggery and poultry sectors, and strengthening of infrastructural facilities available.

(c) to (e) Schemes from Government of Assam have been received in this Ministry. The schemes are under examination, as the Ninth Plan allocation is yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission.

#### **Child Homes**

2214. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Many of them lose their

childhood at home" appearing in the *Pioneer* dated June 11, 1997 relating to the deplorable conditions prevailing in the children Homes in Delhi;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Even prior to the publication of the said Newsitem, recognising the highly unsatisfactory conditions prevalent in the Homes for Children in Delhi and other parts of the country, the Ministry of Welfare has asked the various State Governments and Union Territory Administrations responsible for their management to take remedial action. The Ministry also provides financial assistance to enable the States and Union Territories to establish and maintain facilities for the care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of neglected and delinquent juveniles consistent with the provisions made in this regard in the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986.

#### **Technology Mission of Black Pepper**

2215. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the productivity of pepper/black pepper in India is low in comparison to the world standard ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have made any plan to improve the productivity of pepper or to set up any technology mission of pepper/black pepper in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the productivity of pepper/black pepper in the major pepper/producing centres; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to improve the productivity of pepper/black pepper at par with the world standard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The reasons of low productivity are as under :

(i) Cultivation of black pepper as inter-crop with other horticulture crops.

(ii) Old varieties of poor genotypes with low productivity.

(iii) Prevalence of disease and pest; and

(iv) Lack of adequate attention by the farmers on rejuvenation/replanting of old gardens.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Kerala has proposed technology mission for black pepper for implementation as a state activity. The mission envisages to pool available resources and efforts and integrate the activities of all State and Central institutions/agencies located in the state and involved in development of this crop to work towards objective of improving production and productivity of black pepper.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Approval for Utilising the Grant for Consumer Courts**

2216. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal from the Government of Maharashtra, seeking approval for utilising the financial grants given for strengthening the consumer courts for the years 1995 and 1996, aggregating to Rs. 173.80, during the financial year 1997-98;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any decision in the matter ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Central Government has already accorded permission to the Government of Maharashtra to utilise the grant sanctioned in 1995-97 for strengthening the infrastructure of Consumer Courts during the year 1997-98.

#### **Curtailing the Production of Penicillin-G**

2217. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bulk Drug Manufacturers Association have represented to the Government for devising a mechanism to curtail the production of domestic Pen.G manufacturers to help in stabilising the price of the bulk drug which has slumped in the recent times due to a large gaps in demand and supply;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon; and

(c) the details of fresh policy initiatives taken by the Government in regard to production of Pen. G and other bulk drugs during the last 16 months upto 31.7.1997?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A representation has been received from the Bulk Drug Manufacturers Association in which they have suggested

that all the five major manufacturers of Pen.G namely, SPIC, TGBL, JKPL, HMGB and Alembic should be advised to voluntarily restrict their production to the level of 75% of what they are producing today. However, the Govt. has no power under any rule to enforce reduction in the production of Pen.G.

(c) Steps taken to encourage production of Bulk Drugs form a part of the modification in Drug Policy, 1986, which came into effect from September, 1994, inter-alia, are :

- (i) Industrial Licensing has been done away with except in a few cases.
- (ii) Reduction in Customs Duty on raw material/ Intermediates.
- (iii) Liberalisation in foreign investment.
- (iv) Simplification of pricing system.

#### **Joint Meeting on Agricultural Research**

2218. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any joint meeting has been held between Indian agricultural scientists/experts with developed/ developing countries for mutual understanding, strengthening bilateral cooperation and identify areas for joint agricultural research during the last one year and till July 31, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and outcome thereof ; country-wise ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) ICAR held a joint workshop with Overseas Development Administration (ODA) UK on 5th-6th February, 1997 and Indo-ACIAR (Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research) Consultation on 10-11 July, 1997 for cooperation in the field of agricultural research.

(b) The issues discussed in the ICAR-ODA Joint Workshop included : natural resources system, plant science programme, crop protection, biotechnology, post-harvest technology, farm implement, animal health, livestock production, fishery sciences, dryland agriculture and watershed management, peri-urban interface, water quality and agro-forestry system. In the Indo-ACIAR Consultation the issues discussed were : Overview of Indo-ACIAR program, Perspective on future National Research Priorities, Opportunities for Australia's Assistance, Priorities for future ACIAR-India collaboration in agricultural research. The priorities areas have been identified for collaboration with ODA and ACIAR in the fields of crop improvement, post-harvest technology, animal sciences, natural resources management, forestry, fisheries, agriculture natural resources economics and system capacity building.

(c) As a follow-up to the recommendations made in the ODA Workshop, ICAR has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Resources International (UK) to take up the joint research projects in the areas of interest identified in the Workshop.

### Protection of Tigers

2219. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh has been declared as a Tiger State in the country;

(b) if so, the financial assistance provided for protection and to increase the number of tigers in the State ;

(c) whether there is any proposal to obtain financial aid from the World Bank for protection of tigers in the country ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Financial aid given to the State by Government of India for management of tiger project areas in last five years and the number of tigers reported in the State is given in the attached Statement.

(c) and (d) While there is no project proposal from Government of India to obtain financial aid from the World Bank for the protection of Tigers in the country as such, but Global Environmental Facility has launched a project for US \$ 67 million over 5 years for ecodevelopment which include 6 major tiger bearing areas.

### Statement

*Statement showing the release of Central assistance in Madhya Pradesh during last five years*

#### PROJECT TIGER SCHEME

Years	Amount in Rs.
1992-93	89,09,200
1993-94	125,10,400
1994-95	142,59,500
1995-96	140,97,900
1996-97	141,57,000

#### ECO-DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Years	Amount in Rs.
1992-93	26,29,000
1993-94	29,43,500
1994-95	38,48,200
1995-96	26,27,000
1996-97	26,29,500 & 30 lakhs for Pench under GEF

#### BENEFICIARY ORIENTED SCHEME FOR TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT

Years	Amount in Rs.
1992-93	6,48,000
1993-94	7,50,000
1994-95	—
1995-96	16,000,00
1996-97	77,92,000

### *Statement showing reported number of Tigers in Tigers Reserves of Madhya Pradesh*

Name of Reserve	Year of Creation	1979	1984	1989	1993	1995
1. Kanha (M.P.)	1973-74	71	109	97	100	97
2. Indravati (M.P.)	1982-83	-	38	28	18	15
3. Pench (M.P.)	1992-93	-	-	-	39	27
4. Bandhavgarh (M.P.)	1993-94	-	-	-	41	46
5. Panna (M.P.)	1994-95	-	-	-	25	22
		71	147	125	223	207

*[Translation]*

(b) the details of the percentage in each state ?

**Forest Land**

2220. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ):(a) Legally recorded forest area works out to 23.28% of the total geographical area of the country.

(a) the percentage of total land is reserved as forest land to maintain ecological balance ; and

(b) A Statement is annexed.

**Statement**

*Geographical Area, Recorded Forest Area and Percentage of Recorded Forest to Geographical Area of Various States/UTs of India (sq km)*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Geog. Area	Recorded & Forest area	% of Reco. Forest to Geog. area
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	275068	63814	23.20
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	83621	51540	61.64
3.	Assam	78438	30708	39.15
4.	Bihar	173877	29226	16.81
5.	Delhi	1483	42	2.83
6.	Goa, Daman & Diu	3814	1424	37.34
7.	Gujarat	196024	19393	9.89
8.	Haryana	44212	1673	3.78
9.	Himachal Pradesh	55673	35407	63.69
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	222235	20182	9.08
11.	Karnataka	191791	38724	20.19
12.	Kerala	38863	11221	28.87
13.	Madhya Pradesh	443446	154497	34.84
14.	Maharashtra	307690	63842	20.75
15.	Manipur	22327	15154	67.87
16.	Meghalaya	22429	9496	42.34
17.	Mizoram	21081	15935	75.59
18.	Nagaland	16579	8629	52.04
19.	Orissa	155707	57184	36.73

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Punjab	50362	2901	5.76
21.	Rajasthan	342239	31700	9.26
22.	Sikkim	7096	2650	37.34
23.	Tamil Nadu	130058	22628	17.40
24.	Tripura	10486	6292	60.01
25.	Uttar Pradesh	294411	51663	17.54
26.	West Bengal	88752	11879	13.38
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	8249	7171	86.93
28.	Chandigarh	114	31	27.19
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	203	41.34
30.	Lakshdweep	32	-	-
31.	Pondicherry	493	-	-
Total		3287263	765210	23.28

[English]

**Protection to Policemen**

2221. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to amend the existing laws to give due protection to the honest and efficient policemen ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The existing laws as well as instructions do provide protection to the honest and efficient policemen. The review of the existing laws and instructions is a continuous process.

**Banned Pesticides and Its Uses in Agriculture**

2222. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of brand names of pesticides on which global ban has been imposed ;

(b) whether some of those pesticides still in use in the country ;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(d) the steps taken to phase-out those banned pesticides to implement the integrated pest management programme expeditiously and to train the farmers adequately on the use of the pesticides ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Under the Insecticides Act., 1968, the Government registers the pesticides for use in the country by their common names. Any registered pesticides may be marketed under a number of different brand names in the country. The list of the common names of the pesticides which are banned/severely restricted in some other countries of the world but still in use in the country is given in the attached Statement - I.

(c) The main reasons for continued use of such pesticides are :

- (i) Non-availability of safer/cheaper substitutes,
- (ii) To deal with specific pests and diseases situation,
- (iii) More rapid degradation and less persistence of some pesticides in Indian environmental condition compared to the countries in temperate Zones.

(d) (i) The Government keeps on reviewing through the Registration committee or specially constituted Experts

Committee the continued use of those pesticides in the country which have been banned/severely restricted in other countries of the world. The list of the pesticides which have been reviewed/under review and outcome of their review is given in the attached Statement-II.

(ii) To train farmers, Government has laid special emphasis on Human Resource Development by conducting the Season Long Training Courses for master-trainers and establishment of Farmer's Field Schools. Through the field training programme as far 812 master-trainers, 21145 Agricultural Extension Officers (AEOs) and 1,40,068 farmers have been trained in IPM skills.

**Statement- I**

*List of Pesticides which have been banned/severely restricted in some countries of the world, but still being used in India and their review status*

Sl.	Name of the product	Status of review
1	2	3
1.	Alachlor	Under review
2.	Aldicarb	Reviewed Use allowed
3.	Aluminium Phosphide	Reviewed. Use allowed
4.	Benomyl	Under Review
5.	Captafol	Reviewed. Use restricted
6.	Captan	Reviewed. Use allowed
7.	Carbaryl	Reviewed. Use allowed
8.	Carbofuran	Not Reviewed
9.	Chlorbenzilate	Reviewed. Use restricted
10.	Dicofol	Reviewed. Use allowed
11.	Dimethoate	Reviewed. Use allowed
12.	Diuron	Under review

1	2	3
13.	DDT	Reviewed. Use restricted
14.	Dieldrin	Reviewed. Use Restricted
15.	Endosulfan	Reviewed. Use allowed
16.	Ethylane Dibromide	Reviewed. use restricted
17.	Fenarimol	Under review
18.	Lindane	Reviewed. Use restricted
19.	Malathion	Not reviewed
20.	Maleic Hydrazide	Not reviewed
21.	Methoxy Exthyl	
	Mercury Chloride	Not reviewed
22.	Methomyl	under review
23.	Monocrotophos	Under review
24.	Methyl Parathion	Reviewed. Use restricted
25.	Oxyfluorfen	Under review
26.	Paraquat dichloride	Reviewed. Use allowed
27.	Phorate	Reviewed. Use allowed
28.	Phosphamiden	Under review
29.	Pretilachlor	Not reviewed
30.	Sodium Cyanide	Reviewed. Use restricted
31.	Triazophos	Under review
32.	Tridemorph	Under review
33.	Thiometon	Under review
34.	Thiram	Not reviewed
35.	Trichloro Acetic Acid	Not reviewed
36.	Zinc Phosphide	Reviewed. Use allowed
37.	Ziram	Under review.

**Statement- II**

*List of Pesticides Under review/Reveiwed by the Expert Committee/Registration Committee*

Sl. No.	Name of the Pesticide	Use Banned	Use Allowed	Use Restricted	Under Review
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Alachlor				Under review
2.	Aldicarb		Use allowed		
3.	Aldrin	Use banned			



1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Aluminium phosphide			Use restricted	
5.	Benomyl				Under review
6.	BHG	Use banned			
7.	Calcium Cyanide	Use banned			
8.	Captafol			Use restricted	
9.	Captan		Use allowed		
10.	Carbamyl		Use allowed		
11.	Chlordane	Use banned			
12.	Chloroensilate			Use restricted	
13.	Copper Acetoarsenite	Use banned			
14.	Dibromo Chloropropene (DBCP)	Use banned			
15.	Dicofol		Use allowed		
16.	Dimethoate		Use allowed		
17.	DDT			Use restricted	
18.	Dieldrin			Use restricted	
19.	Diuron				Under review
20.	EDB			Use restricted	
21.	Endosulfan		Use allowed		
22.	Ethyl Mercury Chloride	Use banned			
23.	Endrin	Use banned			
24.	Ethyl Parathion	Use banned			
25.	Fenarimol				Under review
26.	Heptachlor	Use banned			
27.	Lindane			Use restricted	
28.	Menazon	Use banned			
29.	Methyl Parathion			Use restricted	
30.	Methomyl				Under review
31.	Monocrotophos				Under review
32.	Nicotine Sulphate	Use banned			

1	2	3	4	5	6
33.	Nitrofan	Use banned			
34.	Oxyfluorfen				Under review
35.	Paraquat dimethyl sulphate	Use banned			
36.	Pentachloro Nitrobenzene (PCNB)	Use banned			
37.	Pentachloro Phenyl (PCP)	Use banned			
38.	Phenyl Mercury Acetate (PMA)	Use banned			
39.	Phosphamidon				Under review
40.	Phorate		Use allowed		
41.	Sodium Cyanide			Use restricted	
42.	Sodium Methane Arsonate (MSMA)	Use banned			
43.	Tetradifon	Use banned			
44.	Thiometon				Under review
45.	Toxaphene	Use banned			
46.	Triazophos				Under review
47.	Tridemorph				Under review
48.	Zirom				Under review
49.	Zineb				Under review
50.	Zinc Phosphide		Use allowed		
51.	2, 4-D		Use allowed		

### **Sophisticated Weapons to Insurgents in the North East Region**

2223. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some officers of the police posted in Jammu and Kashmir have been found to have provided sophisticated weapons to the insurgents in the North-East region;

(b) whether a few other cases of clandestine sale of confiscated weapons to the insurgents and other criminal elements have come to the notice of the Government ;

(c) if so, whether any inquiry into such cases had been conducted ; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Government to ensure that the undesirable elements have no access to weapons particularly the sophisticated weapons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) There are no confirmed reports in this regard. However, reports in a section of the Press had alleged funneling of arms clandestinely by some Jammu and Kashmir Policemen to the Ranvir Sena and Naxalites.

[Translation]

### **Rajiv Longowal Accord**

2224. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which Rajiv-Longowal Accord was signed and the date when its implementation was started ;

(b) the main conditions laid down in the said agreement and the time by which those conditions had to be implemented;

(c) whether there are also some points in the agreement on which implementation could not be started at all ; and

(d) if so, the details of those points and the difficulties being faced in their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The Rajiv Longowal Accord was signed on 24.7.1985 and its implementation was started immediately thereafter.

(b) to (d) Points 7 and 9 of the Accord which relate to territorial claims and sharing of river Waters respectively provided for the following main conditions for the implementation of which specific timeframe had been indicated.

- (1) the actual transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab and areas in lieu thereof to Haryana will take place, simultaneously on 26.1.1986.
- (2) the construction of Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal shall continue. The canal shall be completed by 15th August, 1986.
- (3) the claims of Punjab and Haryana regarding the sharing of river waters will be referred to a tribunal. The tribunal will render its decision within six months and would be binding on both the Parties.

Though these conditions could not be implemented with in the given timeframe because of differing perceptions of concerned States, yet the Government remains committed to implement the Rajiv Longowal Accord.

[English]

#### **Plantation of Orchards**

2225. SHRI N. DENNIS :  
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to preserve eco-balance through plantation of the Orchards ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof Statewise ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Preservation of the environmental stability and ecological balance is the principal aim of the National Forest Policy, 1988. Afforestation and tree plantation work is undertaken under the programmes of the different Ministries and State Governments under the 20-Point Programme. Fruit bearing trees can be planted on forest land if the species to be planted are indigenous and

such plantation activity is part of an overall afforestation programme for the forest area in question. The species for plantations are selected by the State/UT Governments which are implementing various afforestation schemes, taking into account the climatic and soil factors. The provisions in the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 discourage the use of forest land for cultivation of horticultural crops/orchards.

#### **Increase in Price of Levy Sugar**

2226. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have increased the price of levy sugar in February, 1997;

(b) whether the additional amount received from the said increase has been provided to the sugar producers;

(c) if so, the estimated additional amount likely to be received by the sugar producers during 1996-97 as a result of the said increase;

(d) the estimated total production of sugar during the cane crushing year 1996-97 ; and

(e) the total quantity of levy sugar received by the Government and the exact percentage of the said quantity alongwith the percentage of the quantity of levy sugar prescribed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Payment Orders on the claims of 151 sugar factories have been sent to FCI for payment.

(c) No such estimate can be prepared because it depends upon the quantity of levy sugar produced during sugar season 1996-97 but purchased from the sugar factories at the prevailing prices of last year, such quantity varies from factory to factory. The factories are expected to submit claims giving details of all such quantities of sugar, whenever there is a revision in the price of levy sugar.

(d) The estimated production of sugar during 1996-97 is about 130 lakh tonnes.

(e) The total quantity of levy component of sugar produced during 1996-97 is estimated to be 41.6 lakh tonnes which is about 32% of the total production. All factories except factories under incentive schemes are legally bound to give 40% of the total Sugar produced by them, as levy. Due to the factories under incentive schemes the overall percentage of levy sugar produced, in the country as a whole, gets reduced to a lower percentage (this year 32%).

[Translation]

**Misuse of Godowns by Black Marketeers**

2227. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some godowns of Food Corporation of India in the country are being misused for black marketing of essential items;

(b) whether the Government have conducted raids on these godowns;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and the steps taken to avoid such recurrence in future; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) In view of reply to (a) above, questions do not arise.

[English]

**Action Plan for the Production of Cotton**

2228. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any action plan or worked out strategies to improve the production and productivity of cotton in the country and provided remunerative price to the cotton growers during 1997-98 ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) is being implemented in 11 major cotton growing States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The funding Pattern under the scheme is at present on 75:25 sharing basis between the Government of India and implementing States. The basic objective of the scheme is to increase productivity vis-a-vis, production of all types of cotton and the assistance under the scheme is provided for following components :

(i) Production of breeder seed

(ii) Production of foundation and certified seeds

(iii) Distribution of certified seeds;

(iv) Demonstration on :

(a) Production Technology

(b) Pheromone Traps

(c) NPV

(v) Integrated Pest Management demonstration-cum-training (IPM)

(vi) Distribution of plant protection equipments ;

(vii) Supply of sprinkler sets ;

(viii) Farmers training ;

(ix) Staff at Headquarters ; and

(x) Contingency.

The production target of cotton for the year 1997-98 in the country has been fixed at 148 lakh bales of 170 kg. each. For the implementation of the programme, plan allocation of Rs. 1660.76 lakhs has been provided for the year 1997-98.

The Govt. have announced MSP for two basic varieties of 7-414/H-777 and H-4 at Rs. 1330 and Rs. 1530 per quintal respectively for 1997-98 season which is higher by Rs. 150 per qtl. over the MSP fixed for the previous year.

**Coral Reefs**

2229. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the places in the country where coral is found in abundance ;

(b) whether any damage is being done to the coral reefs;

(c) the procedure of extracting the coral ;

(d) whether there is any control of the Government on its extraction ;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(f) the demand of coral in the country ; and

(g) the quantum of coral exported, if any, indicating the names of the importing countries along with the quantum of imports in each country separately ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (g) Information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

**Smuggling of Arms in Noth-Eastern Region**

2230. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI :  
SHRI P. SHANMUGAM :  
SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA :  
SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the surplus arms of Khmer Rouge are being supplied illegally to the militants of the North-Eastern States of India ;

(b) if so, whether it has been examined the manner in which these arms are routed into India; and

(c) the steps taken to stop the entry of these arms into the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) While there are no confirmed reports about militants of the North Eastern States procuring arms from the Khmer Rouge, they are known to be procuring arms from the Ranong coast of Thailand where arms belonging to several ethnic groups in South East Asia are comparatively easy to procure. The possibility of some of these arms belonging to the Khmer Rouge cannot, however, be ruled out. In the past arms and ammunition clandestinely procured through sources in Thailand were brought by ships in small consignment to areas in Bangladesh and then transported overland into North Eastern States. Government have taken up our security concerns, including the procurement of arms and ammunition clandestinely, with the Governments of Thailand and Bangladesh.

**Relief to Victims of Fire Incidents**

2231. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the incidents of snatching of gold chains and looting the cash from the victims of Uphaar fire tragedy have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government have ordered any enquiry into these allegations and identified police personnels responsible for the inhuman act ;

(c) whether the Government have issued 'Death certificates' to the relatives of all the persons who died in the incident ; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard for the expeditious issuance of death certificates ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) As per the report received from Delhi Police, no such complaint was lodged with them.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected from the local authorities concerned and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Subsidy for Purchasing Small Tractors to Farmers**

2232. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the requisite or adequate subsidy/financial assistance is being given to the farmers for purchasing small tractors under the centrally sponsored programme launched by the Government ;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether the Government have received any request from the State Governments for providing adequate subsidy for this purpose ;

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

(f) whether the Government have conducted any survey in this regard ; and

(g) if so, the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to enable the farmers to purchase at least the small tractors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among Small Farmers', subsidy @ 30%, limited to Rs. 30,000/- is given to the farmers, their groups, Registered Co-operative Societies, Agricultural Credit Societies, Multi-purpose Agricultural Farming Societies for the purchase of tractors upto 30 P.T.O. HP; along with matching implements not exceeding three in number. During the 8th Five Year Plan, funds to the tune of Rs. 3772.80 lakh were released to the States/UTs, under the Scheme, for subsidising 12576 no. of tractors. A provision of Rs. 16.00 crore has been made, under the Scheme, during 1997-98, for subsidising 5333 nos. of tractors. A Statement-I showing the funds released to the States under the Scheme, during the 8th Plan ; and funds allocated to them for the year 1997-98, is attached.

(d) to (g) During 1996-97, as many as 12 States/UT Govts. had requested for the release of additional funds to the tune of Rs. 1493.60 lakh. However, owing to limited budgetary provisions under the Scheme, additional funds amounting to Rs. 425.50 lakh only, could be released. The details are at given in the attached Statement-II. Taking into account all factors, including budgetary constraints, sufficient funds have been provided for this Scheme.

**Statement- I**

*Statement showing State/UT-Wise Releases under the Scheme 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among Small Farmers' during VIII Plan and Allocations for the year 1997-98*

S. No.	States/UTs	Funds released during Eighth Plan	Funds allocated for 1997-98
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	327.90 (1093)	152.10(507)
2.	Arunchal Pradesh	19.50 (65)	3.00(10)
3.	Assam	67.80(226)	36.60(122)
4.	Bihar	244.20(814)	107.70(359)
5.	Gujarat	210.30(701)	100.80(336)
6.	Goa	6.00(20)	3.00(10)
7.	Haryana	94.80(316)	38.10(127)
8.	Himachal Pradesh	28.80(96)	11.10(37)
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	30.60(102)	11.10(37)
10.	Karnataka	297.20(991)	131.40(438)
11.	Kerala	26.10(87)	11.10(37)
12.	Madhya Pradesh	516.60(1722)	196.50(655)
13.	Maharashtra	516.90(1723)	240.30(801)
14.	Manipur	24.60(82)	3.00(10)
15.	Meghalaya	3.00(10)	5.10(17)
16.	Mizoram	7.80(26)	3.00(10)
17.	Nagaland	4.50(15)	3.00(10)
18.	Orissa	181.80(606)	67.20(224)
19.	Punjab	74.40(248)	32.70(109)
20.	Rajasthan	231.10(770)	120.00(400)
21.	Sikkim	1.50(5)	3.00(10)
22.	Tamil Nadu	196.80(656)	69.90(233)
23.	Tripura	4.50(15)	3.00(10)
24.	Uttar Pradesh	495.60(1652)	174.60(582)
25.	West Bengal	124.20(414)	51.60(172)
26.	A.N. Islands	4.50(15)	3.00(10)
27.	Chandigarh	4.50(15)	3.00(10)
28.	D & N Haveli	4.50(15)	3.00(10)
29.	N.C.T. of Delhi	6.30(21)	3.00(10)
30.	Daman & Diu	4.50(15)	3.00(10)
31.	Pondicherry	7.50(25)	3.00(10)
32.	Lakshdweep	4.50(15)	3.00(10)
Total		3772.80(12,576)	1599.90 (5333)

Figures in brackets indicate no. of tractors.

**Statement- II**

*Statement showing the requirement of additional funds received from the States/UTs and additional funds released to them under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among Small Farmers' for Subsidising Tractors during 1996-97*

(Rs. in lakh)			
S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Additional demand	Additional amount released
1	2	3	4
1.	Bihar	218.40	53.70
2.	Haryana	166.00	18.90
3.	Himachal Pradesh	15.00	5.40
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	81.60	5.70
5.	Madhya Pradesh	150.00	98.40
6.	Manipur	22.00	0.10*
7.	Orissa	218.10	33.60
8.	Rajasthan	90.00	60.00
9.	Tamil Nadu	150.00	35.10
10.	Uttar Pradesh	300.00	87.30
11.	West Bengal	81.00	25.80
12.	Pondicherry	1.50	1.50
Total		1493.60	425.50

\* Enhanced allocation of Rs. 20.00 lakh had already been made to the State during the year.

**Development of North-Eastern States**

2233. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central funds allocated for the development of North-East are being misused and diverted for the non-productive purpose;

(b) if so, whether the Government have instituted any enquiry in this regard ;

(c) the areas of development which suffered a setback as a result thereof ; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Use of Cowdung in Agriculture

2234. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the use of cowdung as manure in agriculture sector is found to be most suitable in comparison to other chemical and fertilizers ;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to revert to the use of cowdung as manure to curb health-hazards factor in agricultural sector ;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Both cowdung and chemical fertilizers have an important place in agriculture. Hence there is no plan to rely exclusively on cowdung. Chemical fertilizers being a concentrated form of nutrients are essential for high crop yields. Use of chemical fertilizers has not caused any health-hazards.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### Coordination between Civic Bodies in Delhi

2235. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tragic loss of 57 lives and property at Uphaar Cinema fire incident recently has been attributed to lack of coordination between the licensing authority and various other civic bodies ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Delhi Government has requested the Centre to transfer to it all civic, housing, licensing and law enforcing etc. authorities so as to ensure better co-ordination among all agencies to achieve better unit of command ;

(d) whether the Government proposed to accept the Delhi Government's request ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) not, the manner in which the Government envisage to avoid repetition of post Uphaar type situation in which agencies working under the Central Government blame the agencies working under the Delhi Government for tragedy and *vice-versa* ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Following the "Uphaar" incident in which 59 persons lost their lives, the Lt. Governor of Delhi appointed the Deputy Commissioner (South), Delhi to look into the cause (s) and circumstances leading to the fire, fix responsibility for lapses, if any, on the part of the agencies involved and suggest measures to prevent such incidents in future. The report submitted by the Deputy Commissioner (South) concluded that all the agencies concerned namely, Delhi Vidyut Board, Licensing Branch of Delhi Police, Delhi Fire Services and Municipal Corporation of Delhi including the Management of Uphaar, theatre had to share the blame for their acts of omission and commission which contributed to the tragedy.

(c) to (e) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi had recently taken up, *inter alia*, the issues of transfer of the licensing powers from the Commissioner of Police to Magistracy as also the transfer of the Delhi Development Authority to the local Government. Whereas land is a "reserved subject" retained with the Central Government as per the relevant Constitutional provisions, it was, in respect of transfer of licensing powers, decided that the Lt. Governor of Delhi should make suitable recommendations to the Central Government after reviewing the matter.

(f) Following the fire incident in Uphaar Cinema on 13.6.97, a survey of Cinema Halls and banquet halls in the National Capital Territory was conducted by a team of officers headed by respective SDMs. Another survey of 13 Cinema halls and 9 hotels which were due for renewal of permit was got conducted through Chief Fire Officer from fire safety point of view by the Delhi Police. Some of the Cinema halls were found to be deficient in fire safety norms. Delhi Police have suspended the permit of 2 such Cinema Halls/Guest Houses. Notices have also been issued in cases where deficiencies in respect of fire safety norms have been notified by Municipal Corporation of Delhi, NDMC, Delhi Vidyut Board, Delhi Fire Service and Delhi Police for expeditious rectification.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat, Question Hour is over now.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am on the next item now. Please take your seat.

12.01 hrs.

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE****Annual Report of the All India Federation of Co-operative Spinning Mills Ltd. Mumbai for the year 1995-96 etc.**

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : I beg to lay on the Table :

[Translation]

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Federation of Co-operative Spinning Mills Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Federation of Co-operative Spinning Mills Limited Mumbai, for the year 1995-96.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2241/97]

**Notifications under Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976 etc.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following Notificatinos (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976 :
  - (i) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) (First Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 139 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 1997.
  - (ii) The Standards of Weights and Mesures (General) (Amendment) Rules, 1996 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 27 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 1997, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 335 (E) dated the 24th June, 1997.
  - (iii) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) (Second Amendment) Rules, 1977 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 140 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th March, 1997, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 336 (E) dated the 24th June, 1997.

(2) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2242/97]

(3) A copy of the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Rules, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 95 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 1997, under sub-section (1) of section 31 of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2243/97]

**Border Security Force Act, 1968**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Border Security Force Medical Officers Cadre (Amendment) Rules, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 273 in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 1997 under sub-section (3) of section 141 of the Border Security Force Act, 1968.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2244/97]

**Annual Report and Review on the working of Lakshdweep Development Corporation Ltd. Agatti for the year 1987-88**

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : I beg to lay on the Table on behalf of Dr. S. Venugopalachari :

[Translation]

(1) A copy of each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited, Agatti, for the year 1987-88.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited, Agatti, for the year 1987-88, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2245/97]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited, Agatti, for the year 1988-89.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited, Agatti, for the year



1988-89, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2246/97]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited, Agatti, for the year 1989-90.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited, Agatti, for the year 1989-90, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2247/97]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited, Agatti, for the year 1990-91.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited Agatti, for the year 1990-91, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2248/97]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited, Agatti, for the year 1991-92.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited, Agatti, for the year 1991-92, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2249/97]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited, Agatti, for the year 1992-93.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited, Agatti, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Six Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2250/97]

12.03 hrs.

[English]

#### COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

##### Ninth and Tenth Reports and Minutes

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur) : Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English

versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto :

- (i) Ninth Report on Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas--Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Engineers India Limited.

- (2) Tenth Report on Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas--Researvation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in allotment of Gas and Petrol Agencies.

12.03½ hrs.

[English]

#### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS- (GENERAL)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF  
FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : Sir, on behalf of Shri P.

Chidambaram, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1997-98.

12.04 hrs.

#### RE : WITHHOLDING OF IMPLEMENTATION OF FIFTH PAY COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS

✓  
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as the Government have accepted the recommendations made by the Fifth Pay Commission for Central Government employees they were expected to issue the notification for implementation of the same by yesterday but all of a sudden an announcement was made yesterday in the afternoon that the Government have withheld the implementation of the recommendations for some time and that the notification will not be issued for the time being. In this regard, my first objection is that when the Parliament is in session and the Finance Minister is present in the House, there is no justification in making such announcement outside the Parliament, that too by a Government officer. I consider this action as contempt of the House. If at all, it became unavoidable to withhold the issuance of notification, it would have been better if the Finance Minister had made the announcement here. Making such announcements outside the House is violation of the conventions of the House and also disregard to the House. However, the most important matter is widespread resentment among the Central Government employees about the intentions of the Government regarding the implementation of the Vth pay commission. They want to know the reasons for postponing the above implementation and what actions the Government now propose to expedite the implementation? Therefore, we would like the Government to make a statement on this issue

mentioning the reasons for postponing the implementation of the recommendations of the Vth Pay commission. The Government employees eagerly wait for constitution of the pay commission and the report to be submitted by them and when the report is finally submitted, it is examined by the cabinet secretaries and ministers and finally the cabinet hold its meeting to give their formal approval to the report, only then the report is implemented. After such a lengthy process, if the implementation is withheld at the last moment, naturally, the House is concerned to know the underlying factors for taking such a step. The hon. Minister of Finance should issue a statement on this issue.

At the same time, we want to know the real intentions of the Government. Whether the Government would accept all the recommendations made by the Pay Commission or they would satisfy the grievances of the Government employees before finally implementing the recommendation? The Minister of Defence is present here. Though he has assured our armed forces to get attractive pay scales but the army personnel is still dissatisfied and demand better emoluments. So whether the Government, keeping this factor in view have withheld the notification in order to revise the pay scales of the government employees as recommended by the Pay Commission. Since, nothing is clear, I would like the hon. Minister of Finance to justify why the matter was not taken up in the House yesterday? Secondly, he should make a statement telling us why the Government have withheld the notification and what is their intention behind this move? Whether they propose any further ungradation of the scales? **Because the state Governments would also follow them. The Government should take the House into their confidence and take an early action in this regard.**  
action in this regard.

[English]

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, my distinguished colleague has already mentioned a few points and I do not want to repeat them. What I wish to say now is that it does not behove the Government to adopt a confrontational attitude with its employees. It would have been much better to approach the problem with a sense of accommodation.

The second point which I would like to make is, what is the Government's position with regard to such a wide gap that has been kept between the maximum pay and the minimum pay? This is also not acceptable to most of us.

The third point is, is it not a fact that such a wide gap is also being kept in the salaries and emoluments that are available in the private sector and the public sector? This policy of allowing a free play to the private sector to have as much pay as possible will mean that the entire talent would be going to that sector and also an attitude is being created in the nation to grab more and more money. So, this type of attitude will lead to more conflicts between the Government and the employees because their level of aspiration is now going to a different place. These are the few points that I wanted to make.

SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY (Krishnanagar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir instead of removing the anomalies and the discriminations which are there in the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, the Government has preferred to withhold the implementation of the entire recommendations all of a sudden and they are giving no justification in support of that. The Cabinet Secretary appeared on the television and he was in a mood that by withholding the implementation of the recommendations he was doing a very good thing and that the Finance Ministry is doing a very good thing.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : When did I say that? I never said anything. Why do you bring in my name?

SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY : No: it was Cabinet Secretary.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Then, say about the Cabinet Secretary.

SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY : Yes, I have said that. I have not said 'Finance Minister' : I said 'Finance Ministry'.

Sir, the point is, the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission are full of anomalies and discriminations. The pay fixation policy has been recommended in such a way- the Government has not rejected that, they have not improved that - that the pay of thousands of employees will be reduced from what they are getting now. Then, there is a discrimination between the lowest pay and the highest pay. Even the Group 'B' officers are being denied of their legitimate claims. Not only that, the allowances, including the House Rent Allowance, are not being given from 1st January, 1996, but from 1st August, 1997. All these things are peculiar. It does not stop there. The approach and the outlook of the Pay Commission which has been reflected in its recommendation tell, that it has been prepared at the dictates of the I.M.F. and the World Bank. There is recommendation by which three-and-a-half lakh posts will be abolished. There is another recommendation to downsize the Central administration by 30 per cent. These are the most retrograde recommendations not to speak of rejecting these retrograde recommendations .... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : On the one hand they are taking much time during Question Hour and on the other they are making lengthy speeches during this time also so what will happen to others in the list ? ..... (Interruptions)

(English)

SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY : They have not even removed the discrimination and anomalies that are very much there in the recommendations. So, the employees, organisations and associations have taken a decision to go on an indefinite strike.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mukhopadhyay, please take your seat, That is all, please sit down. Please allow Shri Basu Deb Acharia to speak now.

..... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Not only the Government employees are living hand to mouth, there are other people also in the country who are facing starvation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only those Members will be called who have given their notices.

[English]

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : The Government by withholding the implementation of the recommendations is practically waging a war against the Central Government employees throughout the country. I condemn this attitude because it is condemnable. I think, the Government should review the whole thing and come forward with a final decision.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Okay, please sit down now. Please take your seat.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : The notification was to be issued yesterday, but suddenly the Government took a decision to withhold the notification in regard to the implementation of the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations. No justification has been given as to why it has been withheld. There is a great resentment among a large section of the Central Government employees in regard to the implementation of the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations. For the first time, in the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations, there is such a wide gap between the lowest and the highest paid employees - Rs. 2,500 is the pay of a Group 'D' category employee, whereas Rs. 30,000 is the pay of a Group 'A' category officer, So, the gap is much more, which was not there in the earlier Pay Commissions' recommendations. There are a number of anomalies, and the Government employees' organisation and associations have given their views on it.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It would be better if you associate your points with this one. Please, do not go in detail.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : A number of Members may speak the same thing but my matter is also very important.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There was time for resolving all these issues and anomalies, but without resolving those anomalies or without removing those anomalies, the Government decided to withhold the implementation of the recommendations.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am helpless. I will call only those members who have given notice. It is a long list and it includes your name also.

..... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I urge upon the Government to have a discussion with the Government employees' organisations and associations to sort out the problems and to remove the anomalies, and also to implement the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission after removing all those anomalies in the recommendations.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down now. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee to speak now. I have passed on to the next item.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am sorry, I cannot accommodate everybody. Your name is there.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Pramod Mahajan ji has raised a question whether the announcement made by the Cabinet Secretary outside the House is the contempt of the House. Whether the House does not concern the matter? Whether the House find it irrelevant to discuss the matter regarding the contempt of the House ..... (Interruptions) We want the Deputy Speaker and not the Prime Minister to clarify the matter. Pramod Mahajanji has raised the point.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, he has raised.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : So, it is an important question. The sitting of the House is going on. This would have a bearing on the future of employees and the country as well.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I want to know whether the Minister would like to say something in this regard? Ram Vilas Ji, something has been said in this regard outside the House and that too through an officer. Will any statement be made in this connection?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Call the Cabinet Secretary and ask him for an explanation..... (Interruptions) How does it matter if the Prime Minister comes or not..... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please say something Geetaji. Please take your seat. Speak after he concludes.

[English]

SHRI P.CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, there is some misunderstanding which I think I should clarify. The Cabinet took a decision on the Pay Commission's recommendations, I believe, about the 21st of July, 1997.

That decision stands. That decision has then to be translated and issued as an order. There is no particular date for issuing that order. No particular date was fixed for issuing that order. The orders translating the Cabinet decision into an order are to be issued by the Finance Ministry, the Ministry of Personnel, the Railway Ministry and by various other Ministries. No Particular date is fixed for the order. I asked the Cabinet Secretary. He said that orders were under preparation and orders were ready, more or less ready by yesterday and in the ordinary course those orders would have been issued yesterday. At that stage, I am told, some members of the Government brought it to the notice of the Prime Minister that they would like to look at one or two aspects before the orders were issued. So, the Prime Minister consulted the Cabinet Secretary and said "Bring it to the Cabinet today and then orders can issue thereafter." I do not think there is any policy decision to withhold implementation of Pay Commission recommendations. It is just that the orders were under preparation. They were more or less ready. I think they could have been issued yesterday. They can be issued today. I think the Prime Minister has suggested to the Cabinet Secretary that in view of the views expressed by one or two hon. Members to the Government it may be brought to the Cabinet again and then orders could be issued.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It has gone on to the electronic media. You should not have given scope to it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The sort of statement made by the Cabinet Secretary gives it a different impression.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Let us not read too many sinister meanings into it and not too little either. I believe the Press asked him as he came out "Are orders being issued today? He said "No, Orders are being withheld for the time being."

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : What he said was totally different.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : There is no policy decision. Let me make it very clear. There is no decision to withhold the decision of the Cabinet to implement the Pay Commission's recommendations.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It is a very serious matter that when there is no policy decision of the Government to withhold, the Cabinet Secretary goes to the media also saying that "We are withholding it."

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mulayam Ji would you like to say something.

.....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : I want to say that ..... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let me also say something.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : The decision will be implemented simultaneously..... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Newspapers have reported that it has been withheld because they have threatened to go on strike.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : There is no policy decision. It was a question asked by some Press people and he simply said, I am told, that "We are holding it back to some other date." .....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : This is not a satisfactory reply .....(Interruptions)

[English]

This is not a fair discussion and explanation .....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do you want to say anything, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav?

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I want to say something on this very subject .....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Do not try to mislead the House. This is an insult to injury .....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Your are adding salt to injury. You get an inquiry of the House done into what he has said .....(Interruptions) All papers have been reporting about this. Have all the newspapers misreported.....(Interruptions) Are we and all the newspapers in the wrong .....(Interruptions) Does the hon. Minister not see .....(Interruptions) We read newspapers daily .....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : When there is no policy decision, why should you go to the press ?

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : To say that he just spoke casually is not right. This is not a matter to be spoken casually .....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI I.D. SWAMI (Karnal) : When there is no date fixed for the issuing of order, where is the necessity for a statement by the Cabinet Secretary and that too on the Television?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : By what the hon. Finance Minister has said, in fact, the situation appears to be far more serious than as it appeared either by simply witnessing what has appeared on the Television or by reading what has appeared in today's headlines. The hon. Finance Minister said that a Cabinet decision accepting the distillate of the Pay Commission was taken on 21st July.

The Cabinet decision was taken on the 21st of July .....(Interruptions) I can accept that the Cabinet had not decided upon any one particular date for the implementation of that decision. Thereafter, that decision was to be implemented yesterday which was tentatively fixed as the date for the implementation. Whether it is to be implemented or not to be implemented is decided by a casual conversation between the hon. the Prime Minister and his Cabinet Secretary and the announcement was made through the Television that it is withheld.....(Interruptions)

Thereafter, the third point which the hon. the Finance Minister has himself said is that certain Members of the Cabinet had then gone to the hon. the Prime Minister to protect about it. Thereafter a decision was taken .....(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : No. You are using your own words .....(Interruptions) You are putting words into my mouth. I have not used those words. Do not put words into my mouth.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has not used the word protest

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Some Ministers had objected the decision taken on the 21st of July .....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has not used the word objection as well.

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Let me explain. He is putting words into my mouth. All that I have said is that there was no date fixed to issue the order. Whenever the order is issued in August, the decision is that it will take effect from first of August. That decision is already there. Orders would have been issued on the 2nd or 3rd or 4th or 5th. Orders are under preparation. In a meeting, the Prime Minister said ; "Well, there are one or two questions that have arisen. Let us bring it back to the Cabinet to see if anything has to be done. Please hold it back for today. I believe, as he came out, the Press asked him : "Are you issuing the orders today?" I am sure, the Cabinet Secretary would not go before the Television again. He was asked : "Are you going to issue the orders today?" He said : "No, we are withholding the orders for today and probably will take a decision tomorrow. I do not know what he said on the Television.....(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I would like to finish it now .....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please be seated, I will give you a chance.

[English]

Hon. Member, you have already had your say. Please take your seat.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for as distinguished a lawyer as the hon. the Finance Minister, this is a very feeble defence. If no date had been fixed, then what was with him? .....(Interruptions)

Secondly, when did the hon. the Prime Minister realise that some points have arisen? It is only after that he had instructed the Union Cabinet Secretary to go ahead and withhold it. I personally feel that there is a great division within the Cabinet itself.....(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : There is nothing like that.....(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : The issue that has come up is far more serious than he is attempting to make. The Prime Minister owes it to this House to come and explain what has happened and what is going to happen tomorrow. The Members of the Cabinet were divided on the issue .....(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Nobody is divided .....(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Now, they are attempting to play to the House. What they have done is certainly not acceptable to us. It is the hon. the Prime Minister who has to come and explain the confusion that he has caused. He has

caused it by telling the Cabinet Secretary to withhold it. Suddenly he realises that certain other Members of the Cabinet come and say :

"What you have done is not acceptable" He said : " No, It is not withheld, Now, hold the Cabinet meeting" Equally, we are not satisfied with it. Therefore, he owes it to the House to come and explain what has happened" .....*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Azmi, if you want to say something in this regard, please do speak.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : I will speak during zero hour.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please speak out something in this regard if you desire so

.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : I would like to say that we are having long discussions on this issue we are wasting our zero hour.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do not bother about that. If you desire to say something, please speak out or I will allow you later separately. I will give you a chance. Please take your seat.

..... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Sir, I only want one straight reply to be given. I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Cabinet Secretary has said on the television or in the Press like : " I have told the employees whether to take it or leave it. "This is the heading in one of the newspapers : "Take it or leave it" Is the Government in a position to deny this or not? That is the simple question .....*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Finance Minister has given replies to all other issues. I would like to say to Hon'ble Pramod Mahajan that there is no discontentment of any kind in the army. If something more is to be done, it will be done. We have already stated that the army is fully content. So, you are requested not to speak at least about the army.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is a serious matter. Two things have happened. One is policy statement has been made outside the House and secondly it has been made by an officer.

.....*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I most humbly submit to you that there was no policy statement. I do not know what words

were used. Orders could have been issued yesterday, today or day before yesterday. When orders are under preparation and ready to be issued, the Prime Minister says, "Hold it back for a day. We would like to look into one or two aspects". I do not think that even Shri Jaswant Singh really believes that there is anything more. It is much ado about nothing. There is no policy decision and I submit most humbly that there was no policy decision. If there was a policy decision, one of us would have come to this House. And when the Press asked him he said, "We are holding it back today and we want to discuss it". I do not know what else he said.

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This news has not appeared in any newspaper.

*[English]*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It is not a policy statement. Therefore, there was not a policy statement. I beg most humbly to submit to the Chair to take my statement that there was no policy decision whatever.

*[Translation]*

SHRI G.L. KANAUIA (KHERI) : Please yes or no while replying in this regard.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have allowed him. Please sit down.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : I had the opportunity to listen to the Cabinet Secretary on two news items, one on Zee TV and the other on Doordarshan, saying, "some demand has come from certain quarters and we are going to look into this. "He did not say that his decision would be nullified. I had heard it myself. Where is the policy decision?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : There was no policy decision.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : You can get the manuscript of that TV news, play it and see for yourself and then take a decision whether it was a distortion or not. I have heard it myself. But generally, when Parliament is in session, Government officials should not go to the TV and say something. But what can you do? When you go out of this House, twenty TVs come in front of you. Sometimes it is difficult and our temptation is also there. Sometimes we feel hurt when we go home and find nothing on the TV. I spoke for two minutes but nothing was there. All these things are there. It is good that it has been raised now. I will request Shri Chidambaram to be magnanimous. When some of the employees are protesting, you should not be objecting to everything. Try to give something.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It was because they are protesting, the Cabinet Secretary said, "We are holding it back."

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Look at the IPS officers and others.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : We are looking into it.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : What has come out in the Press or for that matter in different channels of the electronic media, has clearly given an impression that this withholding is related to the strike. That is the impression. Now the clarification has been given by the hon. Finance Minister that this is not a Cabinet decision and the Government is going to issue the order today.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I did not say 'today'. I said, "We will issue it, Any day we can issue it. It could be 'any day' .....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Our concern is about the anomalies and the discrepancies against which there is a protest. What is the response of the Government for removing these anomalies and discrepancies?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am glad that he has raised it and I will answer it .....(*Interruptions*) When things have cooled down, Shri Jaswant Singh, please do not add fuel to the fire now.

Sir, I am grateful to Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev and I am grateful to everybody. I am not saying that different words could have been used, this word could have been used or that word could have been used. I would have said "held back". If they said, they held back for the day the sense is the same. Please take my word that there is no policy decision and I think, we should leave it there.

I want to answer this question as it is very important. I was the Minister of Personnel in 1986. I was the Minister of Personnel when the Fourth Pay Commission gave its report and we implemented it smoothly. There was no problem. I have told this House that there was an established procedure and we would follow the established procedure. We followed it. There is an Empowered Committee. The Empowered Committee reported to the Cabinet. The Cabinet constitutes the Group of Ministers. The Group of Ministers then met with the JCM and reported back to the Cabinet.

Now, we have, according to our calculations given about Rs. 13,250 crore. You can always say that this is high or this is low. But that is not the issue. The Government has taken a decision having regard to its finances, having regard to the needs for expenditure and other areas. There are claims by Defence, there are claims by the social sector and there are claims by the Infrastructure sector. We have taken a decision. Nevertheless, we recognised—that is what I wanted you to appreciate—that there are serious issues and we have identified some.

We have established a Fast Track Committee. We have told the employees, "Be patient, let the Fast Track Committee look into it." The Fast Track Committee is different from the Anomalies Committee. The Anomalies Committee will always

have to be constituted to look into individual departmental anomalies. That will come later. The hon. Member has used the word 'anomaly'. That will come later. After every Pay Commission, there is an Anomalies Committee. That will come later. Today, we have the Fast Track Committee to look into six or seven—I cannot give you the exact number now — major issues which are troubling the employees.

Therefore, the employees should also remember that we are sympathetic. We are looking into it. Let me tell you, the Pay Commission did not compute two costs and that has added to Rs. 1,600 crore. The Pay Commission did not compute the cost of gratuity and one other pensionary benefit which have added Rs. 1,600 crore. Originally, it was about Rs. 11,000 and odd crore and now, it has ballooned to Rs. 13,250 crore.

Sir, we called the Chief Ministers. We took the Chief Ministers into confidence and told them that 'this is what we are doing'. All the Chief Ministers assured us that broadly, they will support the Government of India because there are other claims by other sectors, because one has to divide the cake in a manner which is fair, reasonable and just.

It is not that we are unsympathetic. We are sympathetic. It is very easy for the former Finance Minister to say 'give more'. If I was the former Finance Minister, I would also say 'give more'. The point is, let us not divide this on partisan line. We are sympathetic.

Sir, there is a Fast Track Committee. There will be an Anomalies Committee. We will look into it. We will try to resolve it as best as possible.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : That means, the Cabinet Secretariat has become a Confusion Committee.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : No. You must keep in mind, the larger interest of the country, what this country can afford and what we can afford to pay. If there are problems, we will look into the problems. Nobody here is unsympathetic to the employees. I also want the employees to show greater understanding of the Government's difficulties and respective shares.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, the argument is strenuous. The major problem is the differential between the low paid and the high paid employees .....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No details about this now.

.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : He has mentioned about anomaly .....(Interruptions)... No other Pay Commission has done this.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Nirmal Kanti, let Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee speak. Please allow her to speak

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : He is trying to mislead the House.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee says.

.....(Interruptions)\*

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : As far as the other issue is concerned, I hope that the Government will come forward with a just solution.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Come to your subject.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Yes, Madam.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : About that issue we would ask the Government to quickly come out with a solution.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I agree, Madam.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Another point that I wanted to raise is that the employees from hundreds of colleges and Universities of India, under the auspices of All India College and University Employees' Federation, are sitting on a *dharna* at Jantar Mantar today to press for their demands, the main demand being inclusion of non-teaching staff of colleges and universities within the purview of the UGC for the purpose of prescribing the pay scales and other service conditions.

It is learnt that the Minister for State of Human Resource Development has agreed to convene a joint meeting involving the officials of the Union Education Department and the UGC along with the delegation of the Federation on 26.6.1997. Unfortunately, the meeting did not take place. Today also the Prime Minister had given me a word that their demands would be discussed. But I came to know that for some other reasons the Prime Minister had to cancel that appointment. Therefore Sir, through you, I would request the Ministry, the Prime Minister and the Human Resource Development Department to see to it that the just demands of these employees are quickly settled.

\* Not recorded.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I also support what has been stated by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have received notices from three members on this issue.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : I fully endorse the demand which has been placed by the hon. Member. I request through you the Government, Ministry of Human Resource Development to come forward and take notice of it. The employees of the universities and colleges are a part and parcel of our education. Without them we cannot get education. But they are being neglected year after year. So, I request the Government of India to come forward and convene a joint meeting of the employees of the colleges and universities to remove their problems and plight.

[Translation]

SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL (Chatra) : Mr. Deputy Seaker, Sir, the large number of members of All India College and University Employees Association, New Delhi are holding a demonstration in front of the Parliament House stressing their five points demands.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the teachers and employees both work in the same condition in the same institute. Therefore, the employees of the colleges and university, like the teachers, should be provided the facilities of service condition of UGC.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE (Behrampore) (WB) : I am thankful to you for giving me this chance to support the demands raised by the hon. Member Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee. It is a fact that the successful functioning of the teaching process and the research work in colleges and universities largely depends upon the quality service of the university and college employees. The demands and grievances of the college and university employees must be met by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. I urge upon the HRD Ministry to take into consideration their demands for the adoption of uniform scale of pay at UGC level all over India and to provide them security of service, model service rules and at the same time leave and other fringe benefits.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Delhi is the capital of the country. Lakhs of people migrate to capital to earn their livelihood and they depend on the wheat, rice and sugar being provided under Public Distribution System. But I am sorry to say that prior to June 65,000 metric tonnes of wheat and 20,000 metric tonnes of rice used to be supplied in Delhi. The Union Government have sliced it down to 40,000 metric tonnes of wheat and 20,000 metric tonnes of rice. Therefore, through



you, I would like to submit that because of this, the Delhi Government has also sliced down the quantity and as to result lakhs of people residing in Jhuggi Jhopri clusters, rehabilitation colonies and unauthorised colonies are facing a lot of inconveniences. Therefore, through you, I urge upon the Union Government to allot full quota.

A new system i.e. DPL has been introduced in Delhi for the people living below the poverty line. Under this system only 10 kg of food grains is provided to each family whereas earlier 42 kgs of wheat was given to each family in the capital. If a person gets 10 kgs of wheat then he will have to purchase 32 kgs. in the open market. This will not benefit the poor man in any way. Therefore, I would like to make a demand to provide 10 Kgs of wheat at half rate prevailing to the ration card holders in Delhi. Only then this scheme would be beneficial otherwise there would be no benefit of this system in Delhi.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity .....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have all the names with me. I will call one by one.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I am making a reference .....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : 15 days have passed but I didn't get a single opportunity to speak .....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to me.

[Translation]

I have some items with me wherein requests have been made. Someone has asked to allot gas agency in a certain city and someone has requested to do some favour in a certain village. I request the members to bring/raise such items during Zero hour, which are related to the entire country. I will not be able to take up such small such items.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : The Minister had said that there would be a gas agency in the villages with a population of 20,000.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I do agree that this issue is very important for you but is it right to raise a voice for allotting a gas agency in a certain state during Zero hour ?

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I thank you very much because I making a reference to a superlative human effort which this House has failed to congratulate up till now.

A young handicapped lad, with both legs amputated below the knee has successfully swum across the English Channel. This is a superhuman effort and I simply want the House to congratulate this and similar efforts. I also request that the House may kindly advise the Government not only to sent congratulatory messages but also to help and sustain these kinds of efforts. The Ministry of Human Resources Development should look whatever is necessary for this particular individual and for such handicapped persons. This is my appeal to the House. I hope, this would be done.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : The whole House agree with him and the Government would make every possible effort in this regard.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : The Centre has been indifferent towards the various problems of Uttar Pradesh and as a result the development of Uttar Pradesh has received a setback. Through you, I would like to submit that agriculture is the main occupation of Uttar Pradesh and several irrigation projects are lying pending for the last several years and several times the Union Government has been requested to accord approval to these projects. So that the work could be done. Through you, I would like to bring into the notice of the Union Government that 67 crore rupees have been sanctioned under Irrigation benefit Programme. There is a 280 crore rupees worth National Water shed Project. Rajghat Dam Project, some river water distribution and Kanhar Projects are such projects which are lying pending with the Union Government for the last four-five years and as a result all these Projects have received a setback and the work thereon is affected. Therefore, the pace of development of Uttar Pradesh is being hampered. Through you, I would like to request the Union Government to pay attention towards it and accord approval to these projects of Uttar Pradesh immediately.

12.45 hrs.

RE: MPs LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Arariya) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry to say.....(Interruptions) Please listen to me. I am speaking about the interests of all M.Ps. The funds earmarked for the MPs Local Area Development Scheme have not been released to Headquarters. It is a very unfortunate state of affairs. I would like to know when the funds for the MPs Local Area Development Scheme will be released. We may be apprised of the correct position in this regard. When we visit our constituency, the people of that area complain about the non-existence of bridge, school, roads etc. Besides this, we had also requested that the amount under this scheme may be raised to two crore rupees, whereas one crore has been earmarked at present under this scheme, out that too is not being released in time. I request that the funds earmarked under this scheme may be released and sent to Headquarters at an early date. The amount under this scheme may be raised from one crore to two crores .....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Ram Vilas, would you like to say something in this regard.....(Interruptions) Please state something.....(Interruptions) The whole House is agreed to this. Please listen to the reply first

.....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : This matter was raised in this House a few days earlier also and I assure this House on behalf of the Government that an immediate action would be taken in this regard .....(Interruptions) An action will be taken to release the funds and not to prevent the release .....(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to add onething more that there are a number of schemes under MPs Local Area Development Scheme which are being recommended by the MPs and continuously discussed in this House. A lot of bungling is being done in their construction work and MPs have been provided with any facility to raise their voice against the poor building material being used in construction an undue delay in construction work. No action is taken against any complaint lodged in this regard. Therefore I have requested this House repeatedly by that a committee may be constituted to look into this matter. At that time it was stated that Mr. Speaker would induct some people in that work and where there were complaints, the committee would visit the states turn by turn. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would appeal through you to expedite this work immediately as there are a number of states for which the MPs give their recommendations but the same are not being implemented. The guidelines have been amended number of times, but these guidelines are not followed strictly. According to new guidelines, if the work is not started even after the 45th day of recommendation, the

action will be taken against the defaulters. What action will be taken? It has been reiterated in this House that if any muddling is done in the execution of the MPs Local Area Development Scheme, it will become a matter of privilege. but these guidelines are not being followed deliberately more especially in my constituency and Patna district .....(Interruptions). Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would request the Government on your behalf to constitute a committee who visit the different states for 2-3 days each, review the position and examine whether the guidelines issued in this regard are strictly followed in those states .....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, our problem is not like that of Members belonging to Bihar. But the funds are to be released. Four months have lapsed! Yet the funds have not been released. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY (Nizamabad) : Sir, the guidelines have been issued many times. But they have not been followed by the State Governments. They have neglected the guidelines of the Central Government .....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The whole House is agitated over this issue. The Government may please see that the things are improved.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to him.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are four points. The first point is that the amount for this scheme may be raised from one crore to two crore rupees. In this connection, I reserve my views for the time being. The second point is that the provision of one crore rupees earmarked for this scheme may be released immediately so that Members of Parliament could expedite the developmental work in their respective constituencies as March in approaching and if the work is not executed in time, the MPs will find themselves in difficulty.....(Interruptions)

I do agree with it and assure you that the funds will be released as early as possible .....(Interruptions)

I have not yet consulted any authority but the funds will be released immediately and sent to the concerned officer.....(Interruptions) you desire that I should mention the date by when the funds will be released. Since I was not aware that you will raise this issue here otherwise I would have told the exact date. But what I am mentioning here, is definitely being said on behalf of the Government .....(Interruptions)

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM (Gulbarga) : We are going to celebrate the Fiftieth year of independence. If the funds are released early, we can accomplish some work .....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : You have said this today that the funds will be released as early as possible. Since, the Government has to release the money, it doesn't matter whether it is released today or tomorrow.....(Interruptions)

The third point is about the guidelines. The guidelines have already been issued.....(Interruptions)

Please listen to me first.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why are you impatient .....?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Today I am a Minister, yesterday I was an M.P., therefore, I am aware of everything, I used to submit a scheme on the basis of the guidelines that a particular scheme required Ten lakh rupees and the collector used to monitor that scheme. That scheme was also monitored by the Ministry.....(Interruptions) You have mentioned about the guidelines and their follow up.

If there is need to amend the guidelines, they would be carried out, you must be aware of this fact that the Government had taken such initiative at the instruction of Mr. Speaker.

The fourth point you have raised is about monitoring. We would monitor any ministry, either it is Ministry of Planning or Rural Development Ministry. We also realised that it should not be left out to bureaucrats and the fund should not be misused at any cost, rather it should be properly utilized at the recommendation of members of Parliament. If any complaint is received from Member of Parliament there are guidelines also. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It is not your fault.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let the Minister completed his speech first.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am not talking about this rather I am talking about different point.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has yet to made his fourth point.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The Government has nothing to do with this matter, but something is to be done by the Chair Person. Though the Chair has decided that members of Parliament would go to every state for monitoring but they have not been sent. Nothing has been decided about it so far. Now the Government has nothing to do in this regard and I am not saying against the Government you had said everything categorically .....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Alright, it would be brought to the notice of the hon'ble Speaker.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Please let me say one thing more.....(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the end, I would like to conclude with one sentence only. I would like to say when this scheme was being framed, no allegation was levelled on the members of Parliament at that time. It was categorically stated that this money would not be given to the members of Parliament. This money would be given to collector directly by the centre and the members would hand over the list of work to the collector. The collector would get the work done in accordance with the list and the members would monitor whether the work has been done or not. Therefore, the members have right to know whether the work is being done properly or not. So my submission is that the Government should accept the decision taken by the chair and be ready to obey the same .....(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA (Chhindwara) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I have been elected to the Lok Sabha for the first time.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :- Now you are not new in the House.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : I am the junior most among all M.P's.

[English]

I am too junior.

[Translation]

Sir, today I am feeling bad second time for the proceedings of this House. First time I felt so when the salary and allowances of the members were being discussed here and their reactions thereon. Now today for second time, I am feeling so by seeing the rights and facilities provided to the members for the development of their areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask Hon'ble members of the cabinet if they were not member of Parliament earlier or if now they are not members or if they will not be member tomorrow? I have seen such scenes in this House during discussion over salary and allowances of members. and not even me but the entire nation watched it on television

how the members were demanding to increase their salaries and allowances in pitiable situation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the people who watch the proceeding of this House on television what would they think about us as to how we are raising our voice for our salaries and allowances despite of the fact that a committee has already been constituted in this regard and the Committee has submitted recommendations which are pending with the Government for consideration since long. The Cabinet is not looking into these recommendations. My submission is that the Members should not be presented in such a miserable condition before masses of the country, no matter if you reject or accept their recommendations.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today it is not a question of salaries and allowance of the members, rather the members want to do something for the development of their areas. Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan is the leader of this House. Can he not say that the fund will be released tomorrow or by the end of this month? Who is stopping for say so?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to go in details but I would like to request the hon'ble leader of this House not to present such miserable condition of members.  
.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now I move the the next item.  
Prof. Chandumajra.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have called Prof. Chandumajra.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JAGMOHAN (New Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will take only one minute.

13.00 hrs.

I would like to make a suggestion regarding delay in implementation of M.P.'s Local Area Development Programme which is baneficial for all .....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will call you later on. You first listen to him

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGMOHAN : The reason for delay its implementation is that they ask for certificate regarding expenditure of earlier funds before releasing the fund. It takes times to get the certificate and therefore the fund is not released. Therefore they have already sent a letter that

second instalment of fund will be released only when the balanced is Rs..50 lakh. I would like to make a constructive suggestions if a scheme is sanctioned, and contract is awared, it takes time for authority to disburse amount. For example, if you work for the corporation, it takes time to one or two years for payment of the bill for sewer contract. So the certificate can not be issued immediately. You will want the date when the contract has been awarded.

[English]

It should be treated as having been spent.  
.....(Interruptions)

As it will be committed expenditure if you do this, all the money will be released .....(Interruptions)

13.01 hrs.

[SHRI CHITTA BASU in the Chair]

[English]

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as far as the hon. Members are concerned, there should not be any disparity between Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha. All rights should be equal in both Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha. But what is happening now? The Members in Rajya Sabha have got coupons for LPG two times which they are issuing to the people. But it has been denied to the Members of the Lok Sabha. How is it possible? Is there any rule?

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Pudukkottai) : Actually, we are the represantatives of the people.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : The Lok Sabha Members are elected by the public. We have got a responsibility towards them. The Members of the Rajya Sabha are elected only by the Members from the Lok Sabha and the State Legislatures. You are giving gas coupons to them. But you are not allowing this facility to us. Is it as a result of an action by the Government? What is the announcement by the hon. Speaker? The Speaker, Lok Sabha must give a correct ruling on this subject. We want an immediate reply on this issue.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM (Gulberga) : The Member of Rajya Sabha are nice and that is why that they getting it .....(Interruptions) And the Members of this House, will not given these coupons. That's why it has been discontinued. Such type of misinformation has been spread .....(Interruptions)

For how long will this discrimination continue .....(Interruptions).

It is a question of our dignity ..... (Interruptions). You should assure us about it ..... (Interruptions). You should

assure us about it.. *(Interruptions)*. Either you should discontinued it or provide it to all .....*(Interruptions)*

DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Members of Lok Sabha should also be given these coupons.....*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please allow the House to be conducted peacefully.

.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am to repeat it again. The hon. Members should know that we, who sit here, are also to work under certain constraint. The Speaker's office has given me a list. Naturally, I have the least scope for discretion.

SHRI SUKH RAM (Mandi): The people are suffering on account of earthquake.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can raise that issue under rule 193. There can be a discussion because it is a natural calamity.

I shall have to call certain Members till 1.30 p.m. I shall go by the list. Now, Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra .....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, would there be lunch hour today ?.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, there would not be any lunch hour today.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, you please make that announcement here .....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can go and have your lunch.

.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It does not matter if I miss the proceedings of the House!.....*(Interruptions)*

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : What is the ruling on the disparity of providing gas connection and .....*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, though I would like to speak on different subject, I would also take part in the subject that is being discussed. As you are well aware that the Members of Rajya Sabha are given coupons for LPG and telephone connections and the Members of Lok Sabha are deprived of the same, I am of the opinion that the Members of Lok Sabha should be given LPG and telephone connection as well.

I would like to bring a important subject to the notice of the Government through you regarding grave condition of

the country caused by flood. The flood is damaging the crops, destroying the houses and affecting the public life. Particularly the floods in Jhajhar, Narkanda and Tangri rivers have resulted in heavy damage recently 20 villages in Mona sub-division and 15 villages in Ghinnaur sub-division in my area are still submerged in water due to flood. We had demanded that there should be a long term scheme to check the flood and the damage caused therefrom. For instance, we can check the water of the river by building dam in hill areas. We can utilize the water for irrigation purpose, prevent the damage caused by the flood and produce electricity.

When I went to Bihar, somebody told me there that two crops were grown there-first Kharif, second relief. If the first crop was damaged by the flood, the people depended on relief. And even this relief is not distributed fully. It happens every year. There should be some measures to prevent the damage by the flood. The Crop Insurance Scheme should be implemented as the Government has provided in its Common Minimum Programme. But it is a matter of sorrow that it has not been implemented so far. While there is insurance in industry, there is no insurance in agriculture sector nor the farmers are given full relief.

I would like to request the Government that Crop Insurance Scheme should be implemented and permanent measures should be taken to check the flood.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit briefly that some days ago I had raised the matter about the court's decision regarding the installation of the statue of Gandhiji at India Gate and the directive to the Government to take a decision by 4th August in that regard. So far the Government has made no response. Shri Narasimha Rao had proposed to build a August Kranti Udyan and the whole House had expressed its unanimity on it. I feel sorry that neither there has been a reaction from the Government nor a single line about this matter has appeared in the newspapers of the country. On the other hand, what is appearing in the newspaper is that was right thing to kill Gandhi. Not only that an interview of a gentleman has appeared in leading newspapers stating that a man like Gandhi would be killed if he were to be born again. Such news items are appearing at a time when the country is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of its independence. I would like to submit .....*(Interruptions)* Nothing positive will come out by saying 'shame' I would humbly submit to the members that we are being ashamed in the country for what we are doing. But either the Government should take decision in regard to build the park before August 15th or it should make clear through a statement that there is no place for Gandhiji. In this golden jubilee of the freedom fighters, just because some intellectuals assert that the architectual beauty of the Lutyens will be lost.

The documents have been submitted in the High Court stating that the statue of Gandhiji is nothing but a caricature. It has been streassed that if the statue of Gandhiji is installed, it will be an aesthefic vandalism. Though the Court has given

its verdict, yet I do not know whether the Government would be able to take decision in this regard by the 15 August or not.

I would like to tell the leader of the Opposition as well as the Leader of the House that it is very serious matter. We should protect against every move that goes against the image of the country and attempts to erase the symbols of the country.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the Leader of the House is present and as we are discussing the matter which is related to the sensibility of the country, that is celebrating Golden jubilee of its Independence, you are requested to inform the House to whether the statue of Gandhiji would be installed there before the 14th August and what bottleneck the Government is finding in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Respected Shri Chandra Shekhar had raised this point a week ago just after the session of the House had started and we had assured him that he would be informed of the situation as soon as the Government took action in this regard.....(Interruptions)

That is why I said an immediate decision could be taken on the matter after consulting the Leader of the Opposition and the Hon. Speaker. I would like to assure you that I myself would try to find out whether the assurance about the implementation of the decision has been fulfilled and that the Government would take immediate decision in this regard .....(Interruptions)

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH (Aonla) : What is being said about breaking of the statues of Gandhiji .....(Interruptions) Some other statues are being installed by the side .....(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr.

Chairman, Sir, the question which Shri Chandra Shekhar raised, was raised in this House earlier also. We have also written to the Prime Minister about it. Court judgement has also been delivered, therefore, there should not be any further delay in this regard.

There may be some controversy on the matter as to where statue should be put up but it is really very unfortunate for the country if the statue of Mahatma Gandhi is not put up anywhere in that complex on the occasion of Golden Jubilee of our Independence. Controversies can be resolved. It is very necessary to maintain beauty but there should not be unending discussion on beauty. Sometimes, tough decisions have to be taken and this is the right time to do so. I do not know whether the Prime Minister can take such decision or not. Decisions are not being taken in regard to major issues. They are being postpone but this matter is not so. This matter relates to the feelings of the people and to the Golden Jubilee. There should be no further delay in this regard and a decision should be taken immediately. The statue of Mahatma Gandhi should be put up on such a proper place in that complex which may be acceptable to all.

DR. LAXMINARYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr. Chairman Sir, all units of Cement Corporation of India throughout the country are on the verge of closure due to mismanagement of the Corporation. Some of Cement units have already been closed. Similarly, two cement plants situated at Nayagaon a little farther from Neemach in Madhya Pradesh are also closed for a week to lack of power- because they have not paid the arrears of electricity bills to Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board due to which cement units have become unable to function.

In such a situation, I demand from the Government that the Minister of Industry should direct the Cement Corporation of India to ensure the supply of power otherwise thousands of labourers are likely to be rendered unemployed there. Today, labourers are on strike there. Today is the third day of strike. It will be better that the Minister of Industry should intervene in the matter and get the management of Cement Corporation of India set right and warding off the agitation of labourers by accepting their demand before any agitation or law and order problem is created, so that these units could revive. Thank you.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Ulluberia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise this question with great sorrow because since 1980, I have been elected for the fifth time to Lok Sabha and I am raising this question also fifth time but it has not been resolved till date. As you know that we had made a promise to enact legislation for the agricultural labourers. We are going to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of our independence. But even after fifty years of our independence, no legislation has been made for one third of the population of our country. It is a matter of shame for us to ignore the interests of those people who live below poverty line, most of them belong to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and minorities. who do not get work for more than 100 days in a year and who do not have sufficient food to eat and without whom we can not produce food. Though, we have made laws to protect the life of dogs, cats and other animals and to check deforestation but we have not made any law for the population of 30 crores. This is a stigma on Parliament. What is the use of such Parliament which could not provide legal protection to the poorest class of our country. This is a stigma on our society. A meeting of State Governments was also covered in this regard. Ministers of six States had opposed this law. They are supporters of Zamindars. They do not want to make a law for agricultural labourers to protect the zamindars. Today, there is law for agricultural labourers except Tripura, Kerala and some other States. Even after fifty years of independence, nothing has been done for fixation of their wages and mode of work and if their wages are not being paid, how would the dispute be settled. We have not thought ever the problems as to whether their children should go to school or not, his house should be built or not. It has also been clearly mentioned in the Common Minimum Programme but nothing has been done even after expiry of one year. I condemn it and request the Government that a Bill may be brought forward and passed in this very session for agricultural

labourers. When the entire House support it, why it is not being done. Therefore, I demand that law should be made for agricultural labourers without any delay.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : They are the most deprived section of the society. We want to know as to whether a comprehensive legislation in regard to the agricultural workers will be brought to the House. ....(Interruptions) The Leader of the House is here, he should tell the House .....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Paswanji, would you like to say something in this regard.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR (Chandrapur) : Mr. Chairman Sir, as many as 100 small relay-centres of Doordarshan have been installed all over the country to deliver its benefit to the people. But these centres have not started functioning so far. When we write to the concerned Ministry, we get the same reply again and again that these centres will start functioning this year, this month itself. I have written several letters in this regard but they replied that they have written to the Finance Ministry. I would like to submit that these small relay centres may be made functional as early as possible. The benefit of crores of rupees which have been spent on it, should reach the people.

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : Mr. Chariman, Sir, on one hand, we are celebrating Golden Jubilee of our independence but on the other hand, Constitution is being violated in independent India. There are 14 languages enshrined in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution in which Urdu is also included.

This is a serious matter that an elected representative was not sworn in on account of his speaking in Urdu in Uttar Pradesh. When Mulayam Singh Government was there in Uttar Pradesh, who is at present Defence Minister in the centre, Urdu language was encouraged in Uttar Pradesh as a result of minority communities had a ray of hope. But this Government has said that they should be sworn in on taking oath in Urdu but they were not sworn in on account of taking oath in Urdu language. Parliament is supreme. When there are 14 languages enshrined in the Constitution and every body is allowed to swear in in any language, why the same is not being done in Uttar Pradesh ? This is the biggest mockery of the Constitution and it has been done knowingly because communal forces are there and they want to give a message to the people of Uttar Pradesh that the same will be done with those who will raise voice against communal forces. An issue has been raised there in the name of Hindi and Urdu and Hindu and Muslim. I would like to submit that the Urdu is one of the languages of India. Even today work is being done in Urdu in every where in India from Punjab to

Kashmir. Therefore, it is very disgraceful to the country. A Gujaral Committee was constituted here. He had made tall promises regarding the development of Urdu. Today, Gujral Saheb is the Prime Minister of this country. Due to communal forces, two members of the Uttar Pradesh legislative assembly are not being administered oath. As a result of it the people of this area are being insulted. The people who have elected them, their constitutional rights are being taken away. Therefore, I want if this right is going to be encroached, it will lead to a conspiracy aiming at disintegrating this country and if it is not stopped it will lead to adverse results.

Therefore, I request you that you instruct the government immediately to administer the oath and action is taken against the people who had worked like this so that in future it may not be repeated. If you do not instruct, the wrong message will go from here. Today, legislative assembly of Uttar Pradesh is in session. You instruct them that they should be administered oath immediately. The fear-psychosis which has engulfed the minds of the people, the communal forces should be curbed. With these words, I conclude my speech. You have given me an opportunity to speak for which I am indebted to you.....(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Iliyas Azmi says.

.....(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : He has correctly put the matter but the two honourable members who have not taken the oath, the responsibility for that lies with the speaker, the Uttar Pradesh Government has nothing to do with it.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What are you saying should be told to us, it has nothing to do with them.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Sir, either in the Lok Sabha or in Legislative assembly, the oath is administered by speaker or chairperson and not by the Government. We were administered oath not by Deve Gowdajee but by Inderjit Guptajee as Speaker. Therefore, there is no responsibility of Uttar Pradesh Government (Interruptions) I accept that he should have been administered oath .....(Interruptions) Now, I would speak on my notice. ....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whether you have not spoken on your notice ?

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Till now, I have not spoken on the notice, now I would speak on my notice .....(Interruptions)

\* Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You see Kanwarjee, you have put forth your view, now let him speak. Azmijee, your notice is for L.P.G. Agency. You speak on that.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Minister of Petroleum has given a statement that in every town of 20 thousand population, gas agency has been opened. I have an objection to it. This is a grossly wrong statement. Any minister should not give wrong statement publicly. In my constituency two towns of Mohammad and Tihani have more than 20 thousand population. For both of these towns two years back, Hindustan Petroleum has given an advertisement for opening of L.P.G. Agencies. Since two years, thousands of applications are lying, but nothing has happened. I want to now that by what time they would be opened ?.....(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Chairman Sir, oath should have been taken in Urdu but the responsibility of administering oath rests with the speaker and not with the government. ....(*Interruptions*)\*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Honourable Chairman, Sir, yesterday, again a rail-accident took place. Shekhawati Express near Mahendragarh derailed. In it 13 people were injured. In this accident three rib-bones of United Front's Minister Shri Sheesh Ram Ola's were broken. Narrating his horrowing experience, he told us that nobody reached there till two and a half hours. After two and a half hours S.D.M. arrived but he did not bring any Medical team with him. And neither any arrangement was made for providing any relief to the victims. For three hours, the Minister kept shouting. No relief work had begun. On his own, the Minister got admitted himself in Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. When a Minister faces this type of situation, you can very well imagine the plight of other injured people. Not one but many train accidents are taking place. Nobody expresses wonder at these accidents but wonders the day on which no accident takes place. Near my constituency of Bhopal, Vidisha Karnataka, Andhra, Malwa Express was derailed. Railway Minister announces about the probe but he does not attempt to stop these accidents. We do not expect from our Rail Minister that like Shashtrijee he should resign after one accident but in the name of cleanliness he should not play the drama of cleanliness. This will not improve rail-arrangements. Either the Minister should take stern measures to curb the train accidents or should resign. People today sit in the Train chanting Hanuman Chalisa .....(*Interruptions*) Mr. Chairman Sir, Railway Minister is sitting silently. He should express his reactions on it .....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not fair. Please go and meet him.

.....(*Interruptions*)

\* Not recorded.

\* SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol) : Mr. Chairman. Sir. I have given notice to speak in Bengali. The problem of unemployment is a burning issue today. Unemployment prevailing in our country has assumed serious dimensions in recent years. It is rampant both in rural and urban areas as well as among the industrial labour and educated people. Sir, the number of job seekers on the live register of employment exchange of the country as on 31.12. 96 is 37429.6. Besides lakhs of people who have not registered themselves in employment exchange do not have any regular job. So they also come under the category of unemployment. The labour force in India is 339.2 million. i.e. , 37.4% of the total population.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please try to finish soon.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Yes Sir, I won't take much time. The labour force comprising 37.4% of the total population does not get any job regularly. Some of them get job regularly, some get for a period only and some do not get any employment. So there is dissatisfaction, frustration among these people .....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Haradhan Babu, please do not speak for long.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Yes Sir, I should conclude soon. Sir, 80% of the workers are living in rural areas of which 63% is engaged in agriculture. 85% of the workers is self employed or are employed on casual wages, only 15% of the work force have regular salaried job. So, the casual workers because of irregular job do not have fixed income. This also gives rise to unemployment. Besides, so many PSUs, industries have either become sick or are being closed resulting in large number of unemployment. Due to frustration and dissatisfaction these youths are drawn towards all kinds of illegal activities and anti social elements. They are being used by the vested interests also. The trend towards violence, separatism, secession and divisive forces are the result of morbid picture of unemployment. So, I urge upon the Government to make the sick industries viable and not to close the factories and also to make employment generated schemes for the job seekers. ....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will get chance not today but tomorrow

.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM SAGAR (Barabanki) : Mr. Chairman Sir, we want to raise the matter of Uttar Pradesh. ....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You meet the Hon'ble Speaker. If you have any problem you should meet the Hon'ble Speaker.

\* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.



[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we shall take up Matters under Rule 377.

Prof. Om Pal Singh 'Nidar'.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except what Prof. Om Pal Singh 'Nidar' says.

.....(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

If you have any special problem, you see the Hon'ble Speaker.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You sit down. How can I call you to speak? I don't know even the matter? You meet the Hon'ble Speaker and tell him about your problems. He has not given me any instruction?

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You meet him tomorrow.

13.34 hrs.

### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to increase Import Duty on Newsprint to save indigenous paper mills from closure**

[Translation]

PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (Jalesar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, many indigenous paper mills have closed down as imported newsprint is purposely being sold at cheaper rates in the country. Indian newsprint is available at the rate of Rs. 22.23 per Kg., whereas the same type of newsprint is available in foreign countries at Rs. 30 per Kg. But the foreign capitalists are intentionally selling their newsprint at the rate of Rs. 15-16 per Kg. Government mills such as Nepa Nagar Paper Mills, Khandwa and some private paper mills have closed down as a result thereof.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to increase the import duty on foreign newsprint so as to enable our industry to face the competition of foreign newsprint industry and all mills including Nepa Mill could be revived and the labourers could be paid their wages without delay.

- (ii) **Need to take steps for Protection of Medicinal Herbs in Gumala District of Bihar**

SHRI LALIT ORAON (Lohardaga) : Mr. Charirman, Sir, the medicinal herbs and plants are on the verge of extinction

because of indiscriminate felling of trees and unscrupulous smugglers have eye on them in the districts which have been identified as the most backward districts of Bihar. The local citizens are much concerned over the extinction of these herbs which have been traditionally used for treatment of various diseases. The forest department has neither initiated any positive action to preserve these plants nor is concerned about it. You should know that in this forest covered district many types of herbs like Janglisafed Haldi, Arjun, Ghoravach, Shatawar, Gorakhmundi, Nagarmotha, Harjora, Meda, Karher, Inderjo, Kapoori, are found in abundance. These herbs have the property to cure fever, jaundice, orthopaedic gynaecological, paediatric diseases and diabetes easily and successfully in traditional manner. The situation has assumed serious proportion due to felling of trees, non implementation of various schemes, increasing population and growing activities of smugglers and as a result thereof it has become quite difficult even to find the general herbs such as 'Aola', 'Harra', 'Bahera' etc. Even after smuggling of hundreds of trucks of 'Meda Chhal' no proper action has been taken against the smugglers active in Jaldega, Palkot, Kolibara, Simdega, Bano, Basia, Bharno, Sisai or Kamdara areas during the last two or three years.

The Central Government is, therefore, requested to take some concrete measures for protection of about 100 species of these medicinal herbs which are on the verge of extinction in the said area.

- (iii) **Need to entrust maintenance work of National Highway No. 52 between Balipara and Jonai in the North Bank of Assam to the Directorate General of Border Roads**

[English]

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA (Tezpur) : The National Highway No. 52 running through four border districts of Assam's North Bank providing access to Arunchal and Chinese borders is of vital strategic importance to the country. Presently the highway is in a virtually dilapidated state, partly because of inundation and erosion during rains and floods and partly because little or no maintenance was undertaken by the State PWD during the last couple of years. A few bridges on NH 52, like Solengi near Gohpur have remained perpetually under incomplete construction.

In view of the above and considering the utmost importance of NH 52 close to strategic borders it would be in the best interest of all concerned to transfer the responsibility of maintenance of the highway to the Directorate General Border Roads. The DGBR is already mobilised and working successfully in the vicinity for the last three decades and it would be well within its capability to undertake this additional responsibility.

The Shukla Committee to suggest measures to bridge the infrastructure gaps in the North East appointed by the Prime Minister has recommended only recently that the maintenance of NH 52 between Balipara to Jonai should be entrusted to DGBR, a view subsequently endorsed by the Standing Committee on Home Affairs of this Parliament.

\* Not recorded.

I would, therefore, urge the Minister of Surface Transport to act immediately on the above recommendation and entrust to the Directorate General of Border Roads the responsibility of maintenance of NH 52 between Balipara and Jonal in the North Bank of Assam.

**(iv) Need to take steps to check illegal mining of coal in the country**

*[Translation]*

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, After nationalisation of Coal mines, some small mines were abandoned by declaring them unprofitable but illegal mining has been continuing in these mines as a result of which the Government is suffering losses as also ecological imbalance is being caused in the region due to unscientific mining. Many accidents have occurred in these mines due to hazardous mining.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government that these mines should be handed over to the state Government so that these coal mines could be exploited to provide benefit to the state.

**(v) Need to grant more functional Autonomy to Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited**

*[English]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : As part of liberalisation scheme, the Government has set up Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL). The Disinvestment Commission, in its third report, has nailed the bureaucratic and administrative controls of the Department of Telecommunication (DOT) which plague the working of the MTNL, particularly when private competition rides high in Delhi and Mumbai basic telecom circles. The Commission has expressed the opinion that the linkages between the DOT and the MTNL need to be dismantled so that the MTNL could function with maximum efficiency and fetch best possible price in the next tranche of disinvestment. The DOT should stop treating the MTNL as its own extension unit. Further, the MTNL should be vested with maximum autonomy and corporate powers in their management and functioning to enable it to fulfil their new role in the telecom area.

I request the Government to implement the recommendation of the Disinvestment Commission in relation to the MTNL on a top priority basis.

**(vi) Need to provide Civic Amenities to residents of Union Territory of Chandigarh**

*[Translation]*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Chairman Sir, thousand of people in the Union Territory of Chandigarh are living in their own houses constructed outside the I. al Dora land of villages. Similarly thousands of people are living in slum clusters in the city. Out of the total population of 7-8 lakhs as many as one lakh persons have not been provided

electricity and water connections. The basic amenities like drinking water, roads and sewerage are also not available there. These people are struggling since long to get these amenities.

Not only this, some officers of the Chandigarh administration are pursuing the policy of demolishing such houses in some parts of the city. During the last few days some pucca houses have also been demolished in labour colony, Shanti Nagar, Manimajra, Shakti Nagar colony sector 41-A, and sector 37 including Palsora Colony without serving any proper notice resulting loss of property worth lakhs of rupees. Such activities causes resentment among people.

This year we are celebrating 50th year i.e. golden jubilee of our independence. Therefore, it is imperative for the Union Government to make efforts to remove injustice being meted out to every citizen on this occasion.

At the end I demand from Union Government that basic amenities like electricity, water, sewerage and ration cards should be provided immediately to each citizen living in Chandigarh irrespective of the fact they live in village, colony or any other part of the city. Further policy of demolishing the constructed houses should be banned and where houses have been demolished illegally, compensation should be paid to the owners of such houses and action should be taken against the guilty officers.

**(vii) Need to take steps to check incidents of burning alive of people due to practising of sorcery in Andhra Pradesh**

*[English]*

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY (Nizamabad) : Sir, the incidence of burning alive of people accused of practising sorcery is on the increase in the district of Nizamabad in Andhra Pradesh, putting the civilised society to shame. Not only the alleged practitioners of sorcery are the victims of the bizarre murders, but the Naxalites, police informers and highway robbers are also meeting with the same fate.

Sir, the Kammanapally incident which took place in April, 1977 claimed the lives of three persons, including an aged woman. The gruesome practice was being adopted by the villagers to settle scores. Seventeen persons, including five women and a girl were roasted alive in the district of Nizamabad, Andhra Pradesh during the last five years. On an average, three persons are becoming victims of this shameful and aboriginal practice. Even in this computer era, several people, particularly the rural folk, strongly believe that black magic and sorcery could cause psychological and physical problems. They also believe that if goddesses get angry, the villagers would be affected with diseases like cholera, small pox and so on. They also tend to believe that sorcery and witchcraft was the reason behind fire accidents and natural calamities.

I urge the Union Government that steps should be taken or the State Government of Andhra Pradesh should be

directed to take steps to check such type of incidents of burning people alive.

**(viii) Need to provide employment to people whose land has been acquired for Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research at Kalpakkam, Tamilnadu**

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (Chengalpatu): Sir, in the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research at Kalpakkam near Chennai, Tamil Nadu, the third phase expansion has taken place recently, for which necessary land was acquired from the local agricultural people. Further, staff quarters have also been constructed by acquiring land from the local people. At that time, the authorities gave assurance to provide employment to the members of the families who have provided their land to the Centre. But so far the authorities have not fulfilled their promise and the local people are now thrown out of their agricultural livelihood. They are without any job and are very much agitated.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government to look into this issue immediately and take urgent action to provide employment to those families who have provided their agricultural land to the Research Centre. Moreover, the recruiting centre should be shifted from Mumbai to Chennai for the convenience of the local people.

13.49 hrs.

[English]

**RE : INSURANCE REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
BILL -- Contd.**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now let us go to the next item- further consideration of the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill. Shri Basudeb Acharia was on his legs and he has already consumed nineteen minutes. Achariaji, please tell how much time you will require.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I shall take another ten to fifteen minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is good.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, yesterday I was mentioning about what will be our requirement, as per the Common Minimum Programme, for infrastructure development. The requirement will be to the extent of 200 million dollars, that is, Rupees seven lakh crore.

Sir, the extent of resources generated by L.I.C. and G.I.C. is such that even after assuming that there is no improvement in their performance, these two organisations can provide or will be able to provide to the extent of Rs. 1,00,000 crore during the next five years. Then why should we invite the foreign insurance companies when our L.I.C. and G.I.C. are capable of generating funds ? They have

generated funds since their nationalisation. In the Fourth Five Year Plan they generated even more than the targeted amount. The target was Rs. 8,000 crore and the amount provided by L.I.C. was Rs. 12,000 crore. In the Eighth Five Year Plan it provided Rs. 33,000 crore.

The performance of G.I.C. is also not bad. In 1994-95, its settlement of claims was more than 74 per cent whereas the international standard is only 40 per cent. The settlement of claims is one of the criteria for judging the performance of L.I.C. and G.I.C. The gross profit was Rs. 1,081 crore and the net profit was Rs. 333 crore in the case of L.I.C. The growth rate of G.I.C. is 19.5 percent, much more than that of any other company of the United States of America or the United Kingdom. But the problem will be that the premium income of G.I.C. is around 1.5 billion dollars which is much less than some of the foreign companies. You see the premium income of one American company named American International Group Incorporated which is seeking to enter into the insurance sector of our country. In 1993, when the former Prime Minister visited the United States, they sought entry into the Indian insurance sector. What is the premium of this particular company of the U.S.A. ? It is as much as 20.1 billion dollars. If these companies are allowed to enter into the Indian insurance sector, then what will happen to our L.I.C. and G.I.C. ? We have the experience or competition after nationalisation also. What was the net result of competition ? This competition was allowed among the subsidiaries of G.I.C. in 1994.

We have seen the result. We have the experience of this competition, the undercutting of the premium etc.

This will happen if the foreign companies and multinational companies are allowed to enter into the insurance sector of our country. Why should we allow foreign multinational companies ? Why should we allow even private insurance companies into the insurance sector of our country ? What is the necessity ? Is there any necessity ? Will the competition lead to efficiency ? What was our experience of the pre-nationalisation period when there were as many as 245 private insurance companies ? I can quote from the speech delivered by the former Finance Minister, Shri C.D. Deshmukh while nationalising Life Insurance Corporation of India in 1956. What Shri Deshmukh said at that time is still relevant. He said:

"The nationalisation of Life Insurance will be another milestone on the road the country has chosen in order to reach its goal of a socialistic pattern of society. In the implementation of the Second Five Year Plan, it is bound to give material assistance, into the lives of millions in the rural areas, it will introduce a new sense of awareness of building for the future in the spirit of calm confidence which insurance alone can give. It is a measure conceived in a genuine spirit of service to the people. It will be for the people to respond, confound the doubters and make it a resounding success."

It is still relevant.

If we allow the foreign companies and the competition, from competition, the undercutting of premiums and all the irregular activities will start taking place which we had in our country prior to nationalisation in 1956. What is stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill? It has been stated that after nationalisation, the role of Controller of Insurance diminished over a period of time. There was the Act of 1938 which was not repealed, if I am correct, and the role of Controller of Insurance became insignificant. Why? It was because when there was Controller of Insurance, all such things happened. We know about a company like Dalmia. What did that company do during pre-nationalisation period?

Since 1956, in case of Life Insurance Corporation of India and since 1973, in case of General Insurance Corporation of India, we did not feel the necessity of a Controller of Insurance or a regulatory authority. Without any regulatory authority, these two organisations functioned very efficiently and contributed much more to the nation.

14.00 hrs.

What is the need for an Insurance Regulatory Authority? It has been stated that there would be a competition. Why should there be a competition? The Minister of Finance has stated that LIC and GIC would remain in the public sector and that LIC and GIC would be strengthened. How would they be strengthened by inviting foreign companies and private companies? I do not think that they can be strengthened by this way. In my firm opinion, if we open up the insurance sector, it will only weaken both LIC and GIC. So, we should not open up our insurance sector not only to the multinational companies, but also to the private companies.

Sir, I now come to another important issue concerning the employees of both LIC and GIC. The bank employees have a right to collective bargaining, but it is surprising to know that the employees of LIC and GIC do not have that right. The wage revision is not done by having negotiations with the employees' association of LIC and GIC. So, it hurts them very much. The wages of the employees of LIC and GIC were revised as per the tripartite settlement. When the bank employees have a right to collective bargaining, why do the employees of LIC and GIC not have that right? Therefore, I demand that the right to collective bargaining which the employees of LIC and GIC used to enjoy earlier should be restored.

In my opinion, there is no necessity for such a regulatory authority in our country for the insurance sector. There is no need to open up our insurance sector for multinational and private companies. But it is being done under pressure from the industrially developed countries, particularly from the United States of America. There is great potential in our country. They want to grab our economy. They want to capture our economy.

14.04 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, our insurance coverage is much less in comparison to our G.D.P. We also accept this fact. But we cannot consider it in isolation. We will have to consider the percentage of people living below the poverty line.

That is why, our insurance coverage is much less in comparison to our GDP. But in spite of that, during these years, both these organisations have performed efficiently and will be able to perform efficiently if support is given and if these two organisations are strengthened without opening up the insurance sector.

I oppose this, what I call, obnoxious Bill because there is no necessity for such a Bill. The Minister of Finance told us in January 1996 that a Bill has to be passed in this House in order to give statutory status. In my opinion, there is no need for such a Bill. This Bill is being brought to facilitate the opening up of the insurance sector, which is not in the interest of our country. That is why, this Bill is anti-national, this Bill is not in the interest of our country and in the interest of the people of our country.

With these words, I oppose this Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Suresh Prabhu to speak now.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Sir, my name is also there.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur) : Sir, let Shri Jaswant Singh speak first.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, firstly, I am grateful to my colleague, Shri Suresh Prabhu, who should have so gracefully and so willingly conceded the right to me to participate in this discussion, more particularly after his name had already been called.

I had no intention of participating in this discussion. If I am doing so nevertheless it is because there has been some clouding of issues on some aspects of the B.J.P's policy in this regard. Therefore, I found it necessary to very briefly make my position and my Party's position clear. Before doing that, I think, it is necessary for us to understand as to whether the discussion on the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill is the right occasion for it or not. I do not know, but I would like to share with the House and with the hon. Minister what I think are the basics of insurance. I have always held that banking is natural to India. About banking, we have to learn nothing from anywhere in the world. But insurance has not been natural to India. How has insurance evolved? I think, principally, insurance is a consequence of industrialisation and the movement of rural societies from rural to urban centres.

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

In this regard, I have attempted to educate myself. But I do not find a cultural or even a civilisational basis for insurance. The reason was that essentially what we aim to achieve through insurance was provided by society or by family. With the assault of industrialisation and the movement of people from rural to urban societies, the need for insurance is relatively a new phenomenon to India.

Whatever we are attempting, it is a consequence and it is a well enough known fact that so far as India is concerned, we have really not had in that sense an industrial revolution therefore and we have not had the consequences of industrial revolution either. That is why, insurance is really, as a service industry an alien concept to India ever as and attempt to insure against death injury, loss to individual and damage to possessions. If a sociological study is made of the spread of insurance in India, you would find that what I am submitting today will stand full scrutiny. It is really to guard against the demands and the travails of an industrial urban society that a service industry called 'insurance' appears as part of the totality of service industry.

Therefore, a question arises : Is insurance a social service? Yes, it is a social service. It is directly related to people before it spread to various other activities and that is where it became business.

Therefore, it is axiomatic that the larger the population, the greater the business. Therefore, again the greater the business the more money in it. I think it is this, combined with the aspect that it is related to people, that it is a service that we have to examine with care.

The third aspect of the totality of insurance industry is that if you persuade an individual, an enterprise to insure either against loss or death or whatever, you do it for a payment and that payment, after a period of time, if that does not happen, is returned to the insured. In that sense it is long-term money and, if it is a long-term money, it is related to the savings of the nation.

There are then two aspects here. One, that it is a long-term money. Second, that it is related to savings. Therefore, the utilisation of this money, which is long-term is related to people's savings, individual's savings —I am not talking about corporate insurance of machinery, cars and scooters into which it has spread now. That is why, I relate insurance to infrastructure. Unless a nation has high savings rate, individual savings rate as also public savings rate which is really Government savings rate, you cannot develop either insurance infrastructure or financial infrastructure.

Let me make it clear that as BJP we are opposed to monopoly either of the State or of an individual. We do not accept that the monopoly of the State is equal to efficiency. There is a second point which I must make it clear that if the entire insurance industry relates to people and, if it is a service which is being provided to the people, then their interests are paramount. I would be pretending if I attempt to

put across to you that the scale of satisfaction about nationalised life insurance service industry, whether it be in one form or another, is a scale that is of an ascending variety.

Because there is a monopoly, a number of subscribers to this service find great difficulty in the service itself that is provided. We believe that this service will improve if you provide competition to it and if an alternative service is available to the investor. A person is investing his savings. What he seeks through insurance is security of his health or of his house or of his own person or of his life or of his family or indeed of his corporate activity. Thereafter, if corporations compete and if the money that is drawn from the people who are seeking insurance falls by way of premium payment and the efficiency of the service rises, I personally do not find any difficulty with that. That is why, I feel that I must state quite unambiguously where the BJP stands.

We believe that the Insurance sector must be opened out. Secondly, we are clear in our minds that when it is opened out, it must be opened out to the Indian entrepreneurs. Thirdly, we are equally clear in our minds that if you permit the opening out of this sector to foreign corporations, you will be doing two very great wrongs. One, you will permit the utilisation essentially of Indian money by foreigners. The gestation period is long. Therefore within eight or ten years, a new Insurance Company is not likely to make money. But they are ready to invest because the monies that they are drawing are individual's, corporations' - essentially Indian money. If you permit that Indian money to be utilised by way of insurance by foreign corporations, you are likely to do two wrongs. One, you are permitting Indian wealth, by way of savings, even if it is in terms of dividends, to be siphoned out, out of the country and second, what you will do is to prevent the growth of an indigenous, vibrant, dynamic, healthy Indian Insurance industry which can stand up on its own, not just simply in India, against the monopolies of others, monopoly not simply of the State but on a global basis. If you permit large international corporation to enter the insurance field in India now—I do believe that the BJP is explicit on this - if you permit that to happen, you will almost for ever be preventing the growth of an indigenous Indian Insurance industry. These are the three parameters within which we operate.

So far as the Bill proper, that is, the Insurance Regulatory Authority, is concerned, I do not wish to cite the Malhotra Committee Report. That is everyone's knowledge. I do not also wish to quote from the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance of this Parliament. The Standing Committee which comprises Members of all parties in Parliament has deliberated on this issue. It has sought evidence. A number of organisations had appeared before the Committee and given their views. Having examined all those views, thereafter, the Standing Committee has recommended that a body like the Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) ought to be established.

The hon. Finance Minister and also the previous speaker too said one thing. As is mandatory, the Bill has the Statement

of Objects and Reasons which goes briefly into the history of the evolution of the IRA. Here, I do not refer to the Irish Republican Army ! What I am referring to here is the Insurance Regulatory Authority.....(*Interruptions*). It is really a successor to an earlier body which was existing there. There are some observations as to whether that body really had a role to play after nationalisation etc.

Then there are duties, powers and functions of the IRA. Let me briefly cover these duties because this is essentially what we are seized of today and not so much with the philosophy of insurance. I did, however go into it because I found that necessary. We do not have orderly exercise of powers and functions of the previous incarnation which was the Controller of Insurance on the aspect of to 'regulate and promote'. You have to protect the interests of the policy-holders to promote efficiency, to promote and regulate professional organisations, to levy fee and other charges, call for information to control regulation and to prescribe the form etc., to regulate investment, to regulate maintenance of margin of solvency, to adjudicate disputes, to exercise such other powers as the Union Government may decide.

I do want to take a minute or two here on the aspect of autonomy. I think, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the hon. Minister has stated that he envisages the Insurance Regulatory Authority to be somewhat similar to the recently constituted SEBI. If I am not mistaken, that is also contained here.

I do wish to take a minute or two on this whole question of Government autonomy and institutions. Since 1991, what we have really attempted is to do only the peripherals as far as certain essential aspects of economic reform is concerned. The principal reform was in two areas which has not yet been addressed. I do believe that the Government had to have a totally transformed understanding about own role. The Government had to move from being a controlling, regulating and a capping authority to a promoting and an encouraging authority. That is not taking place.

The second thing that had to happen was for the Government, along with introducing a reform package, to introduce a reform of the bureaucracy as well. That has been not attempted. In the light of these broad observations, I would like to make my next observation relating to autonomy and to the suggestion that Insurance Regulatory Authority be somewhat like the SEBI. It will be an autonomous body. You have spelt out how it is going to be filled up etc. I do believe that if there is a strength as a nation demonstrate, we do legislate for institutions but we do not recognise that institutions are not created simply by legislating for that. Yet we will. The Bill having got passed will effectively and truly, an autonomous body called the Insurance Regulatory Authority come into existence. I have my serious doubts about that it because the interfering nature of Government has not changed. Why do I speak about it? I speak of autonomy because we have to regulate to prevent the misuse, as has been witnessed. Misuse of banking sector, misuse of securities sector etc., brings a very bad name to all of us. This House and the

previous Parliament has been seized of this. We have recently heard of yet another example of a particular businessman running away with people's money under the regulatory control of SEBI.

We know, Sir, that in the period 1992-93, fly-by-night companies appeared and took about Rs. 3,500 to Rs. 5,000 crore from the investors. The figure is yet to be established. The investors' money is not going to be recovered. We also know that roughly about Rs. 4,000 crore is the amount which falls under irrecoverable loans which have been advanced by the nationalised banks. I do not cite all these examples for any other reasons but to emphasize (a) that it is simpler, easier to legislate for organisations but it is much more difficult actually to create institutions, (b) that there ought to be an Insurance Regulatory Authority. We are clear in our mind that there ought to be IRA and that the insurance field needs for the sake of the consumer who is the citizen of India so that the citizen of India receives better services, that insurance field be opened up. But for whom? It should be opened up only for the investors from India. And (c) the insurance money is the Indian money. It is the money of Indian individuals, families, corporations, and enterprises. If you permit that money to be sequestered, if you permit that money to be cornered by the international insurance business houses, you are really going to rob Indian savings, to the detriment of India and to the benefit of foreign investors. This will have one more adverse consequence. If you permit the international insurance companies to enter India now, you will, for ever, prevent a healthy and dynamic Indian insurance industry from rising, emerging and making its contribution to the total national endeavour. Why? Because, if you do not permit the Indian insurance industry, you will really not be permitting the major contributors to social and physical infrastructure that is either the insurance companies or pension funds.

Therefore, it is necessary that if you are to move in improving the social and physical infrastructure, which is not a proposition that is questioned by anyone, it is much better to rely on our own strength rather than to rely on borrowed strength. That is why, Sir, I thought and found it necessary to intervene and to make clear our party's position. We are for the IRA Bill but we are not for, through the guise of the IRA Bill, the introduction of foreign capital or enterprise into the Indian insurance industry.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, to begin with, let me make my party's position, the basic position of ours, clear to the hon. Finance Minister, Shri Chidambaram.

We are opposed to the very basic principle or philosophy underlying the Bill. The reasons are obvious. It may cause annoyance to him but I think, in all humility, it is not annoyance which I want to invite. But what I want to invite is to have a second look into the whole gamut of it.

The underlying principle of the Bill is to privatize the insurance industry in our country. And this is the part of the total economic policy approach of the country.

[Shri Chitta Basu]

I do not accuse him. The total approach of the economic policy is based on four pillars which we call the thrusts of the policy. This comprises the very popular phrases--privatisation, marketisation, globalisation and particularly dismantling of the public sector. I do not accuse him; that has been the policy which has been framed by the earlier Government. This policy has been adopted by the previous government under the dictat of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the WTO. This is the hard reality.

I cannot discuss this very important Bill without having regard to this basic economic policy of the Government. This Bill is the child of that economic policy approach. That has also been made very clear. It is not very difficult for any Member of the House to discover it, to find out the hidden interest or the hidden agenda of the Government. This is the report of the proceedings of the Standing Committee on Finance on the Insurance Regularity Authority Bill, 1996. You will find in it what it states very clearly in Page 37. It has clarified the Government's agenda. They have not sought to hide it. It says: "The Committee are given to understand that the setting up of statutory Insurance Regulatory Authority is a prelude to liberalisation of the insurance sector and its opening up to the private foreign players." I thank the hon. Finance Minister to tell the truth and its reality. Therefore the objective is very clear. That is, it is not a regulatory Bill, it is a privatisation Bill and it has been admitted by this Report of the Standing Committee that it is a prelude and it is a step towards it. They have crossed this phase and entered into the second phase of privatisation.

Sir, I am opposed to that move of privatisation. The hon. Finance Minister may like it or may not like it. We have got a particular principle in so far as the economic policy aspects are concerned. We could not even support him from outside; it has not been always possible for me and my small party to extend support to the Government's economic policy pursued even today. Again, this very idea or objective of the Government has been made clear in clauses 8, 13 and 26 of the Bill wherein they have not sought to hide the ultimate objective of the Bill. It is not for a regulatory agency, it is for the privatisation of the insurance industry.

Lastly, I want to draw your attention and through you to the Minister's attention that without the Bill being passed by this House, the Government has taken concrete steps to enter into MoU with certain foreign companies. If I am not wrong, so far four MoUs have already been signed by the Government and permission has been given by the Government to certain private companies foreign and Indian.

Here is my very strong objection. This is my appeal to the hon. Members of this House. This Bill has not been accepted as yet. It might be accepted; it might be adopted but this Bill has not yet been converted into an Act. But this Bill has been acted upon as an Act. There is a difference between a Bill and an Act. This is in the form of a Bill. It has not yet been made into an Act and even before it has been made into an Act, it has been acted upon as an Act. MoUs have been

signed and permissions to foreign and indigenous private companies have already been agreed upon. This Bill has been taken to be an Act and it has been acted upon. This is nothing but a slur on this House. If the Government enjoys the majority of the House, be it of whatever colour or hue, it is entitled to pass a law; that would be a legal law, a lawful law. I accuse the Government of having done that. How has the Government entered into MoUs with certain companies? The present law does not empower the Government. Under the present law, the LIC and the GIC are the monopolies whether somebody likes it or not. Under the present law, they are the only monopoly organisations in the insurance industry. Why have they done this? Why has the Government been in so much of a hurry?

I think, in the month of November or December in the year 1995, the US Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown had visited our country and met the then Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao. Now I quote from a Press clipping of that period :

"The US Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown has assured by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao that India would 'respond positively' to the US suggestion to open up the country's insurance industry to external competition."

Therefore, it is very clear that pressure was brought to bear upon the previous Government to agree to open up the insurance industry to foreign competition.

Again, I refer to what our former Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh said in this respect. It is written here and I quote :

"Finance Minister Manmohan Singh reportedly told Mr. Brown that there would be no wavering on economic reforms."

Please note this. This move for privatisation of insurance industry is a part and parcel of the so-called economic reforms. The then Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh had reportedly told Mr. Brown that there would be no wavering on economic reforms. It is also written here and I quote :

"He added that India was ready to discuss issues relating to opening up the services sector at the World Trade Organisation."

I would appeal to my dear friends here to understand the implications of this. It is not merely an Authority that is being established; the insurance industry is being opened up for our national disaster.

I now quote again from the clipping:

"In the past, differences between India and the US had resulted in lost opportunities but a new era of economic cooperation between the two countries was now beginning."



MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Chitta Basu, your group was allotted only three minutes. But you have spoken for more than ten minutes.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I know my limitations. I speak only under your patronage. Had the subject not been serious, I would not have taken this much time.

Sir, I oppose the very basic philosophy and the very basic approach of the Government of India towards economic reforms even though we support the Government from outside.

I have only one question to ask: What will happen to the LIC and GIC, the only two organisations in the insurance industry ? In one word I say that this Government has decided to throw LIC and GIC to the corporate wolves. Now, I am reminded of Badshah Khan who, according to history, was thrown to wolves. I have deliberately used that phrase .....(Interruptions) Therefore, it is something like that. You are killing a hen which lays golden eggs.

I have got a small booklet which explains the success story of LIC and GIC. According to the booklet:

"LIC with its Rs. 5 crore equity investment in 1956, has been accumulating savings of the people and increasing the surplus and resources generated for investment year after year for developmental purposes and for budgetary support. It has been maintaining over 20 per cent growth rate for the past several years. The premium income mopped up during the year 1995-96 alone amounts to Rs. 14,182 crore. The total income including investment income is Rs. 22,047 crore. A dividend of Rs. 161.28 crore has been given for 1994-95 to the Government as against Rs. 140.15 crore the previous year. The corporate tax paid by LIC is Rs. 583 crore for 1995-96 and is the highest in the country in a scenario where hundreds of top bracket companies making huge profits have managed to evade tax utilising the loopholes in the law, thereby coming to be known as zero-tax companies."

The booklet also says that the GIC has also perfectly and satisfactorily contributed to the wealth of this nation. My acquisition is that these two major sinews of our economy are going to be destroyed on the ground of competitiveness.

My hon. friend, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, has referred to certain figures about the international corporate wolves. These two organisations would not be able to complete with them. With the result, the doors of the entire insurance industry will have to be opened and they will be taken over by the multinational foreign companies and big industrial houses of our country. This is not in the interest of the country. This is not in the interest of the nation and this is not in the interest of the people.

Therefore, I oppose the very basic principle and I shall continue to do so not only here but also outside. The bank

employees have given notice to go on strike on 27th or 28th of this month.

I think the workers of the insurance industry would also join them and there would be a countrywide agitation, protesting against the anti-people economic policy of the Government whose child is this so-called obnoxious Bill.

Therefore, I for one request the hon. Minister to have a rethink on this matter. If the hon. Minister pleases, he may withdraw the Bill and if he withdraws the Bill, he would do a good service to the country. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Suresh Prabhu.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : Sir, I think, it is my turn now.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Jos, you can speak after he finishes his speech.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): Sir, if he wants, let him speak now.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur) : Sir, let him speak now.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right. Shri Jos, you may speak now.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I am thankful to you for having called me to speak, even out-of-turn. I do not know whether it is out-of-turn or not. But I think, it is my turn only. Anyway, I am thankful to Shri Sarpotdar for supporting me.

Generally speaking, we are in agreement with this Bill.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All thanks the almighty.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS : Yes, I have to pay my thanks to him also.

We are entirely in agreement with this Bill. I do not know why my friends from the Left parties are opposing this Bill, I also do not understand what is the other alternative.

We have a mechanism which started functioning from 1938. Those were the days when we were under the British rulers. That mechanism is being continued even now. Much water has flown down the bridge after that. A period of 60 years is going to be completed. The parties or the sections which oppose this Bill still hold that they do not need any renovation of the old edifice. But, on the other hand, everyone even LIC and GIC - lauds this measure. I also agree with them.

The LIC started functioning from 1956 and the GIC from 1972. The institution of the Controller of Insurance has



[Shri A.C. Jos]

been in existence from 1932. Does it not need any reform? Does it not need any renovation? Does it not need any modification? This Bill is intended only to cater to that. This Bill, in its Statement of Objects and Reasons, says that it is to replace the institution of Controller of Insurance. It is not as if all of a sudden some action has been taken by the present Finance Minister. I even remember that the employees of the LIC and the GIC have been clamouring for restructuring these two Corporations. Their track records, according to me, is not bad. But at the same time, I am not prepared to glorify it.

If you compare Indian conditions or Indian standards, among the public sector companies, the LIC and the GIC have performed well. But that does not mean that that is the only thing that can be done. But even during those days the employees had been clamouring for restructuring saying that some more strength should be given to them.

They is why, in 1993, a Committee was appointed very consciously by the Government to go into the insurance field. I may state that the insurance sector is a gold-mine. When you look around the world - the Western world, the developed world or the developing world or 'the tigers and cats' - everywhere, the insurance sector is a gold-mine. That is an area where you can make a lot of money ; that is an area where you can also play havoc to the economy. So, it needs some controls and it needs some more modification.

That is why, in 1993, a Committee was appointed under no less a person than Shri Malhotra who was the Governor of Reserve Bank of India. It submitted a report and that report was also examined on the basis of which in 1995, the then Finance Minister declared on the floor of this august House that as a first step, we need to have a better, more wider and powerful supervisory organisation or mechanism, that is, the Insurance Regulatory Authority. This Bill is meant only for that. It is only for regulating it. Why do you object it ? I do not understand as to why there is an objection. That is why, our party has taken a conscious position to support it.

There should be a competition. The Report of the Standing Committee, the apprehensions or suspicions or expectations expressed in this House are right that this can be a prelude to privatisation. What is wrong in it? Privatisation and foreign companies coming into our country can be separated into two parts. As I mentioned, LIC started with Rs. 47 crore as capital but now it has got Rs. 41,700 crore as its capital or accumulated amount. You know that we are a nation of 9600 lakh or 96 crore people. And how much have been covered by the LIC? It is only 566 lakhs. Even one per cent of our population has not been covered by the LIC.....(Interruptions). It may be three per cent. I am prepared to concede it. My friends from the opposite side are opposing it. When they are opposing this Bill, they are also the signatories of the Common Minimum Programme under which the whole Government edifice has been constructed.

The Common Minimum Programme says like this :

"The economy cannot grow and the needs of the people cannot be met without more capacity in power, oil, telecom, railway, roads and ports. The cumulative requirements of these sectors over the next five years is estimated to be 200 million dollars, that is Rs. 7,00,000 crore at the very minimum."

Where do we get the money from ? I am thankful to Shri Jaswant Singh when he said that one of the main factors to determine the health of the nation is the savings that it has. It is not the question of a nation alone. It is also for the individuals. We have been extremely lucky, whatever be the faults of the previous Governments which one can point out, to have consistent savings. We had a healthy saving of about 20 per cent. At times it reached 24 per cent which showed the health of the economy. If LIC is opened up or insurance sector is opened up, with LIC alone we can graner or gather five per cent or three per cent or our entire population, that is Rs. 41,700 lakh crores. How much money can we get from our rural areas, if we allow it to open up? We do not have to beg the World Bank or go with a begging bowl to the IMF. Even our own resources can be channelised. Why are we afraid ? Whether it is private sector or public sector, why LIC alone can do it ? I do not think that a country like India which has got such a massive land mass as well as human resource, with one LIC, with so much of top-heavy officials, can go to the rural areas and collect it.

SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY (Krishnagar) : They will not go there .....(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : I am not talking about foreigners. When you are talking about privatisation, it can be done alone by the foreigners. No, it is not so. Our economy, our society and our country are strong enough to have our own companies .....(Interruptions)

In Malayalam, there is a saying. A hare was brought up in a workshop. The hare would always jump when it heard the sound of the hammer because he felt that something was coming. The Left Front here are yet to come out of the masks. They are the most confused lot in this country. I am sorry to say that. They do not know where they are standing .....(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram): Shri Jos feels that it is no use to advise them.

SHRI A.C. JOS : That is also secret. It is no use of advising them. After a particular age, nobody will accept accent the advice also. Let me tell my very senior colleague, Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, that Shri Jyoti Basu had gone to London recently to invite NRIs. Every other Chief Minister is on foreign tour including my Chief Minister, Shri Nayanar. He also belongs to their clan. He has also gone not only once but twice. We are cracking all sorts of jokes. He went abroad .....(Interruptions) For what? To invite NRIs. Let us say that

the NRIs invest here. Then, where are the profits going? The NRIs are taking the money out. Mr Finance Minister, am I right? The NRIs are permitted to take the profit.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Yes.

SHRI A.C. JOS : The NRIs are permitted to invest here - not only permitted, they are there. They are shown a platter. They are invited with garlands. They are invited with all sorts of facilities. They are allowed to start all sorts of industries. Even our own industrialists are asking for level-playing ground. And for that, the Chief Minister of West Bengal has been the most successful among the Chief Ministers to bring in the NRIs from different parts of the world.....*(Interruptions)* Where does the profit go? The profit goes abroad.

14.59 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED in the Chair]

I am not canvassing. I do not hold a brief in this case for foreign investment. You have also to remember the basic things. What I am saying is that the insurance sector is a sector where you have to have a wider net. Some mechanism has to be found out. If that cannot be done, I do not think, that can be completely satisfied by the L.I.C. The LIC has done a commendable job. There is no doubt about it. It is still doing a commendable job, but it has kept only five per cent. with it. At least 25-30 per cent is to be kept into the insurance field. As mentioned here, insurance is an aftermath. It is a child of industrialisation. Life insurance alone is nothing. The insurance field is widening every day. Modern Insurance was sometimes like a child. Those days are also going. Now, everything has come under insurance. The insurance means savings. That much of money you get. The Government gets it for utilising for social purposes. So, my submission is that this Bill, as such, has nothing to do with privatisation or globalisation. This is only to create a Regulatory Authority. Even if your fear is that this may be a prelude and this may be opening up to the private sector, I am not against it.

15.00 hrs.

At the same time I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister that the LIC and the GIC in their present form needs to be strengthened. I am not blaming the Finance Minister. He knows its position. There are four General Insurance companies in this country. The United Insurance Company is headless for the past two years.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : There is no Chairman for this Company.

SHRI A.C. JOS : There is no Chairman for this Company!

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Finance Minister says that the Chairman for this Company has since been appointed.

SHRI A.C. JOS : What about the LIC ? I do not blame a particular Finance Minister for that. That is the bane of the public sector.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : The Chairman has already been appointed.

SHRI A.C. JOS : That is a very good news. After Shri Chidambaram in the 17 months that he has been the Finance Minister has appointed somebody now.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The hon. Member should know that if I could appoint somebody, I would appoint him the day before the vacancy arises. But I cannot appoint somebody. There is a system. There are rules. You have to have consultations with the CVC ; you will have to have consultations with the other agencies. There is an Appointment's Committee of the Cabinet. Give me the power to make all appointments of all the Corporations under the Ministry of Finance, I will see that every appointment is made before the vacancy arises .....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : You should change the system.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : That is absolutely correct.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : You were a Minister for Personnel in the last Government. You should say that such an important post was lying vacant for 16 months because of the present system.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Yes, I am answering you.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Please show your boldness .....*(Interruptions)* to say that this system should go .....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I propose now that we need not consult the CVC on every single appointment. How many of you would accept it? I propose it now - do you accept it? You would not accept it .....*(Interruptions)* If we change a single procedure, you would not accept that.....*(Interruptions)* I propose here and now that we need not consult the CVC. It takes seven months to get a date from the UPSC. I propose that we need not go to the UPSC. How many of you would accept that?.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : But you have not answered the other point.....*(Interruptions)* If the Government is aware that it takes seven months, what preventive action have the Government taken seven months ago? .....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : The date of retirement of every officer is known to the Government in advance .....*(Interruptions)*. If the Government takes adequate steps sufficiently in advance then no post would lie vacant for 17 months .....*(Interruptions)* and the hon. Finance Minister cannot blame the system.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMABRAM : That is simply not correct. Shir Chacko belongs to a Party which has been in power for 40 years including the last five years. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanor): You too were in that Government. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Yes, I am saying, so was I.

Now, every time the Government proposes a change of this nature, there is a serious opposition to it. I am proposing two changes right here and now and I am willing to convince my Cabinet also ....(Interruptions)

MR. CHIRAMAN : Mr. Minister, I think, we are going far beyond the discussion.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, it is a very important issue and let him say. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : If I propose that we need not go to the CVC for every appoint, nobdody will accept it. If I propose that we need not go to the UPSC for every appointment, nobody will accept the change. I am proposing a change, where is the willingness to accept the change ? ....(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The point is not that at all. If you know that the entire procedure takes four months or six months why do you not take steps in advance ....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Chatterjee, you could give your suggestions when you speak.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Jos, you please continue and as far as possible, do not create any controversy

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, this is going on record ....(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : There should not be people from outside to man the PSUs and financial institutions ....(Interruptions) There are many PSUs without any Chairman ....(Interruptions) Therefore, the sickness of PSUs is also attributed to that factor ....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Panigrahi, what the hon. Minister said was that we are working in an intricate system. It has to pass through all the required agencies ; there has to be screening and then only a person could be sppointed and thus it takes a lot of time. He is now proposing two changes.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : The hon. Finance Minister should review this and find out a procedure

.....(Interruptions) so that they are appointed well in time  
.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Panigrahi, he has already given two proposals

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : If the Minister is making a suggestion for bypassing the CVC, bypassing the UPSC, then I am sure, the whole House is going to oppose the proposal of the Minister.

As Shri Chidambaram has said, for about fifty years the Congress ruled this country. On how many occasions during this time the top posts in public sector companies were left unfilled? If the Ministers are vigilant and if the top bureaucrats are vigilant, steps can be taken sufficiently in advance. If they are not, they should not blame the system. This is not correct. A wrong thing should not go on record.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I do not know why Shri Chacko should think that we are proposing something outrageous, or something which goes against the grain. He can ask anyone from his party, which was once my party, who has been a Minister. I am not blaming anyone. The fact remains that I cannot get a date from the UPSC for six months for interview. I cannot get a date! I can show him the files. Let him come and see the files. I send proposals well in advance and the UPSC does not even give me a date for six months for interview.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Then it is a reflection on the functioning of the Government.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It is all very nice to say that. I cannot get a reply from CVC for four months. I am not blaming him for it. Every single reference is made to him. He has to conduct a complete investigation. This very UIC case is a case where there was a serious disagreement between the Government's position and the CVC's position and the matter was held up. Eventually we resolved it. But it takes a lot of time to resolve. The only way you can do that is to cut the Gordian knot. There is no way you can untie the Gordian knot. If you find that somebody is guilty of something, punish him later. But if at every stage you must have consultations with any number of agencies before you made an appointment, look at what is happening to the PESB. We appointed Shri Vithal, a man known for his drive. he is simply throwing up his hands! There is no way you can fill these public sector vacancies with the enormous consultations that have to take place. I am trying to suggest this to you not because this matter has arisen. Let us discuss it separately. Let us find a way to cut through this procedure. All over the world people make appointments. If you find that somebody is guilty or something, punish him. You cut through the procedure. How can we have this procedure and then continue to.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have a number of speakers on this. We have to take up the Matter under Rule 193 at four o'clock.

SHRI A. C. JOS : Sir, I lost ten minutes of my time. I want ten minutes more.

As the Finance Minister has said, the fact remains that one of the banes of the public sector is this imbroglio in which they find themselves. Instead of giving more and more control to the public sector companies, why can we not open up the market ? I am rather flabbergasted to read that in the tiny country of the United Kingdom there are 101 insurance companies, Malaysia has 34 insurance companies and the tiny Singapore has 46 companies. If these are the statistics in other countries, why should India confine to GIC alone?

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : There is 90 per cent life coverage there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jos, you have already taken 24 minutes.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : It is not I who has taken all that time, Sir. The Chair, the hon. Minister and my colleagues have taken ten minutes out of that time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I want you to address the Chair instead of reacting to the Members. Many Members are there to speak. We have to take up the Matter under Rule 193 at four o'clock. I do not know how we are going to take it up!

SHRI A.C. JOS : I will not go into finer details, Sir. What I was saying is that, if these countries, developed as well as developing countries, can have these many insurance companies and wider nets, why cannot we have them in our country? We have already lost a lot of time. We have to run now. We have to go faster and mop up the entire rural areas so that our infrastructure projects can come up while we strengthen our GIC and LIC. I do not for a moment say that they should be deprived, or they should be in any way weakened. They are very good companies. Their employees are doing very well. But at the same time, compared to the vastness of our country we need more and more insurance companies which can stretch their hands to the remotest place. While we are talking about foreign companies, I want to bring to the notice of the House that our Oriental Insurance Company gets 15 per cent of its income from foreign countries. Our Indian insurance company gets 15 per cent of its income from foreign countries!

It that is possible, why do we not have the self-confidence to face the foreign economy? What I am saying is that the Regulatory Authority should have very rigorous regulations. You are talking about a stage when we were slaves. Those people came here, exploited us, took our money out and became big colonies. They did a lot of things. But we are an independent sovereign republic today. This august House is ruling this country. If proper regulations are there, nobody will take the money from here. Nobody can overrule us.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, you have to conclude.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Yes, Sir.

Recently Holland has opened its insurance area and they are controlling it. They have got enough controls to see that this much of money alone can be brought in. I am not talking about foreign companies coming into the insurance sector. This is not the time to talk about it. But what I am saying is that instead of confining ourselves to GIC and LIC, we have to talk about other companies, with collaboration or without collaboration. Even LIC has to be split because it has got five lakh agents and 185 lakh employees. Why should we have such a heavy organisation except that it has got the captive workers doing something? This Bill has to be passed. The Insurance Regulatory Authority is to be formed. With all the teeth, with all the strength and with all the self-confidence, this Authority should formulate regulatory rules and regulations by which insurance field can be properly regularised and the money which is sleeping and dormant in our country, in the rural areas can also be brought into for the social and economic benefit.

With these words, I wholeheartedly support this Resolution but with a will, with a rider that we have to be very very careful on our Resolution.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Before he stands up, with your permission, may I make a submission? Since, at 4 p.m. discussion under Rule 193 would be taken up, I propose that let us not curtail the time of the speakers. Let them continue up to 4 p.m. Let discussion under rule 193 be taken up at 4 p.m. and residual part of the discussion on this Bill may be taken up tomorrow .....(*Interruptions*)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : It should be taken up tomorrow. It is a serious matter.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : At 4 p.m., we would take up discussion under Rule 193.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Instead of 4 p.m., we can start the next item even at five p.m.

.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I want the Minister to continue in the Government for another day at least.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Suresh Prabhu.

I would request all of you to shorten your speeches.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : It is an important Bill. Let the hon. Members speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will have to get this Bill passed today.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Tomorrow?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, today.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : We can have the Minister tomorrow also in the Government! We have no difficulty in doing that. If he is there till tomorrow, Heavens will not fall. But I propose that instead of curtailing let us contain. So many things have to be checked. I feel like speaking for a good deal of time. Despite all that has been said, without repeating, I would like to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your name is there, I will call you.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : It must be taken up tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us see whether we can finish.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak.

About any economic legislation or for that matter, any legislation and particularly quasi-economic legislation like this, the merits of it should be considered in the proper perspective of the country's economy and social structure. This Bill seeks to introduce certain changes in the insurance sector. Today we have been witnessing a prime need for drinking water, roads, for power etc. There is a general need to invest in infrastructure in the country. So, the Common Minimum Programme of the Government talks about 200 billion dollars needed for investment. The Krishna Mohan Committee report also talks of something like 165 billion dollars. So, the investment that is needed to go into the infrastructure, has necessarily to be a long-term investment. The investment which will have a long gestation period, will have to go into the infrastructure. Today our country is really facing the problem of how to find funds to meet the infrastructure needs of the country. There the insurance sector can play a very important role in finding these savings.

A country of the size of India as has been mentioned by my illustrious colleague, we have a large population but not so many insured in the country. He had already given the number of insurance companies in some countries. I will give some information on that. India spends 0.56 per cent of its GDP on insurance, the total amount of premia put together. Whereas a country like Germany spends 4.07 per cent of its GDP; USA spends 5.8 per cent of its GDP; a small island country like Barbados spends 6.29 per cent. A country like Mexico is spending 4.85 per cent. India has very less saving coming into the stream from the insurance sector. At the same time, India needs large investments to go into the infrastructure which can be provided by insurance.

In this light, I think, this piece of legislation which is going to introduce some changes in the sector is welcome. As a Member of the Standing Committee on Finance, we had considered this Bill and recommended its consideration by Parliament favourably. Though I would like to generally

welcome the Bill, I would like to mention some of the things which are very important which I feel should have been considered as a part of the legislation.

Number one, this Bill is brought about as a recommendation of the R.N. Malhotra Committee report. It is really time now that we should know what is the fate of the R.N. Malhotra Committee report; whether the report has been accepted by the Government or rejected by the Government. What is the status of the report? It is something which we should really know because this is the offshoot of the report. One of the ideas or the recommendations coming from the report was that the IRA should be established. There is already a non-statutory regulatory body which is functioning in the country. This is not something of a new development that a new body is going to be created. It is actually replacing the non-statutory body with a statutory body. Probably it would protect the interests of the insured in a better manner than the present one.

One of the ideas was that this body will be autonomous and it should be free of Government control. But the provisions contained in the Bill make it like part of the Government Department and really does not want to give the status of the type of SEBI, that is really contemplated in the object of the Bill. I think, probably a fresh look is required and some changes are needed so that when this Bill becomes an Act of Parliament, it would really take shape and would be given the type of powers that are really contemplated by the objects of the Bill.

There are three laws in the Insurance sector - Insurance Act of 1938 ; LIC Nationalisation Act, 1956 and the General Insurance Business Act, 1972. All these piecemeal legislations are not really serving the purpose for which these had been introduced. Probably, a comprehensive Bill would have served the purpose in a better manner.

The composition of IRA says that it will have four or five members but it really means that its members would be really subservient to the Government in the Ministry of Finance. Probably the Insurance Wing of the Ministry of Finance would really be looking after it.

There should be a provision which gives the Insurance Regulatory Authority Chairman the powers that are really befitting the status that he should enjoy. I think, he should clearly have the rank of Secretary plus which should be assigned to that, who is really not a pensioner.

The present Chairman of IRA, Shri Rangachari was a former Chairman of CBDT. In that capacity, he was really enjoying the type of status that should be really reflected in its origin and I think, this should be really introduced.

The money that is needed, as I was mentioning, the pension fund and the life insurance money which should be really mobilised in the country would probably be possible — it is not necessary that we set up an IRA that it is going to happen — unless we take steps so that the money or such

savings could be coming into the system whereby it could be used for infrastructure.

There are certain fears and apprehensions which I expressed, but the provisions in the present Bill do not warrant that such apprehensions could find place into certain provisions of the Bill anywhere.

I was listening very carefully to my friend, Shri Jos when he was giving the rationale behind why such a Bill should be introduced. The GIC, the LIC have really done a job that they were expected to perform. But the Bill nowhere mentions — I was going through it very carefully to find out— whether it denationalise those companies and I have not really found that it is really going to do that.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Not denationalise!

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Yes I know.

Or is the Bill trying to say something which will bring in some new players so that they will be destabilised? I do not think that there is any provision in this Bill which should really try to say that. I think, on such apprehensions which we have expressed, I was wondering whether there is also some legislation which will be introduced simultaneously along with this to which this reference has been made. I think, we are all talking about the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill in which, fortunately, such apprehensions do not find any place. So, I think, this Bill needs a support.

However, I would like to know about the per employee business that the present employees who are employed in this sector are doing. I will be happy if we get the figures from the hon. Finance Minister as to what is the per employee business that is transacted by these employees today in these insurance companies.

One thing I am aware of is that there is a provision into this General Insurance Act that only 18 per cent of the gross premium earned by the corporation would be spent on establishment, though last year we spent something like 27 per cent by 31.3.1997. The accounts are yet to be presented to the Parliament. I think, the Finance Minister is privy to this information and he can probably pass it on whether it is true that almost 50 per cent more than what should be spent has been spent on the establishment of the two corporations. If it is so then we are actually running into the results which have been created to meet the obligation of the policyholders and this could be something which could not be in the interests of the policy holders.

Sir, I would like to know one or two things which are very important from the perspective of protecting the interest of the country. Apprehensions have been raised particularly about the entry of foreign companies into the insurance sector. I am aware of the fact that the Indian companies are quite competent enough to meet the challenge, though it is presupposing that the Indian companies would not be competent enough to carry out the business that the insurance

is going to be probably along with them to participate. Of course, there is no specific provision on that account and I feel, we must make sure that foreign companies would not enter this sector to the detriment or the interest of the Indian economy and I do not think there is any need at this state particularly now to really find out how this interest is going to be protected and that is something which I would like the Government to answer.

One of the important points is that in the social insurance, the rural insurances there have not been any attempts made so far to reach out to that sector with which the rural population needs the power because they are the most vulnerable people. The insurance tries to provide a cover against the rich to the most vulnerable section of society. But that section of the society has really not been covered by the insurance industry in a big way. I would like to know, after the establishment of this IRA, how this segment of population is going to be covered against the risk that they suffer the most.

In that, at if all there is any possibility of some more players coming into the picture, is the Government thinking of allowing the cooperatives to come into that so that they can also reach out to this section, to which they are already serving?

The present employees of the General Insurance Corporation as well as the Life Insurance Corporation have been agitating against this move probably apprehensive of the introduction of a foreign element or private participation into the insurance sector. Their views and apprehensions need to be addressed so that there is no room for them to feel that the opening of the sector is going to be detrimental to their interests as well.

In fact, the only interest that we really try to serve is the interest of the policyholders as well as our society, which needs infrastructure very badly. If it is served by this Bill, I support it.

SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of my party, RSP, I rise to oppose this Bill.

I am in complete disagreement with the Principles, objectives, aims and contents of this Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill.

So far as my observation into the details of this Bill is concerned, the purpose of this Bill is to provide just a high degree of regulation over the affairs of the Indian insurance sector. This is only because of the fact that the Controller of the Insurance Sector has been minimised or diminished magnificently. In addition to this, as per the recommendations made by the hon. Members of the Malhotra Committee, the changes, as proposed in this Bill, are required to make it more efficient, to make it more competitive in conformity with the other structural changes in the financial system of the Indian economy, that is, the changes are requested in the name of efficiency and competitiveness only in conformity with the requirements of the market economy.

[Shri Pramothas Mukherjee]

Sir, the arguments and the objectives, as mentioned in this Bill, are nothing but a jugglery of logic and languages, just to cover up the direct sanction to be given to the multinational corporations for entering into the Indian insurance sector. This is the point. This is my compulsion, for which I rise to oppose this Bill.

Sir, in my opinion, the purpose of the Bill is to unlock the gate before the Indian as well as the foreign private sector in the name of efficiency and competitiveness. The efficiency or the quality of service or the quality of the management can be improved within the existing system of the Indian insurance sector. How can we believe that the efficiency in the private sector is better than the efficiency in the public sector? What is our experience? The insurance sector was a private sector. Can we deny that the British India Insurance Company Ltd. was a private sector? What was the necessity for its nationalisation, for taking over the management of this private sector? In the year 1956, there were some reasons. The private management was also charged of malpractices, of corruption and of unsatisfactory service to the customers.

I beg to remind the role played by the public sector in the development of the developing countries in East Asia in the '70s and the '80s. They played a very significant role. What is the role of the South Korean Steel Plant, which is the highest efficient public sector steel plant in the world? Should we forget that in Singapore, more than 60 per cent of the public sector, that is, the domestic savings is covered by the public sector? I do not want to go into the debate between the public sector and the private sector. This is not the question but this is a question whether we will choose the Indian public sector or foreign private sector in respect of insurance. This is the competition between the Indian public sector and the foreign private sector. This uneven competition can never be recommended. The players can play only on a level playing ground. The level playing ground should be given to the Indian private sector or to the Indian public sector and then the competition can be allowed.

It is a fact that in the name of competition, we see many things. The Indian private sector or Indian public sector does not have the sophisticated infrastructure but the multinational corporations are having the most sophisticated infrastructure for any kind of business in the market economic system. So much so an uneven competition cannot be allowed and should not be allowed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Sir, I will take one minute to finish my speech. Today, the multinational corporations may enter into this sector. What will be their job? Only the car insurance will be there. Only the fire, theft and property insurance will be their assignments and that is the business of the upper class, of the have-got classes of Indian society. But today, we need the Crop Insurance Scheme. In India, today, this Crop Insurance Scheme is

suffering. But those multinational corporations or any Indian Private sector will not come forward to take up the responsibility of the Crop Insurance Sector. That is why, I oppose the entry of any private or foreign private companies or sectors in this respect.

Lastly, I will appeal to you to take note of the fact of the Super 301 clause which has been admitted. I want to refer it to you. In the United States' legislation, this Super 301 clause has been used repeatedly to put India on the hit list for punitive action.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : I will just now conclude.

Some pressure is building up in the name of Super 301 clause for not providing insurance sector access to the United States' companies. The pressure is building up and a part of our Indian Government is succumbing to that pressure. This Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill is nothing but a symptom to surrender to the dictates of this U.S. legislation. So, Sir, I oppose this Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand to support the Bill and at the very same time, I would like to remind the hon. Minister that the Bill does not reflect the assurances that the Minister has given in his Budget speech. In the Budget speech, he has assured the House that the insurance sector would be liberalised and steps would be taken. But this Bill does not reflect what he has given by way of assurances. However, I support the Bill because something is better than nothing. This is in the right direction.

Sir, it is high time we thought about liberalising the insurance sector in this country. Insurance is of strategic importance in our economy. It has been nationalised with a view to achieve the social and economic objectives but unfortunately, in the present state of our economy and the country, this is to be reviewed to see whether we could achieve the social and economic objectives as aimed at the time of nationalisation of insurance.

Sir, but now with the interaction of India into the global economy, we are to liberalise our insurance sector. What is the present position? Some of my friends have already mentioned about the insurance companies in other countries with a small population. But in our country, only one Life Insurance Corporation and four General Insurance Corporations are there and they cannot cope up with the needs of the people of this country.

I would like to mention that a small country like the U.A.E. with a two million population has 54 Insurance Companies, whereas here, we have to satisfy with one Life Insurance Corporation and four GICs.



I would also like to mention one thing. What is our Gross Premium Return, that is the total premium? A country like Malaysia, having a population of 19.5 million, has a Gross Premium Return of 1.8 billion U.S. dollar whereas, India, a country with a population of 960 million people, has 1.1 billion which will come only to 1.3 dollars per capita.

A Malaysian citizen will have a per capita Insurance premium of 92 dollars whereas we have a per capita of 1.3 dollars. This is the position in this country. Take for example, the Life Insurance Corporation of India. What is the Life Insurance Corporation of India doing? Every two years they have to take the mortality table rate as the latest one. But quite unfortunately they are using the old mortality table of 1977. The Life Insurance Corporation of India is giving to the consumers the benefit on the basis of the mortality table of 1977 whereas in all the countries, the mortality table has been taken as 1995. How much are we losing? We have no option: we have no alternative. We have to take the life insurance and we cannot have benefits. How long will the people of this country be put to this difficulty and this much of hardship? This is a matter to be looked into. In every country, every two years they are taking the latest mortality table whereas in India, it is not there. Did anybody look into it? My friends who are just making a sermon about the greatness of the Life Insurance Corporation, why do they not also ask them?

I would like to submit another thing before this House that it is a sellers' market and not a buyers' market. The buyers have no option but to buy inferior products at inflated prices. Even after the death of a person his relatives are to run from pillar to post to get their insurance benefits. This is the situation in the country. Since there is no competition, the prices are also inflated and not in reality.

Many people are weighing about the flow of our capital from this country to other countries. I would like to ask the hon. Minister about the position of the reinsurance here in this country. The Indian Airlines have been reinsured. How much money are we giving? We are giving about 60 per cent of the money to the foreign countries. All the properties which are having the worth of 160 million and above will have to be reinsured under the law. There is no facility in this country to have the reinsurance. Our people have to go to foreign countries for reinsurance. I would say that only in the case of Indian Airlines, the information I have received from this sector is that billions of dollars worth of Indian rupees are flowing from India to outside the country. Why do we not have the reinsurance here itself? Everybody says that our money cannot flow. Is it not a fact that billions of dollars of Indian rupees are flowing outside the country? *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I want to raise some very important points.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot.

.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED : As far as General Insurance is concerned, we have only four companies which will not be able to cope up with the requirements of this country. The consortium of G.I.C. has taken the reinsurance of Indian Airlines aircraft. There is no protection.

I would like to submit before this House that under the law any property worth Rs. 160 million or above must be reinsured in another country. In the case of Indian Airlines, millions of dollars are flowing from India to other countries. We do not have any facility in this country for reinsurance and there is no competitive authority or company to reinsure. Now, we do not have any modern practice in the market and we are following the old practice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

.....*(Interruptions)*

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Please extend the time of this Bill. It is a very important Bill .....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : At four o'clock, there will be a discussion on the heavy loss of lives and property due to natural calamities. ....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED : Mr. Chairman, Sir, if you are not able to give me more time, then I will have to conclude myself.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it over?

SHRI E. AHAMED : If there is no time, then I have to respect your views, Sir. I always give respect to the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The other speaker who has just now spoken before you, took six minutes whereas you have already taken eight minutes. I was just telling you to conclude. This is not how you have to immediately react.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Therefore, Sir, I urge the Government to bring a legislation to liberalise the insurance sector in this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Was that your last sentence ?

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I will have to cooperate with the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee.

.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not going to lose anything by allowing you more time. The Business Advisory Committee fixed three hours for this Bill and that time is already over. Please cooperate with the Chair. We have already taken fifty minutes more than the allotted time.

.....*(Interruptions)*



SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, you are absolutely right in drawing our attention to whatever the Business Advisory Committee has decided. But may I draw your attention to some simple figures? The Business Advisory Committee decided that not more than two-and-a-half hours would be spent on the Adjournment Motion or discussion under rule 184 on Bihar and we spent ten hours. Similarly, for Maharashtra .....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Chatterjee, I am telling you that other important matters are also figuring here. Why do you not at least once stick to the time?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I agree with your concern for the more important business and that is why instead of rushing through a very important Bill like the insurance sector on which depends our security in terms of insurance of Indian people as well as the sovereignty of the Indian economy, I wanted more time. It is precisely because this is an important Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You start your speech.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I was, therefore, requesting you, because the House was concerned about it, that we should not have cut him out.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I did not do that. He has finished his speech himself. It is not my mistake. I had only requested that at four o' clock, let us begin the discussion under rule 193 on natural calamities and floods. Shri Ahmed should not have reacted so sharply.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : He is really hurt, Sir.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : Sir, there are other important subjects also to be taken up.

MR. CHAIRMAN : See the reaction of other Members! A subject like natural calamities and floods in this country has to be taken up. Everybody is demanding that.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, there are other subjects also which will have to be taken up, but this Regulatory Authority Bill is also very important.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : This is a very important Bill, Sir, particularly because there are amendments from our side .....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : All the issues before the Parliament are important, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have already taken one hour more for this subject. Only three hours were allotted and we have already taken four hours.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Because it is such an important Bill.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : It must be continued tomorrow, Sir.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : We respect the Chair, Sir. There cannot be an extension of time to any one person. Shri Ahmed was given five minutes. We request the Chair to please limit the time and allow others also to speak.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I will not be limited by five minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will not be allowing you more time. I cannot discriminate between one Member and another. I will not be in a position to do that. Your party Member has already spoken.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : In that case I do not speak, Sir.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : If you do not allow us time, we will not participate in the debate at all.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you say, Mr. Minister? Do you want this Bill to be carried tomorrow?

.....(*Interruptions*)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Sir, please give us time. This is very important.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I have got amendments on this. There are three amendments .....(*Interruptions*)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, if you do not give us time to put up our views, there is no point in participating in the debate or sitting in the House.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, what do you say? Do you want this to be carried for tomorrow?

.....(*Interruptions*)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, you must have the sense of the House.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, there are three amendments before the House. One is from our side. How can it be rushed through? I will not repeat the points.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, there is not harm in carrying it for tomorrow. You can continue it tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Where is the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs who can react to it?

.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us hear the hon. Minister Shri Chidambaram.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, kindly extend the time.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, the hon. Minister has got high ability and capability to argue his case. Why should you force it to be rushed through? .....*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, we are again requesting you to kindly consider our request.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have given the floor to the hon. Minister.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I am not anxious to do anything which will leave any Member with a sense of deprivation. The point to be remembered is that this bill is to be voted upon. It is clear that there is a sharp Division from one section. But then, the answer is not to prolong it. We must know exactly when this will be voted upon so that everyone can be present and vote.....*(Interruptions)* The principal spokesman of the B.J.P., Shri Jaswant Singh has explained his party's views. If some other members wish to speak, they can speak. Equally, from the C.P.I. (M) Shri Basu Deb Acharia has explained his party's views at great length. If someone wishes to speak to supplement it, he can speak. But I must know exactly when this Bill will be voted upon .....*(Interruptions)* We cannot be taken by surprise on a vote because I know for a fact that many Congress members would have to leave for Calcutta tomorrow. We must know it .....*(Interruptions)* Sir, if you are saying that, 'all right we will debate it upto 4 o' clock and then we will resume it at 6 o' clock'. We will resume it at 6 p.m. or 6.30 p.m. ....*(Interruptions)* Shri Nirmal Chatterjee, I am not interrupting you.

If you can resume it at 6.30 p.m. or 7 p.m. today and continue the debate and have the voting tomorrow at 12 noon or 12.30 p.m., I have no objection. But the point is that we cannot take the vote by surprise. After all it is an important Bill. Government should not be taken by surprise on a vote. Obviously, it is clear that there is going to be a vote. I am quite prepared to take a vote. We must ensure that everybody participates in the vote. That is all that I am trying to say.....*(Interruptions)* clearly know when the vote will take place.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: It can be tomorrow.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Please remember that this has to go to the Rajya Sabha also. If you take it at 6.30 p.m. today, I am willing to sit here. Let those who wish to speak, speak today. I am willing to come back to the House. Let everybody speak. But we must know when the voting will be taken. We must give fair right to every party to vote on the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are two more speakers in addition to Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee and then the Minister has to reply.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It can be taken up from 6.30 p.m. upto 7.30 p.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Those three names are before me.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, you please continue from 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. and conclude the debate. You can take it up at 6.30 p.m.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There are two Members from my party to speak.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, there are names in the list.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I may mention that all the parties have exhausted their time.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Kindly extend the time. That is why we are requesting you for it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Please take it up from 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. My suggestion is that the debate be continued and the voting may be done tomorrow immediately after 12 noon.

MR. CHAIRMAN : For the discussion under Rule 193, the B.A.C. has allowed two hours. It will be taken from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : That time is not enough. It may not be concluded.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Shri Acharia, somewhere you have to agree.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What will happen if that is not concluded?

.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, you are not a newcomer in the House. You know that this discussion on calamities will not end. Does it ever complete in two-and-a-half hours? It cannot be.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It can be taken up later.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Therefore, what I am requesting is that you take it up at 4 p.m. and let this debate continue tomorrow. We will debate it tomorrow. The request of the hon. Minister is very valid. His request is that you fix up a time for voting.....*(Interruptions)* They have to leave for Calcutta. Let us fix it that at 3 p.m. tomorrow we shall have the voting. After that they can go to Calcutta .....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, many Members are leaving by the morning flight and also by the evening flight. We cannot take a risk. It should be done either today or else it should be taken to 13th .....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Voting can be held at 12 noon tomorrow.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : It can be held either today itself or only on 13th. .... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : In any case, it cannot be held before 1.00 p.m. tomorrow. Now-a-days, Zero Hour continues for more than one-and-a-half hours.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : If we can have voting at 1.00 p.m., I think, they will not object.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Please conclude the discussion today. We will sit late. Voting can be held tomorrow.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, that is right.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, you give some more time to me. I will not repeat.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot discriminate among Members.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : This is not discrimination. What has happened is an accidental thing. Had the Chair known that the time would be extended, he would have been permitted more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would have requested him if he had been here.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : May I begin now?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Thank you very much.

Although I have said that this is a very important Bill, I have a doubt whether or not this discussion is already a little dated. This morning's newspaper almost indicate that we need not have any regulatory authority in our country. It says that the International Monetary Fund has now decided that they will link aid to good governance. They say that new guidelines empower International Monetary Fund to independently monitor corruption allegations. It is almost said that all regulatory arrangements and regulatory authority may be safely placed in the hands of the International Monetary Fund. That is how it strikes me whether we are having a discussion on something which has been rendered entirely unnecessary because of our subservience to the International Monetary Fund. Now, they will not agree. Therefore, this seems to me this discussion is a little dated.

Then, a reference has been made by, I think, the honourable and capable Finance Minister that there is only one Note of Dissent in the Standing Committee Report. I think, I should make a clarification on that point because I am a Member of that Committee. The clarification is very simple. They have accepted so many amendments proposed by

me. When I was leaving, they said that rest of the amendments would also be accepted. I discovered when the Report was being presented that one of the amendments, which they said had been accepted by them was not accepted by them. This thing led to the fact that some of us did not add to the Notes of Dissent. What was stated by me in the Committee was that I was not convinced that the insurance sector needed to be opened up to private and foreign firms. However, this amendment was supposed to have been accepted, but was not accepted. When I left, I left with the impression that along with rest of the amendments I had submitted, this would also be accepted. Therefore, at a later stage, only one of our comrades from Rajya Sabha, who discovered this fact, submitted in haste a Note of Dissent. This is by way of clarification.

I do not know whether a reference has already been made to a very interesting report. I have got the entire report. This report is "Failed Promises, Insurance Company Insolvencies" - A Report by the Sub-Committee on Oversize and Investigations of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, US House of Representatives.

This is a very interesting report. I want to draw your attention to that. It says :

"Insurance is an easy business to enter."

This is one of the comments. It says further:

"Making promises does not require expensive plans and equipment or time consuming constructions. All that is really necessary is to meet certain things."

It does not end there. It also says :

"Insurance can also be a very easy business to leave."

This is their comment. You can very easily enter in and as easily leave it. This is the nature of the insurance sector. We have to understand this before discussing the regulatory authority itself. What happens in the meantime? Sometimes, we say that America is the most powerful democracy in the world. Their language is very interesting. I am quoting from their report. It says :

"They encompass scandalous mismanagement and rascality and the ill-effects of fraud and gross incompetence may be hidden for 10 years or more before the regulatory authority can act."

For 10 years or more, this Insurance Regulatory Authority will be completely oblivious of what is happening and because it is easy to enter and as easy to leave, you can imagine what was happening in the course of these 10 years by some rascality. This is their view. So, I am drawing the attention of all those who are supporting the entry of the private and foreign sector in the insurance business.

Sir, this report refers to some fraud of the value of \$5

billion. How much is that? It is almost as much as the value of our bank scam.

SHRI A.C. JOS : It is much more than that.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : All right. It is much more than that. America, as the world's biggest economy, is capable of absorbing this loss of \$5 billion. But those who perpetrated this loss on those people would be welcome, through this bill, to have operations in India and imposing, if possible, that kind of a Bill on the Indian people. That is what we have to remember while extending our support to this Bill.

Sir, in the insurance sector particularly in Life Insurance -- not so much in General Insurance - the funds are long term funds and there are certain long term operations in the physical sense which have to be backed by the availability of these long term funds. Other funds are not this much long term.

16.00 hrs

[COL. RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

Now, in the banking sector we have one month deposit, one year deposit, mutual fund, seven years deposit etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Chatterjee, you can continue later.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I am on a point of order what is your decision now?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : This debate may continue after 6.30 p.m.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The decision can be communicated by the Chair and not by the Minister.

SHRI A.C. JOS : That is why, I am asking the hon. Chairman and not you.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : But the hon. Minister is so ebullient that he gets up and says something.

SHRI A.C. JOS : I am asking the hon. Chairman as to what is his decision.

MR. CHAIRMAN : With the permission of the hon. Members, the House will now take up the discussion under Rule 193 from 4 o' clock to 6 o' clock. After 6 o' clock we will resume the discussion on the Bill.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : In that case, is it not better to have an adjustment, that is, to continue with this discussion till 5 o' clock and take up the discussion under Rule 193 after that? ..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee make his submission.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : My point is that after concluding this, we can take up the discussion under Rule 193.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, the discussion under Rule 193 has to be taken up immediately because that is mandatory.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : In that case, let us continue this discussion tomorrow and not drag it today.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat) : Two hours are not sufficient.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Chairman Sir, Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill is very important and it will affect the people of entire country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The members present have already said this. But the problems before us has to be considered as the Congress members have to go tomorrow.

[*English*]

The hon. Minister of Finance and the hon Chairman who presided before me, Shri P.M. Sayeed, have already brought to the notice of the House that the Congress Party Members have to leave tomorrow and, therefore, the voting on this Bill has to take place before they leave, there is a flight at 5 o' clock or something like that. So, tentatively, the voting should take place between 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. Therefore, the discussion on this Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill would have to be concluded today so that the voting could take place tomorrow.

SHRI A.C. JOS : My submission is that a specific time should be fixed that the voting would take place say at 12.30 p.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I said that tentatively the voting will take place between 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m., and it is up to the hon. Speaker if he wants to make any changes.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : We shall take the voting when their session concludes.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : It is our Bill, and by default it went to him. So, we want to participate in the voting.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, are you suggesting that the Congress Members vote by proxy ?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : What I am suggesting is that we can take up the voting next week also after their function is over and if that Party still exists.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, it has to go to the Rajya Sabha also.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : With regard to item No. 17 which is being taken up now, I am on a point of order. I wish to make a statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under what rule you want to raise this point of order?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : My point of order relates to this particular item which is being discussed under Rule 193.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you not think that a point of order is raised under some particular rule?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I will tell you the Rule. It is under Rule 194 (2). I will link it up with it. Please let me say what I have to say.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your point of order?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I will link it up with the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business. On 20.12.1996, the discussion on a Motion under Rule 193 was initiated by me and it related to the deterioration of sports standards in our country.

I had initiated the debate. It is stated in Rule 194 Clause (2) as follows :

"The Speaker may allot two sittings in a week on which such matters may be taken up for discussion and allow such time for discussion not exceeding one hour at or before the end of the sitting, as he may consider appropriate in the circumstance. There shall be no formal motion before the House nor voting.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please come to your point of order.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : It is stated therein as follows:

"The Member who has given notice may make a short statement and the Minister shall reply shortly."

I had initiated a motion under Rule 193. It was listed on 20th June, 1996 and after that it was again listed in the last Session on 16th May, 1997 and after that, it has just vanished and the second motion has been taken up without completing the first motion. I think it is an omission on the part of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will bring it to the notice of the Hon. Speaker.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : It has not lapsed. It was listed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The matter has not come up before me. so, I do not know what the fate of your motion is.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : What has happened to the motion? I had initiated it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not aware of its fate. I will bring it to the notice of the Hon. Speaker and whatever be the decision, the Hon. Speaker will convey it to you. What do you expect me to say?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : The rules are very specific.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think the Lok Sabha rules are very satisfactory.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I think it is an omission on the part of the House. I made the motion. I made efforts for it. When it was listed, I spoke on it and there was no reply. Two Sessions have passed and the Motion has not yet been completed. The Next Motion is taken up before its completion. I want a reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What ruling do you expect from me when I had not studied the case ? I do not know what the fate of your motion is. I do not know whether it is being rejected or accepted. I will bring it to the notice of the Hon. Speaker and he will convey his ruling to you tomorrow.

16.08 hrs.

### DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193 **Re : Heavy Loss of Lives and Property Due to Natural Calamities**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, the time allotted for this discussion is two hours and this is as important as an issue, like the Insurance Regulatory Bill. Both are important. So, if the House is prepared to sit and burn the midnight oil, then well and good. But otherwise, we should aim to conclude this Discussion under Rule 193 by 18.15 hours at the latest. Thank you.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : It is possible if the time is properly maintained. Otherwise, some will be given lot of time and others will not be given time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are also on the panel of Chairmen. You know the exact problems.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I am telling you because I practise it as I am also on the panel of Chairmen.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH (Seoni) : Mr. Chairman Sir, this discussion has been initiated to consider seriously the loss of lives and property caused by natural calamities in different parts of the country during past as well as during this year.

I am starting my speech with heavy heart and grief because after so many days of struggle for the first time we have been allowed to put forward our views before this House. I am very grateful to you for that.

This is not for the first time that loss of lives and property has been occurred due to natural calamities. Natural calamities have also been even occurred before independence. In my opinion there is a time for changes in the nature and if we accept it as natural calamity right from the first day than it is not right. Every change of nature creates both types of circumstances for any society or a country. If they wish it can become a bane or a boon. There is somewhere inherent leadership which leads the society, you may call it a Government or a social worker. It would depend upon him whether they allow this change of nature to become a bane or boon. Everybody is aware about certain places such as Latur, Surat in Gujarat and the incident of Morvi Dam where the nature has turned violent and presently Gujarat, Bihar, Purvanchal region and Madhya Pradesh have been affected by the flood.

I am grieved at the earthquake occurred in Jabalpur. It has not happened for the first time there. Last time that devastating earthquake occurred at 4.22 minutes in the night of 22nd May. I have willingly talked about Latur. This has to be compared with other such places. However, this calamity has not occurred for the first time. These events had been taking place even before independence. I differ on this basic view wherein, the Government used to consider it a disaster on the very day of the incident. I would like to have a discussion about the situation in Jabalpur here. I am deeply grieved by it. Also, the actual picture and the seriousness of the loss of life and property suffered has not been reflected before the country. It is very unfortunate that efforts were made to conceal the loss of life and property suffered there. The Government there is responsible for this sin. It is a matter of sorrow. I am not at all happy to say all these things in the House and also I would not be satisfied with any sort of criticism. Had the Government taken interest in this matter, this disaster could have prevented and the people could have been saved from hardships.

Jabalpur is a backward area. There is no rail route. The country would have to think over it. Out of all the ordinance factories existing in the country most of them are located in Jabalpur. The State Government while providing the information about the calamities had demanded only 36 crore rupees as compensation. In the second round of discussion rupees 50 crores were demanded. After that 75 crores rupees were demanded from the Agriculture Minister in Indore. Again a demand for rupees 100 crore was made in the Jhabua Sabha.

The Government of Madhya Pradesh estimated 384 villages as earthquake affected villages. The date of the Government in this regard which is available with me identify 3200 villages as calamity affected.

My second view which I would like to bring to your notice is about the declaration of the Jabalpur Revenue border as calamity affected area by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. Whereas the epicentre of the earthquake was at Koshanghat

village, 20 k.m. away from Jabalpur. The revenue border of the Jabalpur ends after 9 kilometers from there and the revenue area of Jabalpur is spread upto 82 kilometers. People living 82 kilometers away in the west and north from the place of epicentre are provided relief. After 9 kilometers another district known as Mandla which is a tribal district, is situated. It has equally suffered loss similarly as Jabalpur. Till date not relief work has been done in the Mandla revenue area. No development has taken place in that tribal area. People were living in huts there. Their huts have been damaged but no relief work has been initiated. This is not the allegation but the data available with the Government would show that no relief has reached in any part of Mandla district. Whenever we read the newspapers, we find that in Jabalpur division sometimes three districts have been formed, sometimes four or even five districts have been formed. Even today the Government have not been able to identify as to how much area has been affected by the earthquake. Except Jabalpur revenue area other places are taken very lightly as to nothing has happened there. It is true that the number of those killed in the earthquake, there number was not high. As the number was not high people are not at all ready to accept the seriousness of the earthquake here. The earthquake occurred here was more devastating than that of Latur. The number of deaths was low because the lifestyle of people here was different, the construction of their houses was different and they were sleeping outside of their house due to summer. But this does not mean that we should take the incidents of natural calamities so lightly. I am sorry to say that the Government did not make any efforts to gather any information about it. The entire area of Jabalpur division, Mandla, Balaghat, Shivani Chhindwara and Narsimhapur of Jabalpur district and besides it Damoh district in the Sagar division have also been effected.

The earthquake has also affected Hoshangabad, Raisen, Vidisha, Bhopal, upto Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and some areas of Maharashtra. It means that we will have to identify the total area affected by the earthquake. Not only that, after this incident tremors of earthquake were also felt on the 4th of the month for the second time. Meanwhile, eleven tremors of earthquake were felt. Kundan was the epicentre of the earthquake occurred on 4th of the month. It measured 4.2 at the richter scale. It was also very devastating and its effect was seen from entire Kumdam block, which is a tribal block to the border of Jabalpur. The Government could not take any decision regarding it. We 17 members of parliament from Madhya Pradesh met the honourable Prime Minister. We invited him to visit this affected area and have also apprised him of the actual position showing the reluctant attitude of Government of Madhya Pradesh on this issue. They have not given the actual data and the Government of Madhya Pradesh have conducted the survey of the affected area through "Patwaris". The "Patwaris" carried out the survey in a very typical manner as it was done under the British ruled India and they projected only 20 percent of the actual loss so as to save the State exchequer. The Government could realise this only after two days. On the third day the survey agency was replaced and Deputy Ranger was deputed to conduct the survey. Then after two days he was again replaced. On the sixth day sub-engineers of Jabalpur, Raipur

[Shri Prahalad Singh]

division were called on. The survey began for the third time. Now you can very well imagine when over three thousand villages have been affected to what extent the sub-engineers could have surveyed. As a result thereof proper survey could not be conducted. If the information could not reach to all the villages. Therefore, actual estimates of the loss could not be made. And the situation became worse day by day. The Government did not give any indication for transparency at any stage.

I belong to that constituency and more than 2000 villages on my constituency were affected, therefrom. Three legislative constituencies of Jabalpur division fall under my area. I cannot visit all those two thousand villages. I have not opposed the Government from the day one. Congress has no people's representatives there. That area is represented by the Members of Legislative Assembly and the Members of Parliament from Bharatiya Janta Party. The people's representatives of Bharatiya Janta Party have given constructive suggestion and extended full cooperation to the Government for one month. I have been at Kosanghat for fifteen days and I met the Chief Minister and told him that you are a Congress man but I am not. I cited the earthquake that struck in Bihar in 1934. Earthquake of such an intensity had also struck in Bihar in 1934. At that time it was also rainy season. Shri Rajendra Prasadji had constituted a central relief committee and at that time the country was under British rule. He had given a call not to donate the amount to the Government but asked to deposit it with him. For this purpose he had formulated three points that at first the volunteer would visit the village to ascertain the numbers of people rendered homeless and the extent of help required for their rehabilitation? The volunteer used to visit the villages and after making assesment they used to return to the relief committee's office and give the information regarding the number of houses to be constructed for their rehabilitation.

That much quantity of goods and food items were arranged for them in the refugee camps so that the people who would came in those camps to take shelter atleast get their meals because they know that one would not survive if drenched in rain for 24 hours where as no one would die of starvation in two days.

This should had been our periority. But now-a-days the present Government is not considering any priority and has started a new game. It has started providing Rs. three thousand to each family in Jabalpur district. This way a new political game has come into existence. Each house has been divided to get the benefit. If a man has four sons then the family has been divided into four units, each having its own stoves stone. Mr. Chairman, Sir, two murders have taken place there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you please conclude. Two hours are left and you have spoken for 20 minutes. Now 15 speakers are still left.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Hon'ble member is depicting the whole situation of the affected area, hence he should be allowed more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am telling you that two hours are left.

[English]

Let him have his say. He is speaking very well. I do not think, he requires anybody's support.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is our misfortune that we could not express our views in any forum.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot do anything. Business Advisory Committee has allowed us only two hours and 15 hon'ble Speakers are yet to speak. I have to try my best to provide them an opportunity to speak. I am bringing it to your notice. You have spoken for about 25 minutes. Please try to conclude.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was telling that Government is not paying attention to the priorities of Central Relief Committee. I have repeatedly written to the Chief Minister regarding the same. It is not so that if we have done any creative work we have not given any suggestion to the Government. I have had written a letter on 25th to the Chief Secretary who has been given the charge of calamity control. I had wirtten that he should not attend to anyone, he must do whatever he can do in this matter. Whatever has happened is something sad but what is going to happen in future is more miserable. Houses of some people have collapsed. It is a matter of deep sorrow but it is quite unfortunate that the Government are not considering those houses as damaged which are not collapsed. Fortunately, it was summer and people were sleeping outside, hence they survived. In rainy season they are campelled to sleep inside. They will sleep in their dilapidated house, and will meet their end. My apprehension has praved to be true after two and a half months.

Three school buildings have collapsed in Jabalpur city. Fortunately, the school building colpepsed 22 minutes after the school hours. Three students got injured when other buildings collapsed. If there are no casualities it does not mean that gravity of devastation be under estimated. I have told the Chief Minister that we should not be like those leaders who are bent up to make the Society indolent. I am not against giving Rs. 30000/-. But what I suggested was that we should provide financial help after 1 month we should have provide list of business. But the Government is not paying attention to anything. All of us (Members of Parliament) has called on the Prime Minister and had invited him. At that time Prime Minister replied that the Government of Madhya Pradesh has not submitted to us any List of Business. We complained to the Chief Minister regarding this. The Chief Minister told that they have submitted it. That issue remained as it is. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has not submitted the action plan to the Union Government till date. He went to the extent of syaing that the statement given by Chidambaramjee is false. Chidambaramjee had given the statement that the Government of Madhya Pradesh has not submitted any action plan. Such type of negligence is being muted out with our people. I would like to submit that I am a Member of the Standing Committee of the Urban Development

Ministry. Shri Santosh Mohan Devji is its chairman. At that time, the Committee was about to go on a tour. I had written to him that it is quite good that the study group is visiting Jabalpur. No other place can be better suited than it as Jabalpur is both a metropolis as well as a rural area. If we have to find out the criteria for urbanisation and development then I am requesting them to visit the place. We have made all the efforts, given every kind of suggestions but in vain. At last, the calamity of Earthquake has acquired a devastating dimension. Today, we are ready to admit it with a heavy heart that we are facing the calamity of earthquake. It is too late to take precaution. We could not get any relief. No one will believe us. After four months, all the three criteria of the Government proved us wrong as we are saying all these just to get same benefit. Hence, a serious discussion should be held on this issue seriously in the House. Jabalpur is an illustration of this. We must formulate any policy as action plan as natural calamity can occur in any part of the country. We must create a confidence in the society as to how we will combat these calamities. It can occur any time. We are the only reason for such natural calamity. It is our responsibility to set right the situation caused due to natural imbalance. I would like to request that I would conclude after making some points briefly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken 26 minutes. 33 minute have been allotted to B.J.P. I think Patwajee also want to speak on the issue. It would be better if we could spare some time for him.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : He started speaking at 4.10 p.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have noted down each and every minute. You please need not bother for it. I have learnt in Army that we should stick to time.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA (Chhindwara) : This is Lok Sabha. If I say this is not military there is nothing wrong in it. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do agree that there is no comparison between military and Lok Sabha. I have only said that I learnt punctuality from the military. Patwajee you should not have any objection on it. I am sorry if you have any objection.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Unnecessarily, you are feeling sorry. I feel proud that you have learnt it from military.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have said that this is Lok Sabha not the military. I do not understand that you mean by it.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : If you want to know as to what I mean by it. I can tell you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have only said that I learnt punctuality from military. You have passed comment on it that this is Lok Sabha not military.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : You are angry without any reason.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What you have told to me is objectionable. Prahaladjee you please start.

.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt. Let him speak.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : I hold you in high esteem .....*(Interruptions)* Please give us time to speak on this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will allot time as per the directions of the Hon'ble Speaker. I spoke in your favour that you wanted to speak. Therefore, try to finish quickly.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : I am praising you. But you are getting angry. Be kind enough to smile.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Patwaji, I am not concerned about my praise. But if someone criticises the army, I do not like it. Because I look upon the army as my mother. Hence, I do not like the army being criticised.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : What makes you think that I am criticising?

MR. CHAIRMAN : If this is not criticism, then what is it? You said this is not the army but Lok Sabha. This means that the army are insignificant compared to Lok Sabha.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : You are losing your temper unnecessarily.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not getting angry. This is how I speak.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : I am saying that I am proud of the armed forces. So is each and every citizen of the country .....*(Interruptions)* Do not misunderstand me. I am saying that discipline is different in army. Civilians have their own way of discipline. All that I wanted to say is that the way you led a disciplined life in the army, is praiseworthy and worth emulating. If you ask me to be a military man, I would not be able to do so. I have expressed my disability. You misunderstood me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think, time is over for us to join the army.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Kindly overlook my fault. You misunderstood me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Well, there's nothing of the sort. Thank you.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH : There are some points which increase the gravity of this matter. The ordnance factories have suffered a loss to the tune of three thousand crore rupees. The Agriculture University has sent a list indicating



[Shri Prahalad Singh]

the less suffered and the Chief Minister has already sanctioned one crore rupees for it. The Jabalpur Mahanagar rural area alone needs two thousand crore rupees. There is Rani Avantibai Sagar dam, Bheemgada in Sivni and Tabe dam in Hoshangabad district. In addition to this, there are two more small dams, Mahagaon Danga and Mahgana dams which are situated at either sides of Gonda river have got damaged. The Government have not expressed any opinion in this regard. I have already mentioned about the survey work. Alongwith it there are some points about which we are more concerned. I would just like to submit that the Prime Minister had visited there and his attitude raised some hopes but now our hopes have shattered. When the Prime Minister visited there, a woman constable was forced to obey the orders and make request for relief works as a common citizen, such a heinous incident has taken place. This news has been published along with the picture in the Newspaper. Now, you can imagine as to what extent we could be cheated? What was the point that made us disappointed? The question is that as to why such a serious problem is being taken so lightly? I want protection from you. Recently, on 15th July, third earthquake has struck up there.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : How much more time would you take? Please conclude in two minutes because you have already taken so much time, which could have been enough for accomodating 5-6 hon. Speakers. I have with me a list of 15 Members.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH: I will conclude within two minutes. I would conclude by submitting that this is the third earthquake in this month. It has been measured 2.9 on richtor scale. The quake occurred between Narsingpur and Sivni. This has proved that the whole area is effected by the earthquake.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sir, through you, I would like to request the Union Government and the house to intervene in this matter to declare the entire Jabalpur area as an earthquake affected area. In addition to this, there can be some other small issues which need attention but keeping in view the paucity of time and your orders as well, I would just like to add that the Union Government would be responsible for the entire situation. I have tried to put before you the exact situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Hazarika, please ensure the time-limit.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA (Tejpur) : Sir, I assure you that I will not take a minute more than the hon. Member who spoke before me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you.

[Translation]

Congress Party has been allotted 28 minutes and four members of that party are supposed to speak. Shri Sontosh

Mohan Dev has given me the list of five members, so please ensure the time-limit.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to request you that this matter has been discussed twice earlier. B.A.C. has allotted two and a half hours for this matter. But considering the seriousness of this matter, kindly relax this time-limit to a certain extent.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Sharma, you did not participate in the discussion held earlier. The point is that discussions on Insurance Regulatory Bill have to be completed by today so that voting could be held on this Bill have to be completed by today so that voting could be held on this Bill on tomorrow at 12.30 hrs. or 1.00 hrs. All Hon'ble Members of the Congress Party are going to Calcutta tomorrow. So before me Hon'ble Chairman has taken this decision.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussions must be held on this matter.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You may please speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am trying to put forward my point.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : How can this discussion be run up so early you please remember.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt.....

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Every year in the Monsoon Session, discussion is held on the Flood and Drought situation.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will be recorded.

.....(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can not interrupt the chair in between. This is wrong. You kindly respect the Chair.

.....(Interruptions)\*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

.....(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not ready to listen . If you will interrupt me then I am not ready to listen

.....(Interruptions)\*

\* Not Recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you interrupt ? I was telling Sharmaji that he was not present at that time. The decision to finish the discussion on Insurance Regulatory Bill was taken by other Chairman who was in the Chair before me. I have no authority to change that decision. If discussion under Rule 193 will take much time then the discussion on Insurance Regulatory Bill will also be lengthy. If Members are ready to sit in the House till 10 PM then time of the sitting will be got extended. I am ready to do whatever the House decided.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I request you humbly with folded hands that whatever has been agreed upon is right and we are ready to obey it in a disciplined manner but at the same time we all Members had a feeling and we had experienced during past many years that whenever discussions were held under Rule 184 and 193, these were never completed in the scheduled time because the subject matter requires very deep thought and seriousness. This discussion on natural calamity is related to flood, drought cyclone and earthquake. So you discuss with the Hon'ble Speaker and get extension of time so that everybody could express their views. We can also discuss tomorrow. Those Members can speak in the beginning who want to go in the afternoon.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You consider, how many Members are left to speak on Insurance Regulatory Bill. I think, about 7-8 Members are left to speak on the matter.

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us proceed logically.

[Translation]

Eight Hon'ble members have to speak on the matter. After that Minister will have to give reply. I think that will take 1 hours 30 minutes or 2 hours. If discussion under Rule 193 goes upto 7 O'clock and after that Members are ready to sit for another 1 hours 30 minutes or 2 hours i.e. up to 9 O' clock then we may extend the time for half an hour.

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA (Surat) : Discussion under Rule 193 can be continued for tomorrow also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : In my opinion we cannot do this according to the Rules. According to the Rule only two days are fixed for discussion under Rule 193.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Rules can be relaxed. Discussion on natural calamity can not be concluded so early. You may please look into the matter. You are also an experienced person. There was flood in your state Haryana also. ....(Interruptions) You would also like to speak after

coming from there. Every year during Monsoon session discussion on this subject continues for at least seven or eight hours.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will extend the discussion till tomorrow. At six O' clock we will resume discussion on the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill, 1996 and conclude it today.

I am informed that according to Rules, discussions under Rule 193 can be extended to the next day also. So, that will be done.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Sir, what about the Members of the Congress party who are supposed to go to Calcutta tomorrow? They must be accommodated first.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. It will be done strictly according to the time allotted to each Party.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : If it is strictly according to the time allotted, then the Congress members would not be in a position to participate in the discussion because they are to go to Calcutta tomorrow .....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : A Congress Member standing behind you is to participate in it now

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Sir, the Members of the BJP can speak subsequently and the Congress Members can be given some priority.....(Interruptions) The Congress Members should be given the first priority.....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): Thank you, Mr. Chairman for having given me the opportunity.

[Translaion]

If they want to go then they can leave but let them participate in the debate within the prescribed time. The discussion under Rule 193 should be concluded today only. Whether it can not be extended for tomorrow?

[English]

In order only to accommodate the Congress Members, should we have to wind up the entire discussion? .....(Interruptions)

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : I did not say that we have to wind up the discussion.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is all right. Shri Hazarika may speak now.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Assam is a State mercilessly ravaged by natural calamities with relentless but unfailing regularity. The history of the bygone Century is full of endless pages after pages reverberating with shrill and agonising cries — Cries of the bereaved for the dead and the wounded, cries of the children who have been left orphans, cries of the farmers who have lost the fruits of the years's toil and tribulations. Be it floods, erosions, earthquakes, rains, storms or droughts, no part of Assam — be it in the Brahmaputra Valley or in the Barak Valley - is immune from the periodical onslaughts of natural disasters.

But today, I want to focus the attention of the House specially on floods because floods and erosions have become a curse and an anathema for the people of Assam. They have been suffering year after year without any solution in sight.

On the 15th of August 1950, when the nation was celebrating the Independence Day, that very evening, Assam and the North-East were rocked by devastating earthquake and its intensity was 8.7 on the Richter scale. One of the results of the earthquake was to raise the river beds not only of the river Brahmaputra but also of all its tributaries ; it also resulted in the change of the contours and courses of many of the river. Since then, Assam is being devastated and ravaged three or four times a year, by floods. Whether it is the Central Government or the State Government, nobody has bothered to take a long-term view of the problem. Since it is happening regularly, this regularity is breeding, not contempt, but a kind of an apathy on the part of the authority both at the Centre and in the States. They have come to take it for granted. As a result of this, we find that so far in terms of prevention of erosion or control of floods, hardly anything has been done. And this has had disastrous consequences on the people of the State. The impoverishment which we have among the people of the State and the economic backwardness are due to, or the major cause, is the recurrence of floods in this State.

What is happening to the economy of Assam? If we analyse the factors and significant features of its economy, it becomes clear to us that the culprit in most cases is the devastating floods that visit the State regularly year after year. Today, Assam is predominantly an agricultural State. There is hardly any industry excepting tea and oil and 80 per cent of the people are engaged in agricultural occupations. But till today, we are importing huge quantities of foodgrains or different food articles. That is because there is hardly any irrigation facility worth the name and even one-third of that single crop that is grown by the farmers is damaged and destroyed by the floods that come every year in the State. As there is no irrigation, during the winter months, there is hardly any cultivation. It is because only 17 per cent of the land in

Assam is irrigated as against the national average of about 27 per cent. Therefore, it is very important that the single crop that is grown which gives the wherewithal to the farmers, the large majority of the villagers, is saved from floods. But we have not been able to do even that over the years and the result is impoverishment and high unemployment eventually leading to the phenomenon of insurgency which has afflicted the State for the last so many years.

Now, the floods are not only causing losses to life and property but it is also having a disastrous effect on the infrastructure of the State. Floods are damaging the highways and roads. Bridges are regularly washed away. Rail and other communications have been affected. Therefore, one of the major impediments to the economic growth of the State is the phenomenon of regular floods that are visiting the State year after year. Therefore, the flood problem has got to be solved on priority and an urgent basis.

Now, what is the solution to this flood problem? A lot of studies were carried out. We have tried out minor irrigation projects and embankments. We find that one embankment may save a few villages but it may have adverse effects on other villages. Therefore, it does not provide a long-term solution and again, embankments cannot normally withstand the onslaught of floods which are very furious in Assam, and much more than other States because of our proximity to the Himalayas. Therefore, this can provide a short-term solution to a part of the population but it is not a long-term solution. For a long-term solution of the problem, the Brahmaputra Control Board was constituted about 20 years back and I am sorry to say that this Board is a stigma on the Central Government because it was kept defunct and non-functional for years together. Only recently, the Chairman and other office bearers were appointed in the Brahmaputra Control Board. But before that, before 11-15 years, it was without a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and without even a General Manager. Earlier the Board have carried out studies and surveys on the ways to Brahmaputra and other rivers and tributaries. They have prepared the plans. But at that time, it was said that the plans were to be implemented by the States. Now, these are very major plans involving colossal investment. The Brahmaputra Control Board, about 15 years ago, completed its survey and investigation on three projects and prepared the project reports. The three projects are Subansiri Dam Project, Dihang Project and Tipaimukh Project. The general perception was that if these projects were completed, then to a great extent, the flood problem and the erosion problem in Assam would be solved and at the same time, these being multipurpose projects, would provide hydroelectric power as well as irrigation facilities.

It would give a boost to the economic growth of the region. Initially, when this was being taken up, there was an Inter-State dispute. Arunachal Pradesh objected to the establishment of two big projects—Subansiri and Dihang only on the ground that four of their villages with a population of 150 to 200 each would be inundated and submerged. They said that they would not agree to the setting up of these

projects. Therefore, it was hanging fire for all these years. But I feel that there is no other solution for flood problem and erosion problem except for us to go ahead with these projects. I have a feeling that if it is a failure for the projects to see the light of the day, it is the politicians who are to be blamed. We played politics with the lives of the people in the North-east year after year. It was not difficult for these States to get together and to hammer out a solution to the problem of inundation of only four villages. but there was stubbornness and some people were adamant and this was not allowed. The same thing happened with the Tipaimukh project where Manipur had objected to that project because some villages in Manipur would get submerged.

These projects also have international implications because these are linked to the Brahmaputra. Therefore, China is involved. Myanmar is involved. Bangladesh is involved. There may be a need for us to negotiate the details of the projects with these countries also. Perhaps we have to think in terms of approaching the United Nations or other relevant agencies to enact laws to regulate flow of waters internationally in case of a river where the number of riparian States or countries is more than one. But recently, it is heartening to note that experts have found a solution. I am told that instead of one dam, if three dams were constructed in the case of the Suhansiri and the Dihang, these projects could go ahead. Arunachal Pradesh also has given its concurrence to the proposal. I am hoping that if these two projects come up, then Assam's worries will be short-lived.

Then, what about the investment? These two projects plus Tipaimukh would entail an investment of a magnitude of Rs. 1 lakh crore. Of course, it would generate electricity worth more than 20,000 megawatts. It will also irrigate huge tracts of land in all these States. But this investment is unavoidable and it is absolutely necessary. I would like to urge upon the Government to take these two projects very seriously and approach the international financial institutions to provide funds for implementation of these two projects specially, if not Tipaimukh, because these projects only would not only bring a lot of benefits to the North-Eastern States but the rest of the country - the mainland - would also stand to gain substantially out of these projects. If we set up a 20,000 MW hydroelectric project today, at today's costs, it will cost us, along with the associated transmission system, about Rs. 1 lakh crore. With the same Rs. 1 lakh crore, we can save Assam from floods and erosion. At the same time, we will get 20,000-25,000 MW of cheap and clean hydroelectric power to be supplied to the entire country. But this is a long-term solution to the flood problem.

On a short-term basis, what needs to be done? We find that there is almost a ferocious denudation of forests in the hill States and the frontiers of Assam. This deforestation has aggravated the flood and erosion situation in Assam and also in the North-Eastern States. Therefore, there is a need for us to emphasise on social afforestation and intensive afforestation to be initiated in the hill States which are closer to the rivers.

Today our main problem in the Brahmaputra is silting. The sediment load is increasing day by day. Because of denudation of forests there has been landslides and silt is being washed into the rivers and the river bed is going up and as a result the same volume of water is covering a much wider area causing heavy floods. Therefore, afforestation is one solution to this and this measure must be taken up very seriously by all the Governments in the north-eastern region. Reduction in the sediment load, as I said through afforestation would help in reducing and mitigating erosion. At the same time, some amount of dredging in the Brahmaputra and other tributaries will be needed to reduce the ferocity of the floods in the States.

Then again, a lot of State Governments cannot afford to pay for a big projects and thus they are resorting to minor irrigation, embankment and other projects. But they are being done haphazardly without any planning. Therefore, at times it is proving to be counter-productive. We must see that there is a Master Plan prepared for the entire river basin and whatever minor irrigation, embankment and other flood control measures are adopted do fall within the ambit of the Master Plan. Otherwise, these embankments may give some short term relief to some people, but in the long run it is bound to cause damage.

Sir, coming to certain mitigational measures, I would like to point out that what is needed is, perhaps, a multi-disciplinary team to combat flood damages in every State. That team must include people from streams of engineering, embankment, irrigation, forest, may be, publicity and education. It is because flood management has to be an integrated process. We must educate the people as to how to put up with floods; how to live with floods. It is because we are seeing that in the foreseeable future, the flood problem is not going to be solved. So, they have to be trained and taught as to how to cope with flood situations as it arises from time to time. That could be done only if a multi-disciplinary agency is created in the States, including my own State of Assam.

16.58 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, we also have 22 flood forecasting stations in the State of Assam. But they are not working properly. If the forecasting is made correctly, then perhaps, people will be better able to cope with the flood situation as it arises.

In the matter of floods, things are being left more and more to the States. But in case of the North-Eastern States, this policy could be pursued only at our peril. If we think in terms of the unity and integrity of the country it is absolutely essential that the Centre has to adopt a greater and more effective role in relation to the States in North-Eastern India. It is because these States are geographically isolated, economically backward and strategically so very important. Therefore, in other matters as also in case of flood control and erosion, there is an imperative need for the Centre to play a greater role.

[Shri Iswar Prasanna Hazarika]

Sir, it is in this context that I welcome the decision of the former Prime Minister who gave North-Eastern India an economic package worth Rs. 6,100 crore which included Rs. 500 crore for flood control measures. It is not known whether that Rs. 500 crore would form a part of the Eighth Five Year Plan or the Ninth Five Year Plan or not. But we wanted that this Rs. 500 crore should be over and above the normal size of the Eighth or the Ninth Plan, as the case may be. If it is a rehash of the same thing, then there will be no additionality in it and this would disappoint the people of North-Eastern India. Everafter this Rs. 500 crore is given initially, then also much more funds would be needed but as a gesture we welcome it and we hope that the Centre is sincere with this sanction and that they would advance adequate funds to the State for flood control measures.

17.00 hrs.

But I am sorry to say that in 1997-98 a provision of only Rs. 20 crore has been made out of this Rs. 500 crore. This has raised certain misgivings in the minds of the people of Assam. Therefore, there is a need for reassurance that these Rs. 500 crore will certainly be given. Giving only Rs. 20 crore may be because plans are not ready for implementation during the current year. But this Rs. 500 crore should be advanced against plans finalised to combat the flood situation in the State.

Similarly, in the Prime Minister's package, Rs. 480 crore are provided for Pagladia multipurpose project. But, since then, a decision has been taken that in the matter of flood control and erosion in Assam, whatever plans are taken up at the instance of the Brahmaputra Control Board or under its supervision will be financed 100 per cent by the Central Government. This is a very important policy decision that Centre has taken. If this decision is sincerely implemented, it will save not only the State of Assam but the entire North-East. But then, because the Centre has to bear the burden it should not dilly-dally in sanctioning the projects. The Centre having to bear 100 per cent of the expenditure should not be made a pretext for delaying the sanctioning of the project. I find that discussions are going on interminably and in spite of monitoring by the Prime Minister's office the Pagladia multipurpose project is hanging fire. So, I request the Government to take it more seriously and see that the project is sanctioned without further delay.

Finally, I come to earthquakes. Today's debate assumes great significance, at least for the people of Assam, because 1997 happens to be the centenary year of the most devastating earthquake that took place in Assam and the North-East in 1897. It took place on the 12th of June. the impact of that earthquake was so massive that the entire North-East including Shillong in Meghalaya was affected. People thought that after 100 years the earthquake may recur. I am told that as a result our insurance companies collected about Rs. 4.5 crore as premium in Shillong alone because people there were in a hurry to insure their houses and household effects against the danger, against the losses that might be caused

by the earthquake which was predicted in certain quarters. There is a geophysicist by the name of Mr Negi who has predicted that in 100 years, again a devastating earthquake would take place in the North-Eastern part of India.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH : Please speak something on earthquake that rocked Jabalpur.

[English]

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : It is the Jabalpur earthquake that generated awareness in the North-East. The people there started thinking that if it is happening in Jabalpur, it will not take very long for the earthquake to come to North-East. That is why there was a kind of hysteria created there.

Shri Negi, a geophysicist, has predicted it on the basis of his seismic calculations that another earthquake of the same magnitude will recur after 100 years. The earthquake of 1897 recorded 8.7 on the Richter scale which is the highest ever recorded in the world, not merely in India or Asia. Lakhs of people has died in that. This is the centenary year of that earthquake of 1897. Therefore, people of Assam look towards this august House for some solace, for some guidance, especially in the matter of disaster management.

Because as we have seen in the case of death of hundreds of people in the Amarnath yatra-whether it is death due to pilgrimage to religious places or whether it is death due to drought or rain or storm or earthquake or floods, our response has mostly been unplanned and off the cuff. There has not been any planning or proper thinking. We had not pondered over the issue as to how to manage disasters when it happens in future.

Therefore, what is needed in our country is a comprehensive and well thought out disaster management policy so that whenever such disasters take place instead of running around from pillar to post, instead of doing things haphazardly, we should know as to what is to be done, by whom, at what time and with what kind of resources.

I hope the centenary year of 1897 earthquake will force us to ponder over this issue seriously and to come out with a comprehensive rational disaster management policy. I would like to end by quoting the following from a paper of an expert group, which says, about natural disasters:

" In India, 40 million hectares of land area is flood prone with average annual flood damage of Rs. 937.56 crore. The country's 5700 km coast line is exposed to tropical cyclone and average loss suffered is Rs. 200 crore, which at times exceed Rs. 400 crore. about 60 per cent of the country's total area is susceptible to earthquake.

The cost of rehabilitation of Latur earthquake is Rs. 1044.06 crore, which killed 8099 people with property damage being Rs. 1100 crore.

Future generation with no empty land and with their complex social and physical built environments will have exposure to recurring disaster situations in an increasing rate. Perhaps, many of the cities with overburdened existing infrastructure, specially water, sewage, electricity are already at breaking point even under normal circumstances not to speak about the ability to cope with widespread breakdown in the aftermath of a disaster. So, natural disasters are a force in the perpetuation of poverty of not only the current generations of many parts of the world but also the future generation as well.

The impact of disasters is disproportionately high in developing countries, with the losses to GNP due to disasters being about 20 times greater in the developing countries than in those which are more developed;

Disasters and poverty are mutually reinforcing;

Disasters, especially repeated ones, have a negative impact on investment and entrepreneurial incentives which are necessary for development ;

Disasters have special negative impacts on the non-formal economic sector, and in countries where this is an important sector, estimates of the costs of disasters are consistently under-estimated; and

For developing countries, it is not only more cost effective to prevent disasters than to recover from them but, if sustainable development is indeed the goal, it is imperative that disaster proneness considerations be incorporated into all development programming and planning. Not to do so, especially in areas of recurring disasters and especially for disaster types where the state of the art for prevention and mitigation is advanced, is both unnecessary and wasteful of scarce development resources."

After having read out expert groups views I am surprised to find that in the Approach Paper to the Ninth Plan, on pages 61 and 62, flood control or the disaster control finds a reference only in the caption of the chapter. It does not find a place in the body or in the contents of the chapter. Therefore, it appears that the Government even the Planning Commission, is giving scant attention to this aspect of disaster management and management and prevention of natural calamities.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take note of the gravity of natural calamities and the consequential effects on the people and the growth of the economy and address itself to the task of framing a comprehensive and rational disaster management policy.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Thank you, Sir. I had been in my constituency for the last three days on foot, on cycle, on motorcycle, on speed-boat and on ordinary boat. It was a huge sea like thing that I saw there. Many of the dikes of the Zamindaris and of the Irrigation Department have broken down. No proper time working for releasing the water. Anyway since the time is very short, I will particularly draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture and also the Minister of Rural Employment. I know it will take some time to give you the full list. But what I have seen already, there is very few cattle feed. Cattle feed is not enough for cows ; rice is not enough for the people ; medicine is not enough. In my constituency, already 76,000 houses have collapsed. Many more are expected to collapse as the rain continues and the Sun takes his own time to throw his rays. The Agriculture Minister is here.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : You can ask the Government to send that report.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Our Government will be sending the report. Sending that report and later on, you may adjust with the State. I would request you to send some *ad hoc* grants. I am giving you advance information.

What I have said about my constituency also applies to other places. It is not that I am concerned only with my constituency. Midnapore district as a whole is affected by the floods. Added to that, on the question of Kerala, Karnataka, Gujarat and Bihar, I sympathise with them. Many of them have already sent what they want, to the Ministry of Agriculture. I hope, the Ministry will take proper care of it. In some cases, as I said, some *ad hoc* grants were also sent.

The earthquake recently devastated a part of Madhya Pradesh. As you remember, 1934 earthquake in Bihar was the worst possible earthquake as we saw as young people. The people who have suffered as a result of earthquake should also be helped.

As I said, in our district, 13 PHCs are already devastated and still rains to come, the situation is going worse. Medicines are not enough. More medicines should be sent. More money should be provided for making houses because now the house building grant is so meagre that even a verandah cannot be built with that amount. That kind of a situation has to be averted somehow or other, with the help of the Central Government and with the State Government moving quickly on the matter. The entire community is to be involved because only with the involvement of and help from the non-Governmental organisations, we can face this tremendous situation.

Advance planning is very very necessary. I would not go on speaking, as the time is very little. In every case, there should be advance warning system. From the beginning, the relief materials and things which will be needed should be kept ready at the headquarters of such places. These are some of the things. But a very few Governments do such things fully well before flood comes.

[Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee]

I am yet to see a Government fully prepared for a future flood to come; it is only when the floods come, the whole process starts. I hope in this particular situation, advance planning, quick movement, advance money and proper and quick dealing with those who are in big trouble all over the country due to this kind of a natural calamity has to be done.

With these words, I would conclude with the hope this discussion may be brief. But sometimes brief discussion makes much better results than going on and on just like that.

**SHRI SUKH RAM :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in one of the parts of Mandi district, which comes under my constituency felt tremors of earthquake at 11.30 hrs. on thirteenth of last month and also in under sub-division which locates on epic centre reported to have suffered heavy-loss. Certain part received heavy rain-fall on the first day of the month. I myself visited the area and observed that the Harijan and muslim minority dominated localities in particular suffered the maximum loss. The people have rendered homeless because their houses collapsed and they were sitting in open. I saw some people holding tarpalin but there tarpalin were not sufficient enough to protect them from the rain. Some houses were partially damaged but not a single unit was suitable to reside since all of them were severely damaged. Those houses have become dangerous. I have received the information today that relief measures such as tents etc. which should have been provided by the State Government there, have not been provided at all.

The announcement was made to the effect that persons, whose houses have been damaged would be given fifteen thousand rupees and rupees eight thousand for those which became risky to live in. But according to information received by me, they are being allotted 2-3 thousand rupees each, which has been refused by many.

I would like to bring to the kind notice of the house through you to the point regarding burning of cowsheds of Gujjars in the constituency of hon'ble Chief Minister during the Assembly election held recently. That did not involve any loss of livestock but hon'ble Chief Minister visited the place which he should do so because it is his own constituency. Rupees Fourteen lakh were allocated there whereas, the people in Sunder Nagar at Mandi district, where heavy loss took place are being given 2 to 3 thousand rupees only. This is discrimination. I had brought the point to the notice of hon'ble Prime Minister only yesterday that people are in great trouble there. An old temple and mosque have been damaged. People are in great difficulty there. Although schools are closed now and people could have been provided shelter in schools if there was no alternative arrangement for them. But it has not been done there. I have requested the hon'ble Prime Minister to make an announcement to atleast provide fifty lakh rupees of adhoc allotment immediately in the form of relief, discussion on which was going on here during zero-hour in the morning.

Funds can also be sanctioned for the construction of houses for pass out of discretionary funds of MPs. But that should also be included in such relief measures. But a strange situation has arisen in Himachal Pradesh. I think it is the first example in the country. There came a civil suit against me in the High Court filed with the political motivation that the money which should be allocated in two-three districts has not been disbursed and the High Court has issued stay-order against me without consulting me. But what is surprising therein is that the on the spot allocation which was being made by going there in middle of people and taking stalk of their demand, was also suspended. This is the case with my discretionary grants. If the stay order were not issued, I think, I could allocate the money in those areas as per rules. But the stay order has made me helpless. The three assembly areas in tribal-belt come under my parliamentary constituency. The allegation levelled is that money has not been disbursed there. I would have given 15-20 lakh rupees there in 2-2.5 years. There are 17 polling centres in my area. Each area is entitled to receive about 5.5 lakh rupees out of one crore rupees which I think has not been provided there. But this is not their problem because tribal sub-plan are there for them and money is not incurred during the limited season. Their problem is during the snow-fall, they remain cut off from the state as well as country for the five-six months. But these places have been connected with other parts of the country through satellite on priority basis by spending crores of rupees. Every area is not connected with telecommunication network in India. But this tribal area has been connected with the entire world. This is because of this fact that maximum number of votes have been polled in my favour despite the efforts made to bring bad name to me by politicising the matter. Deputy Speaker Sir, I do not want to intervene into the decision of the Court. But whether litigations would continue to be filed getting feed back from politicians. If the discretionary grants would continue to be suspended and stay order delivered in the like-manner, then how would you be able to spend the money properly. I would like to request through you, to the august House to think over it seriously. As long as that tribal area is concerned, the satellite network installed there covers every station which was stationed earlier only in Delhi. I have provided a separate station for the people living in far flung areas of Punjab, Haryana and U.P. etc. and in Himachal Pradesh itself whereas, earlier these States were having a single station in Delhi. This is my contribution for which I am being punished. Also, I could allocate my discretionary grants to the suffered there to construct houses. But I am helpless.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Please come to the point.

**SHRI SUKH RAM :** Hon'ble Deputy Seeaker, Sir, I would like to request the Government through you, Sir and Minister present here that discretionary attitude is being adopted by political motivation. I would like to make a request to the hon'ble Prime Minister and the hon'ble Minister to provide money there unconditionally so that the people who are in trouble there, may be liberated therefrom.



[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Deputy. Speaker, Sir, today we are discussing over the loss of life and property due to natural calamities in different part of the country. Earthquake in Madhya Pradesh, drought conditions in Orissa and excessive rainfall in Bihar have caused havoc. I would like to give thanks to the Minister of Agriculture under whose direction we got the paper from the Secretary of Science and Technology, Shri V. S. Rammurthy. There is details regarding State of monsoon at the end of July in different part of the country. We got this paper first time. From this paper, we come to know that which State has witnessed much rain. It rained much at the end of July. Bihar's plateau areas and plains, western Rajasthan and Lakshadweep have had excessive rain-fall till the end of July, 1997. Plain and plateau areas of Bihar have witnessed respectively 49 per cent and 22 per cent excessive rain than normal. The paper circulated to us by the Meteorological department brings out this situation very clearly. Many parts of the country are flooded according to the news published in Newspapers. Flood has come in Kerala, as usual in Assam and other parts of the country but it rained excessively in Bihar at the end of June, first and second month of July as it never rained before. Due to which huge devastation occurred. Maximum devastation occurred in the recent years. Before that, it rained excessively in the year 1976 and 1987 resulted in floods.

This time huge devastation occurred. 27 districts have been badly affected by the floods. As a result of it boats were rowed for 10-12 days in city like Patna. People kept themselves inside the houses. Huge devastation has occurred in outer side of Patna, my constituency Brah and Nalanda. Not a single road is left undamaged. Except National Highway, all the State highways have been damaged. It is futile to discuss about rural roads which come under Rural Road Engineering Organisation. No road is left undamaged. The road under P.W.O. which are also called State Highway have been damaged there. The position is very bad in Nalanda and Patna Districts. All roads have been damaged there. The condition was bad in 27-28 districts in Bihar. Same condition was seen in Madhya Pradesh, Jahanabad, Monghyr.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister, hails from Madhubani, which has not witnessed vast devastation. But from the information it seems that position is very bad but no relief works have been initiated by the State Government. You would be surprised that .....(Interruptions) what the Minister is saying?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is saying that no report has come from the Government.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I would also like to say this. He is saying quite right. I would like that he himself should say something about it. This is our allegation that flood affected people gathered in Punpun Block which falls under my constituency for relief. It was raining incessantly, it was publicised that polythene would be provided to those poor, backward, scheduled caste people whose houses had been damaged so that they could cover their heads. The B.D.O.

and C.O. were not present there when 2-3 thousand people reached there. People had to take shelter in Police Station. Large number of people were present there but only 100 pieces of polythene were available. This place is at a distance of 16 k.m. from Patna but officers opened fire to disperse the affected people. 10 k.m. onward there is Masodhi Block which comes under Ramashray Baba's constituency area where police opened fire. Relief measures were also missing there but government was engaged in the game of majority and minority, that how to manage resources for majority. The Government was worried about majority but not of flood affected people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the reply to the question of Shri K.P. Singh Dev and Shri Kodikunnil Suresh given in this House on 29th July it was stated that the demand of money has been made by different States. Andhra Pradesh has demanded for hailstorm, Gujarat and Kerela for flood, Madhya Pradesh for earthquake and Sikkim for landslide. Name of Bihar is not mentioned in it. Do you know that meteorological Department informed that maximum devastation has occurred in Bihar. If it is seen from this point of view then demand should had come from Bihar. Mr. Deputy. Speaker, Sir, we discuss over drought conditions after every Monsoon session in the House but for the first time we are discussing over the affects of flood, drought, earthquake and lanslides altogether. The reply of the Government is that there is National Calamity Fund out of which 75 percent would be given to State and the State would incur 25 percent. We have given two instalments, one instalment has been issued etc. The fund is not adequate in National Calamity Fund. It has only 700 crore rupees for five years out of which 539 crore rupees have been released. I do not know what would the Government do on such a situation as arises next year? When Minister gave the reply in detail of a question then also he put the same figures before us that from where the demand comes and how much amount from National Fund for Calamity Relief. But Mr. Dy. Speaker, Sir, when we would consider over it and see the calamity Relief Fund of States then State like Bihar whose population is 10 percent of the country's population suffers from flood and drought repeatedly.

Some days ago there was newspaper report that a glacier in Nepal in Himalayas is about to melt, once melted it will release eight crore cubic feet of water.

It will create havoc in entire North Bihar, it will devastate all the dams, entire irrigation structure and it will release so much water that everything would be devastated by it. We cannot imagine about the terrifying situation there. We would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as he hails from that place and he must be concerned about it personally but it is the concern of all of us and the country whether it is true. The news were suppressed about it. The Government gave no clarification about such a frightening news. We would like to know what is the exact position. Are the citizens being warned before hands, whether relief measures are being taken? Minister would give clarification about that. We would like to say that State like Bihar has such a situation and drought and floods come here repeatedly.



[Shri Nitish Kumar]

Earlier only North Bihar used to be affected by floods but today entire Central Bihar falls into the grip of floods. Today Shri Chandu Majra ji was on his legs in the morning and no one was paying attention to his words. But it was painful to us. He said that during his visit to Bihar it was told by the people of that area that there are two crops - one is Kharif and another is the crop of relief. He was speaking in a lighter vein but our feelings were hurt. The soil of Bihar is very fertile. there is no such crop of relief. What relief the State Government can provide? Relief will be provided by the Central Government only. The flood and famine relief code prevailing in Bihar was framed during British period and has been accepted by the Government even after independence. This code has been updated from time to time. If you go through thata code, you will find that 'Anchal Adhikari' is authorised to distribute free ration for one week in the areas affected by floods or by other calamities. But you will be surprised to note that though an ordinary 'Anchal Adhikari' is authorised to distribute gratuitions relief for one week but not Sub Divisional Officer, D.M. Divisional Commissioner or Relief Commissioner and what relief the Government of Bihar could provide? However, even this announcement to distribute relief is made at the Chief Minister's level. It is shameful. For this a Cabinet meeting is held and announcement is made that ration will be distributed for one week, and he is saying that one crop is Kharif and the other is relief.

According to the answer given by the Government under State Calamity Relief Fund, Rs. 49 crore 4 lac were given to Bihar in 1995-96, Rs. 51 crore 96 lakhs in 1996-97, Rs. 54 crores 83 lakhs have been given in 1997-98, Rs. 57 crores 63 lakhs are given in 1998-99 and Rs. 60 crores 7 lakhs for 1999-2000. It means that Rs. 273 crores 53 lakhs under Calamity Relief Fund were given during the entire period of five years. But what is the situation? One part of my constituency comes under Nalanda district and District Magistrate of Nalanda sent a report to the State Government that on damaged roads and damaged. A large embankment known as 'Alag' collector has demanded Rs. 12 crores for repair of these damaged roads and embankment. Houses collapsed are not included in this because if they report about it then they have to provide relief for that also. Even the crops destroyed included in that Report. The result is seeds are not available to the farmers. Whereas the calamity Relief for the whole State is just Rs. 54 crore 83 lakh for this year. What will happen with this amount? It is just a drop in the ocean. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this relief is very less and our demand is very high and if this is the situation, then I would request Agriculture Minister to see the figures of the whole country. Uttar Pradesh is little bigger than our state. We have 324 MLAs and in U.P. there are 425 MLAs. Similarly 54 members of Parliament are elected from Bihar whereas from U.P. 85 MPs are elected. It means their number is 50% more than us. But whatever U.P. is getting is still less and whatever we are getting is far less. But the people of Uttar Pradesh are not affected by floods to the extent the people of Bihar are. However, in Eastern region of U.P. Bihar like conditions

prevail. But the western area is fully fertile. Irrigation arrangements are very good there. They are utilizing every drop of Ganga water and. For example, people residing nearby Hardwar are fully utilising that water. The Calamity Relief Fund for U.P. is Rs. 132 crore for this year. Every year floods and drought destroy the areas including tribal belt and north Bihar. Rivers momating from the Himalayas and Nepal destroy the whole of North Bihar. If the Himalaya glaciers melt, gets affected. In spite of all this, Calamity Relief amount is so meagre. Mr. Deputy Speaker, through you, I would like to submit that every year we discuss floods and drought in the House but that is of no avail because at the time of monsoon, we are again ruined and devastated. Whosoever is the Minister or which ever is the Government always a stereotype reply is given. I would, therefore, like to request that though a huge amount has already been spent on flood control and relief since we attained freedom, no permanent arrangement has been made for water management. The water flows into the sea and is wasted. Therefore, I would like to submit that a long term plan should be made and implemented for this purpose. Without this, we will keep on discussing the floods and drought. Thus some areas will get excessive rains whereas other areas will be affected by drought and we will think that we have fulfilled our duty only by discussing the issue in the House. But the people of this State will keep on suffering. We are going to enter 21st century? Where we will like to take present India to the 21st century. On one hand satellite we are trying to explore, Mars, we are setting up sub station in the space and so on, and on the other hand, we are destined to face calamities like floods. Therefore, I submit that an enduring plan should be chalked out for this purpose. At the same time, concrete steps should be taken to help the people affected by floods recently. I would request the Minister of Agriculture to do something as he belongs to Bihar and knows better about that area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make one more submission also. The other day when we were discussing floods and firing on flood victims, some hon'ble members interrupted us saying we were discussing law and order in the State. We were not discussing law and order. Bihar is going to ruins. Please save Bihar from being destroyed because if Bihar is ruined then the country can not be saved. This same Bihar has shown a new path to Gandhiji in the struggle of independence. Please do not let that Bihar be ruined.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Champaran has done that.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Yes, I am talking about same Champaran. Therefore, I request that this joke with Bihar may be stopped. If some irregularities are going on there, then these should be set right. To whom should we complain? Minister of Agriculture is from Bihar and he is also looking after Relief and Rehabilitation. We all know he is going to reply to our points.

So we will request after keeping apart from it, that Government of Bihar may not have sent any report, we know this and it is clear from its reply also, which subject to correction, to which we have mentioned just now. It was the

question asked by Shri K.P. Singh Deo It is clear from the reply given to this question that the Government of Bihar hasn't written any letter regarding the damage. But we all are sitting here.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : The Government of Bihar has no time.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Yes, the Government of Bihar has no time. If we discuss it then you will say that the time is being wasted. There the game of politicians will go on. The game of politics will continue but in real sense the humanity is crying with pain, you make some arrangement for its security. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI G.L. KANAUIA (Kheri) : The Chief Minister there is bringing up the Children, doing other works, how will the rule.....(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The way in which administration is going on is the ill-fate of the people of Bihar. They have to tolerate this situation for some more days. This situation will not continue for long, definitely there will be reform in it. We have such belief, the war is on against it. We are fighting, this is a separate issue. But here we will urge the Minister of Agriculture that the Government of Bihar will not sent any report to you. It will not ask you to go there and inspect the situation to assess the situation. But you have also some responsibility. But you have decided in principle that at whatever extent the situation may aggravate the Central Government will not intervene. Its alright, you don't intervene. Let the people die, but in this matter you can definitely intervene. It is your right because you give  $\frac{3}{4}$  money. Besides Government of India has created the national fund for Natural Calamities which is in your hands. We will ask you that don't go into the issues that this time your area has not come under floods. According to the meteorological office district Madhubani has not much affected by floods. There the rainfall is sufficient and adequate. There was no excess rainfall This is clearly given in you figures and we also know it. Do not bother about that. You are the Minister of Agriculture for the whole country. So you please see the people living in backward areas and take some action at your level, assess the situation on your own, write to concerned collectors, that they may send report about their area, and direct from here on that basis.

The Government of Bihar will not do anything, whatever damage has been done, can be compensated but you alone cannot do anything. In the Employment Guarantee programme every block has been covered under which you can do the repair and restoration of the assets. If you will not give any direction from here then the situation will continue as usual. You sanction money to build houses, but there it is said that we make houses, whereas the State Government does not contribute any amount of money, even then it is said that we make houses. Hon'ble Agriculture Minister, you please ensure that the houses of only those people have been repaired, whose houses have been damaged. It may not happen that those who have suffered loss of houses may

not get the benefit but under the construction drive likely to start there some new houses are constructed by this money. So, you have to initiate the action for the protection of needy persons. No matters that you don't assess the damages but to provide relief to the people, for their rehabilitation, to compensate the damage that is done to their assets take steps at your level.

I would like to request hon'ble Agriculture Minister that you are an intellectual. Hon'ble Prime Minister if an intellectual, you hails from Bihar, he is elected to Rajya Sabha from Bihar. Both of you must pay a visit. If the Prime Minister is unable to go then hon'ble Agriculture Minister, you must visit definitely. You after visit Bihar but this time you should visit the whole area. Do not retrun after assessing the situation in your own constituency, visit, Central Bihar also. Do not confine upto action taken in Patna and having discussion with the officers there, because the officers have no information. Yesterday itself I tiked to the collector of Nalanda regarding the position of relief, I talked the SDO (Floods) because there is no sense in talking the D.M. Patna, you also know this. I also talked to the commissioner of Patna, but of no avail. The flood officers have said that our requirement of foodgrains is 3500 quintal. Whereas we receive only 1500 quintals. You know that who gets the relief. There are some people of special category. Suppose that there are people belonging to SCs. But in flood affected people there are non-SC landless people also. They too have nothing to eat. As you do not have plenty so you are distributing it to the SC people. But non SC landless people are also there who should get it too. They too are not getting the G.R. You say that you have sufficient stock of food grains. We will not allow a single person die of hunger. How far this declaration stand. Personally, daily we get the complaints but even after these complaints the situation is still as it was.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is nothing more that putting the point. So we are saying to put up the point and there is no meaning of it. So I will request you, I pray to you that in order to free the people from floods, due to which serious situation has arisen, please do something for that areas. In some areas where after floods epidemic conditions are prevailing. There is no D.D.T. for spray. You might be aware that cholera has once again started spreading in new form. There is no arrangement for the treatment of cholera affected people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this situation in Bihar we would like to request to hon'ble Minister that whether it is the question of G.R., whether the question of taking the serious situation, whether the question of disease that is spreading and the steps to be taken to save their lives or whether the question is of destruction of paddy seeds due to which crops have been destroyed, do something for them. You are Minister of Agriculture. You know that daily new variety of paddy are being developed. I would like to request you that paddy seeds should be provided to the paddy areas particularly of Bihar, at war footing and of the variety that even if it is sowed at the end of the season it should give crops, i.e. seeds which are meant for late sowing season,

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

should be provided. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the State Government they will do nothing. Hence, I would like to request hon'ble Minister that he should send his officials there and make the arrangement thereto. The variety of paddy seeds should be provided there which even if sowed late then it may yield some crop and may compensate the loss to some extent. This much I request you and with these words, I conclude.

**SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN (Barpeta) :** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we are discussing a very important subject. Every year, there is a loss of life and property due to natural calamities affecting different parts of our country. But what is more important is that, it not only affects the present situation, but it also creates problems for the future development of our country. Every year, during the Monsoon Session this House discusses the problem of flood, drought and other natural calamities in different parts of the country. But even then there is no appreciable improvement in the situation in the country.

Sir, it is true that every year the flood prevented drought prone areas are increasing. So, whatever relief is given in the name of Natural Calamity Relief Fund could not change the situation. It touches only the fringe of the problem: it does not touch the heart of the problem. But some immediate relief should be given to the suffering people when they are affected by flood or drought. But the basic point of tackling the issue on a long term basis still remains. Therefore, a comprehensive policy is necessary to tackle this issue.

Sir, I come from Assam and my hon. Colleague from Assam, Shri Hazarika had already elaborated as to how the people of Assam are practically living with flood and drought every year. Every year there is flood in Brahmaputra and Barak rivers and their tributaries which affects a lot of people and also damages crops, properties etc. There is recurring loss to infrastructure like roads, bridges etc. There are two valleys in Assam, the Assam Valley and the Barak Valley. In both these valleys the people are affected by flood and drought.

I would like to say in this House that last year one of the districts in Assam was affected very much due to flood in Brahmaputra river and the roads have been totally damaged. So, the people could not move from one place to another. There were no bridges in that area. This kind of situation was there.

Every year, the Brahmaputra river, the Barak river and their tributaries are creating problems for the entire people of Assam by damaging the economy of Assam. The entire House is aware that Assam is an agriculture-based State. An overwhelming majority, more than 80 per cent, of the people who live in the villages are mostly agriculturalists. There is practically no industry except tea and oil. Naturally, the entire development of the State, as the matters stand today, depends on the development of agriculture. But what we

have seen during these years is that agriculture could not be developed because there are no measures for controlling flood and soil erosion. Floods are damaging the economy and the soil erosion caused by floods in the Brahmaputra river, the Barak river and other tributaries is eating away the cultivable lands of the State. Even though there are 32 lakh hectares of cultivable land, only two lakh hectares have been covered under tea cultivation. The cultivable land in Assam is very fertile, but due to floods and other natural calamities, the production is very low. There is no development in agriculture because of the loss created by the floods in the Brahmaputra river, the Barak river and other tributaries. There is a loss in the production of foodgrains in the State. Every year, because of the shortage of foodgrains, our State has to import foodgrains from other parts of the country. There was time when Assam has to pay around Rs. 700 crore for the import of foodgrains. It is now said that it would be more than Rs. 700 crore. In our State, about Rs. 1,000 crore has been spent on the import of foodgrains. Naturally, if there was proper utilisation of this land, the entire amount of Rs. 1,000 crore could have been devoted or spared for the development of agriculture or other activities in Assam.

We have a very huge amount of water resources. I am told that the hydroelectric potential available in the North-East is around 40,000 MW. But there is no harnessing of these water resources for generating hydroelectricity or for irrigation or for drinking water. If this hydroelectric potential is harnessed or exploited, then we could generate more than 40,000 MW of hydroelectric power. But this is not being done. There is no proper management of the water resources in that part of the country.

There is a Brahmaputra Board. Around 20 years back, it was constituted by an Act of this Parliament. But for many years, the Brahmaputra Board was headless; it had neither the Chairman nor any other officials. They have prepared some programmes or some master plan. But this master plan is only on paper and it is yet to be executed. If it is executed and if the water resources are fully utilised, then this underdeveloped State of Assam could become a flourishing State.

So far as irrigation is concerned, practically, they have taken very few measures. They have done some paper work, but actually the irrigated land is around 2 lakh hectares, which is around six per cent. Due to non-utilisation of these water resources, not only the economy but the people are also suffering.

**18.00 hrs.**

I want to say that there is a lot of ecological imbalance in that area. While there is flood in some places, there is drought in other places in the State. Uncertainty prevails among the peasantry in certain areas of Assam. Drought conditions prevail in many parts of the State and because of the drought conditions, the peasants are unable to plant the seedlings. They are apprehensive that flood may come and damage their crops. Every year, it causes loss of crores of

rupees. There is very unsatisfactory situation because at any moment, there may be floods; at any moment, there may be drought and this situation has been created because of the law of ecological imbalances in that entire area.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you want to speak more, you can continue tomorrow.

18.02 hrs.

RE : INSURANCE REGULATORY  
AUTHORITY BILL, 1996

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum) : I was on the point of long-term funds. If we look back, there is a curious background. Initially, there was only one type of long-term fund which was provided by the Government Security Act which matured after 15 or 20 or 25 years and subsequent to that, the insurance companies also came up trying to generate long-term funds in the private sector. That collapsed and then the public sector has to intervene to take over generation of long-term funds for the country.

Today, there is another kind of long-term fund which has been collected. It is known as teakwood fund. Money is being taken and plots of land are offered for teakwood farming and after 25 or 30 or 50 or 100 years, these funds would be returned in a colossal amount and we know the uncertainties there. But this is only one aspect of it. It is not for generating long-term funds that the insurance industry grew. I think Shri Jaswant Singh did correctly mention that insurance came up. He mentioned industrialisation. He could have said capitalism. But the point is not that. Why did it come up at that time? There was insurance earlier to that, not in one form. The stability of the feudal system and the existence of the large joint family was functioning as insurance to the community. With capitalism, insecurity became the order of the day and new forms were attempted so that security of individual in terms of future and development can be guaranteed.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : I would like to confess to my friend that I did indeed raise this issue because I think this is a substantial issue and this is the kind of issue to which policy-makers ought to address themselves and I am very glad that my hon. friend is addressing himself to a thought which I submitted to the House, that thought being that insurance is foreign to us whereas banking is not. The concept of insurance is foreign to us because I submitted that insurance is the outcome of industrialisation and dislocation of societies from rural to urban agglomerate resulting in consequential urban uncertainties.

Therefore, what was earlier provided by the two factors in Indian life and still continues to be provided wherever rural India is able to keep its--you would I know, disagree but I assert--purity in facts insurance as such against death, deprivation, disability and disease was provided either by

society or by family. Now, both are coming apart. But the necessary, integral of industrial revolution has not yet really dawned in India except where you find enormous excrescence of urban growth. The word earlier was 'nagar' from which was derived 'nagrik'. Yesterday's nagar or nagrik is neither today's metropolis nor today's citizen. Therefore, when we adopt these western ideas wholesale, without questioning and say insurance is the answer, we must address them mindful of this. It is just in the form of a query that I am intervening. I am sorry that this is not a routine kind of intervention but because we now seem to have time to do it that I am intervening .....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : I think the debate will continue for another four or five hours! The point has to be clarified.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : These are very valid points. Please continue.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Really speaking, I had not intention of intervening in today's debate.....(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It is so welcome. Because of your intervention, hon. Deputy-Speaker would be kind enough to extend time to me! .....(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Reacting to what I submitted earlier and I said it that banking is natural to India. About banking, we have to learn nothing from the West. For example, I cite the concept of *Hundi*. The concept of *Hundi* is as old as Indian society. It is ingrained in our social of *Hundi* is as old as the Indian society. It is ingrained in our social conscience. The arrival of a *Hundi* and the non fulfilment is really today's L.C.--the arrival as I was saying, of a *Hundi* and the non-honouring of that *Hundi* was a matter of honour. No law then said that you must honour that *Hundi*. This was born of a social thought. We destroyed that social thought. We say that we will now adopt all the Western banking practices without the attendant, necessary wherewithals. This is a transplant of an idea. But in the case of Insurance, it is even more of an alien transplant. Banking is natural to us, not Insurance. Therefore, you have, I think, roughly Rs. 47000-48000 crore with LIC today. But of the 90 and odd crore people of India, how many people are covered by insurance? Is it 55 or 56 lakh ?.....(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : If you have patience, I will cover it later.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Secondly, why did attempts at making insurance of agricultural sector, crop insurance, cattle insurance and animal wealth fail? Certain ideas arise in North Block and you transplant it. Thirdly, you say industrialisation is equal to capitalism. Therefore, insurance is equated to an ill of capitalism. That is where the dialectical question arises. That is where the difference arises.

18.08 hrs.

[SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE *in the Chair*]

Madam, this is really not central to the IRA debate. But it is a thought which I shared with the House earlier. I am very grateful to my friend that he has responded to that thought. I think the central concern with the policy-makers ought to be to realise that whereas banking is natural to India and insurance has not been a part of either our *Sanskriti* or our civilisation. Therefore, all these things that we are doing are really a transplant of alien debate. That is the point that I wanted to make.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Madam, with your permission, may I continue? I was speaking. He was enlightening me on certain aspects in the form of a question as is usual in the Question Hour when the Questions are longer than the answer! .....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : So, you are now fully informed about it.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : I am confused in the midst of it. So, I am going.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : In the confusion, are you leaving us?

.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I just briefly respond to that. Seldom have I discovered such a correct observation in Shri Jaswant Singh. He has very correctly noted that banking comes naturally while insurance is not that natural. Why? The explanation is very simple. It is not merely *Hundi* but even money-lending came prior to capitalism. Money-lending came even prior to feudalism and, therefore, that was common to almost all the societies existing all over the world. While capitalism entered earlier in Europe beginning with England and much later spread elsewhere and along with that industrialisation arrived first in those areas, therefore, it appears to be foreign to our country. It is exactly as large-scale industry in that sense which is foreign to our country. In that sense, even Marxism is not Indian. So, he is absolutely right in his observation. But I am trying to put them together in an analytical frame which perhaps will satisfy him.

The point I am making is simply this. The long-term capital which we are emphasising today was not the original reason for insurance. The original reason for insurance is to provide security against uncertainty. Even he agreed to that. When they talk of public sector and the dogmatic mindset of the private sector opposing it, they forget this elementary thing that essentially it is the dogmatic mindset of the private sector, I repeat, which refuses to see that there are areas where the security of the State is the most prized thing and in that there is the private sector competition. This is what I am trying to convey to this House. It is the security that I wanted to emphasise. It is with this purpose that insurance

was brought. In trying to develop this insurance sector, we discovered additional uses of it. As with everything, we start with one kind of a thing and we generate other kinds of uses and they also become important. This importance is once again a source of long-term funds. That is why, I quoted that one. Because it is a very long-term fund, therefore, it is very easy to enter the life insurance business. And we do flee away in the meantime, due to all kinds of things which can be detected in the long run, that is, after ten years. This is the experience of the Frauds Committee of the United States' House of Representatives. That is what I mentioned. I thank Shri Jaswant Singh who understands dialectics, no less than I do.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I am very glad that this exchange has taken place between us. I am certainly better informed and more educated now. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : About dialectics?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I consider him as one of those persons who is secular despite being in the BJP, along with Shri Vajpayee.

There is a perspective observation in that Fraud Committee Report. I will mention that also. Please permit me to do so. It says very interesting things. Because competition is being talked about, I mention that five billion dollars worth of fraud was perpetrated on the people of the United States which is an enormous sum for Indians. Incidentally this Committee commented on it. It said:

"Honest and competent people in industry and the Government must be constantly alert to the certainty that somebody somewhere is not playing by the rules."

I underline the word 'certainty'. That was one comment. Secondly and more importantly, it said:

"A regulatory system based on the presumption that all companies will be managed honestly, competently and prudently is doomed to failure."

You see the corollary. I will come to Shri Prabhu's point also because I respect him.

The irony of the whole situation is that the well-managed insurance companies are hit twice by the act of the unscrupulous and the inept. The good companies first lose business to the artificially low prices of unsound companies and second, when the mismanagement leads to insolvency, the healthy companies must have to pay the costs for bailing out.

We are talking about the increased coverage. If you see that some companies are doing this, the faith in the insurance sector is lost. Our opposition to the private sector arises from that, not only the foreign sector.

Here is a sector which deserves, if possible, 100 per cent or more security because people's uncertainty, people's

future are involved in it. Any destructive activity by any private sector—domestic or foreign—generates no confidence in the whole insurance sector. That is the basis of our objection to the private sector. It is surprising, how reasonable persons like Shri Suresh Prabhu whom I respect forget this elementary fact. What does he compare? He introduces comparisons among comparables. He talks about coverage in India, coverage in Singapore and may be, in Western countries, forgetting a simple fact. It is amazing. How does he permit ourselves to forget these facts that our per capita income is 350 dollars whereas that of Singapore is 10,000 dollars and of the advanced countries, it is 20,000 dollars or even more?.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur) : A small explanation about the amount spent in absolute terms.

I was just saying that 0.56 per cent of the GDP of our country in India is collected by insurance premium which is as high as 5.57 per cent in the case of USA. So, I am not talking about per capita income here.....(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : You are not talking about the per capita income, I appreciate that point.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : My point was that if we can mobilise more savings through insurance, it would be available for infrastructure.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Madam, Chairman, the hon. Member is absolutely right and that is precisely why it is wrong also !.....(Interruptions) The volume of savings depends on the level of *per capita* income.

This is an elementary thing which a person as perceptive as he is should not forget. If you have a larger income you can save more. If you have a lower income your savings are less. The fact that we are having a 20 per cent rate of savings is thanks to different kinds of policies that we have adopted. This elementary economics has been reversed today say in China with a low per capita income but a high rate of savings in the economy. But that is a different story. The point is that in terms of coverage, they are all wrong.

I will come to the simple elementary facts and show how wrong you are. Do you know the coverage? I have an authoritative statement from the bosses of LIC. It says, of the insurable population, people between 15 and 65 years are taken to be the insurable population. The figures are, the coverage in India is 33 per cent and in the United Kingdom the coverage is 65 per cent; in Pakistan it is only four per cent. Please correct these figures in terms of distribution of income. Of this insurable population make an assumption that 50 per cent are below the poverty line. What do you do in insurance? You deposit your current savings so that it can come back in your uncertain days due to death or old age as much more savings. But the question is, you must have enough to have current savings.

If Shri Prabhu expects that people below the poverty line should have savings, I can only express my difference and

question that. If this is taken into account, this 33 per cent is the fraction of our population that can save. We forget this elementary statistics of our own country being too much Westernised in thought, being too much influenced as I said in terms of IMF ideas in the course of last ten years. Imagine what is the definition of the poverty line? That they just give two square meals a day; nothing to save; not enough clothing. If that is 50 per cent, those who can save in the country would be no more than 30 per cent of the population.

They say we have a market for durable consumer goods of about 20 per cent of our population. Those who can purchase durable consumer goods are the people who can save. Just relate these figures. Assume 30 per cent. 33 per cent of the insurable population are covered by LIC. Make the assumption that 33 per cent of the population can make savings. Your coverage is one hundred per cent; much better than that of Singapore. Please find fault with my arithmetic, I will be very happy.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : It is not challenged.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Thank you. This means that because of the security, this is even better than UK. The security provided by the Government insurance corporations are such that all those who can save, deposit their money to the insurance corporation. It is this that we want to take not only pride, but take as our starting point against opposition to the private sector. What would the private sector do? As the Frauds Committee said, the private sector will undermine faith in insurance as such.

Already, there is a complaint that even if coverage is that high, the volume is not that high. Earlier, the volume was higher. The reason is very simple. It is partly because we are dragging the entire economy towards consumerism so that if we can spend, we can spend there. If we do not spend, we try to invest money where we can get higher speculative returns. This is the law of capitalism. It started by generating insecurity in families. It concludes by generating insecurity in the money market and in the stock market against which people are now running for insurance cover.

We are considered to be dogmatic. I charge the people whose mindset does not permit nothing else but private sector of being dogmatic. It is not we who are dogmatic in this particular case.

I now come to the next point. There is pressure on our economy. What is that pressure? It is that we have to open up our finance or service sector. The reason for this is very simple. The hon. Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram very frequently mentions the fact that it is the service sector which is becoming much more important in our country. What is happening in world trade? It is the service sector which gives maximum returns to the largest market in the world, that is, the United States. This is because the production of physical goods have reached a stage where, by producing them, they cannot have much profit. Therefore, investing in other areas which depend on physical service has become

[Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee]

more profitable. If we have a surplus of funds, if we are full with physical goods. Goods cannot be sold any further. Therefore, servicing the goods have to be sold. That is the meaning of the growth of the service sector in the world economy. Therefore, it is that sector which is coming up. It is understandable.

When we talk of that in India, that is a tragedy. Our people here are not furnished with goods. People in our country are deprived of all the goods that make human life enjoyable. It is so here because of the restrictions on the market. There is a restriction on the goods sector in both the United States and in India. While in the United States that restriction is there because of affluence, in India it is because of poverty that the service sector is getting emphasis. What actually is happening because of this is very important. I will quote from a very perceptive paper.

One of the leaders of the All India Insurance Employees' Association, Shri N.M. Sundram, has published a booklet. It is a very useful booklet. It gives very interesting quotes. I will refer to one or two of them. The development of economy has changed the pattern of economic power in the United States of America. It says that when it all started, the top 100 companies were based on production of physical goods. Today's list of top 100 will be changing. It may be electronic sector of Bill Gates today or service sector. In the insurance company the pattern, the control apparatus and contours are also changing.

The Financial Express dated July 20, 1996, based on an interview of top executive of insurance majors with FENS writes as follows :

"Insurance MNCs that are waiting for the opening up of the industry are targeting only the lucrative sectors such as corporate insurance, according to officials of General Accident, Sun Alliance and AIG."

It is also there. The corporate sector would be targeted initially and then only they will come to personal insurance sector. But all wanted a hefty slice of the profitable sector. It further says :

"Says Stephenson, who is Vice President of this Washington-based investment banking....,

"You'll make so much money you won't know what to do with it".

These are the statements and these are the perceptions against which we are fighting when we say, 'For God's sake do not open this sector' This can be as unscrupulous as our share markets are. What do we see in our share markets? One day there is a crash and on the other day there is a bull run. Why is it so? Look at the newspapers. Who are the people who are controlling this mad rush between bearishness

and bullishness? Fils are controlling them who are in search of profit in the service sector.

Sir, we are afraid. It mentions about a regulatory mechanism. One can ask what could be the objection to the regulatory mechanism? There was a regulatroy mechanism, but then the bank scam took place. Shri Jaswant Singh made reference to it. Hon. Members belonging to the Congress know not less than me, if not nore than I do. When we asked as to when this bank scam had started, they were all saying that they had to locate it to 1985-86 and earlier. We do not refuse that point. It started in 1985-86, but it could be detected only in 1992. Has it been detected in 1985? An hon. Member said that there was a loss of Rs. 4,000 crore in the banking sector. I say that it resulted in an income loss of Rs. 1,00,000 crore to the public. I have made a statement earlier also that there was a turnover of Rs. 14,00,000 crore. According to the Department of Revenue, it would generate an income of Rs. 1,00,000 crore. Where has that gone? We wanted the cheques to be traced. Shri Harshad Mehta issued the cheques. We asked them to go on tracing them and discover the people. But it was refused. The regulatory mechanism was there. There exists a regulatory mechanism today also, but despite that the CRB scam took place.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I did not mention the name, but I did talk about that scam.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : That is why I said that you forgot the name. But I am mentioning the name also.

Despite all these regulatory authorities, the bank scam was there and even after all these lessons were drawn, the CRB scam was there. Do we not hear about the scam in the Indian Bank today? Despite all these regulatory mechanisms, today Hindustan Lever has been charged by the SEBI for doing inside trading against which we all wrote in one unanimous recommendation. There is no objection to the regulatory authority; please do regulate; but to imagine that the regulatory authority will be able to detect the fraud on the insurance sector which will sack the confidence of the public on the insurance sector is like saying 'pray to God and forget about everything.'

I want the House to understand this also. All this opening up, in a period of three or four years, would be combined with convertibility of our currency. There is a recommendation that in the course of the next three to four years, there will be a full flow of currency. What does it mean? The foreign insurance sector coming here to map up Indian funds, convert them and play all over the world add muscles to the foreign MNCs in the insurance sector.

There is no objection to this Regulatory Bill. We have given amendments to this saying that they have to make a promise in that Regulatory Bill to the effect that it is not meant for opening up the insurance sector to the private and foreign companies. Already we know that the currencies of all the so-called Asian Tigers are in doldrums. It started with Thailand.



it touched Singapore, it touched Philippines and it touched Indonesia. Now you may imagine that the currencies would be in doldrums. As in the case of Papsi, it is the foreign funds which are doing this damage in those countries. China is not yet affected because it has a strong public sector - which they also support - and of course, it also has a very strong Communist Party, which is not present here.

Therefore, in terms of the ground realities of external threat and such other problems, what we want to do is to totally oppose this unless our amendments are accepted. I also want to draw your attention to two other points. A reference would be made, I am sure, to the U.F.'s common approach and programmes. Let me quote from it. I want to take the bull by its horns. Why should I leave it out? It is said that we have gained considerable experience in the working of the banking sector. That is one. It is also said that the experience in restructuring of the insurance industry would be utilised and the public sector companies would be strengthened.

My submission is that if you open up this sector, you cannot strengthen the LIC and the GIC. The confidence in the insurance business will be thwarted by the misdoings of the private insurance sector. That is what the Committee of the US Representatives also said.

They have not public sector. But they say that a public sector affects a good corporation - a good unit - twice, once by competing full-war premia and second time, by destroying the confidence in the sector. Therefore, if we want to strengthen LIC and GIC, the restructuring can only mean strengthening them and not opening it up because that will only weaken GIC and LIC.

What about the relations of banking sector? They are grand. Do we forget this scam apart from the help of that great Indian, Shri Harshad Mehta, and the two private banks of Mumbai, which had to be closed where depositors above a particular amount could not get back their money despite the regulatory system? It was all given steam-engine power by the foreign banks, like the Citibank and the Grindlays Bank, etc.

The references have been made by all others. We want these uncertainties to be eliminated from the minds of our agriculturists. We have a very large agricultural sector at least in this sense that the proportion coming from agriculture even now is 35 per cent. But more importantly, the population covered in that sector is 66 or 67 per cent. In England, it is only two per cent. In the United States, the population engaged in agriculture is only five per cent.....*(Interruptions)* In U.K., it is two per cent. In the U.S.A., I think, it is four to five per cent. It is a little more. U.K. had the best result. Such a big fraction of our population is involved for whom crop insurance is a must. Shri Chaturanan Mishra is not there. We are discussing calamities. We know that uncertainties are much more in terms of output in the agriculture sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Four more speakers are there. Would you kindly conclude?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: All right, I will conclude. Our lessons from the experience of the banks should be more. He has said that money-lending was there long before. For insurance, therefore, the learning has to be this much amended: beware of the private sector, beware of the foreign sector. Do not open it up. Have a regulatory body.

Even because we have to regulate GIC, you have had a Controller of Insurance. Instead of that, have a regulatory body. We had provided there that you do not open up this sector. If these amendments are accepted, we are with the Bill. If these are not accepted, we divide the House.

If you permit me, I would like to add that they have given a report. A reference was made here. About strengthening LIC and GIC, a reference was made about directors and others. I have figures about recruitment and other entrance. It is to be discovered how many vacancies are there. I do not want to take more of your time. But the fact is that people are not in position in this does not indicate that you are going to strengthen the LIC and the GIC.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra): Sir, after hearing Nirmal ji it appears that now no more information on this subject can be given as opposition. In the meetings on the financial matters they have made such impression that they are opposed to it and as per the policy of their party it is clearly understood that they are totally against to the opening up of the system and specially during their speech they have laid the complete statistics which they laid from the earlier platform of the party. But my question arises mainly from his statement that insurance companies have been working in India for the last 40 years and what situation has arisen before the country today to introduce provision for Regulatory body and Regulatory bill. Today you have presented everything in your context and it is clear from your policy that you are against Privatisation and you want to work against it and if Government adopt any favourable attitude in this regard then you oppose that. If your intention and policy were clear then today the cohesiveness and hidden you are, may not be there and you would have moved farther enough. We had thought of mixed economy in Public Sector and we have made huge investment of our country in Public Sector. Today 60 to 70 crores of rupees is involved in this but what is the result? As far as infrastructural facilities are concerned we could not develop it all over India, on the other hand involving such a huge amount in this system we are keeping today our country in the dark even after 50 years of independence. Whenever in this House any discussion about opening up of any sector is taken up, an attitude of opposing such move is adopted by some parties because it has become their policy to oppose any such move. I had also desired to discuss this issue in detail but due to lack of time we could not continue our discussion like this. Today opening of Insurance Sector has become a subject of importance because the Insurance



[Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy]

Sector concerns the common man, the rural people and the middle class people. Madam, I give you a simple example. The State government of Bihar is contributing every year 30 lakhs rupees from its Insurance group to GIC and its subsidiary National Insurance Corporation under the insurance scheme. The maximum population of very poor people of the country live in Bihar where 90% of houses have thatched roof, generally during the month of June fire breaks out there and create problem for them. Personally I have seen that in my constituency thousands of huts covered by insurance scheme catch fire during summer season. You conduct survey of Jhuggis in Bihar then you will be bale to know about this policy. If 10,000 Jhuggis catch fire then insurance company is not in position to grant compensation more than 500 houses because they have to report in the Police Station and to the Co. When Co. and Police will sent their report to Insurance Company then they have to fill up a long form for clearance which is not available either in Block or in district headquarter. I am aware of one such incident of fire in my constituency in which 200 Jhuggis caught fire and it took me full one year to get compensation for them. I was MLA from that small constituency. Our District Collector took complete one year. Our S.P. prepared the report and forwarded it to the Insurance Company. After that, I came to know that district headquarter of Insurance Company enquired from thier Calcutta head office that for the first time such a big amount of insurance money is being released for a small constituency. It is a small incident. Today they have put their full strength in this study so that in the country there should not be any competition in this sector. Today the several types of situation prevails in the country. Government want to establish industries and make commercial transactions. I understand, they may be necessary but this system has become failure throughout India. If you visit the country then you will find that the present situation in India requires change. We, too, do not want that the foreign institutions take away capital from our country. We are also against it. We would also like that our capital should not go out of the country in any form but one thing is clear that if a healthy competition is generated, then atleast the Government machinery should accept it with an open mind and they should allow it. Masses need better facilities and better conditions. It should be responsibility of the Government to protect our life and security. Those things which we can not do should be handed over to the people of the country in normal course. The definition on this subject made in recommendations put forward by the Ministry is matter of concern in our party as it create apprehension of arrival of foreign institutions in our country. Government should adopt clear attitude in this regard. In the entire situation particularly in this circle of discussion the only possibility of concern is that foreign institutions may not take way the capital from our country by entering in the insurance sector. This is the most important issue and the House and the Government should express their concern in this regard. This is the main issue. As far as the question of competition is concerned, after assessing the failures of the last 50 years, I under stand that ideology, thinking and views of Shri Nirmal ji will not succeed. I thank you and with these few words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Mr. Chairman, Sir I rise to oppose this Bill. Two leaders from our party have already spoken and hon. Member Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee has spoken at length. I would only like to make some observations.

Why was the Malhotra Committee set up at all? What was the necessity for it? Practically there was no necessity to set up that Committee. The main purpose of setting up that Committee, which has been revealed afterwards, is to open up the insurance sector to private and foreign multinational companies. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance which has been discussed here. In regard to Clause 3 of the Bill, the Committee has observed that :

The Committee are given to understand that the setting up of statutory insurance regulatory authority is a prelude to liberalisation of the insurance sector and its opeing up to private and foreign players.

That is the main purpose of the Malhotra Committee. The Malhotra Committee had stated that :

For better customer service, competition is needed and arrival of new players will speed up the spread of insurance and the experience of the banking sector should be taken into consideration in the insurance sector also.

The committee also stated that :

It is the desire of a majority of corporate clients.

So, the Malhotra Commtttee was set up and the Government is giving effect to their recommendations.

In this connection, I would like to make one observation with much humility. I find some unusual haste in getting this Bill passed. Heavans will not fall if the Bill passed in the Monsoon Session of Parliament! There could have been a debate throughout the country on this. When the Life Insurance Corporation was set up and insurance was nationalised, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister, eloquently stated that the purpose of the insurance was not just to make profit. He stressed on the social aspect that must be fulfilled by the nationalised insurance sector.

There must be some monopoly. the then Finance Minister, Dr. C.D. Deshmukh observed on those lines. At the time of nationalisation of General Insurance in 1972, the same observation was made. Has that objectives been fulfilled or not? Yes, that objectives had been fulfilled. We have noticed the bank scam. We have not noticed any scam in the insurance sector. There is a clean record of service. We are inviting the private sector in the insurance area. But what was the position prior to nationalisation? Two hundred

and forty-five private companies including many foreign companies were operating in our country. A Regulatory Authority was there; the Insurance Act, 1938 was there. But the history of private insurance, in general, is a history of stagnation in growth, default, falsification of claims, interlocking of funds, so many other malpractices and outright swindling. We are inviting that stage once again.

So far as the foreign multinational insurance companies are concerned, the MNCs are concerned, I would like to quote a report. According to the report published by the National Insurance Academy, Pune -- these are example only 372 General Insurance companies in the USA became insolvent over a period of 12 year. The dominant reason was a free pricing system in the name of competition. The dangerous portents of premium undercutting are on the cards. If the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee are accepted, the anarchy in rates that would prevail in the insurance market is quite apparent.

Madam it has been stated that people of different walks of life are very much eager for opening up of this sector to the private companies, the big business houses of India and multinational companies. In this connection, I would only say that there is at least one Legislative Assembly in this country, the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, which has passed an unanimous resolution - I underline 'unanimous' because the congress Members were there on 11th February, 1994, that is, just one month after the submission of the Report of the Malhotra Committee, appreciating the significant social role being played by LIC and GIC. They opposed to the opening up of the insurance sector to the private and multinational companies.

A survey was conducted and the Report says that the policyholders and the people of India expressed their satisfaction with the functioning of LIC and GIC - that has also been incorporated in the Report of the Malhotra Committee. The achievements of both these institutions are tremendous. The figures will tell that the achievements are not insignificant. It is a significant achievement.

19.00 hrs.

They have fulfilled the objectives set forth in those two Acts.

MR. CHARIMAN : Now, it is seven O'clock. If the House agrees, we can extend the time a little, as there are two more speakers. Let us finish the discussion today, as they will take five minutes each.

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : In my opinion, what is needed is to see that the progress and growth which is being made by LIC and GIC should not be hindered in anyway. By opening up this sector, you will see that the progress will be jeopardised. Insurance activities have been taken to the rural areas. Do you think that the foreign multinational companies and big business houses which are

guided only by their profit motive will do all these social activities? Do they have a social outlook? They do not. These two corporations, LIC and GIC are providing money in the form of Taxes, dividends to the Central Government. Yes, reforms are needed. But that must be within the parameters of the public sector, nationalised sector. There are some grey areas; deficiencies are there. There is day to day interference of the officers of the Insurance Division of the Finance Ministry. That should not be there. Reforms are needed but those must be within the parameters of the nationalised sector. If we do that, that will bring a new dimension, that would speed up the activities of LIC and GIC.

The hon. Finance Minister while introducing the Bill has stated that it is there in the Common Minimum Programme. The hon. Member, Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee has already mentioned about this, There is a mention in the CMP of opening up of the insurance sector and the next sentence is, "We will strengthen LIC and GIC." Both these things are mutually contradictory. You cannot strengthen the nationalised sector, these two prestigious institutions LIC and GIC by opening up the areas of insurance to the private entrepreneurs. If it is done, that will bring disaster to the economy of this country. I will request the Finance Minister to desist from this activity. He should refrain from opening up this sector to the private and multinational companies.

As already stated, we have given an amendment to the Bill. If the amendment is accepted, that will protect the nationalised sector. I do hope that United Front Government will rethink over the matter and they will not try to proceed with unusual haste.

Let it be discussed everywhere; let it be discussed at length, in different spheres of public life and then we will take a decision. But if they try to pass it in this Session, we will oppose it tooth and nail because people will not tolerate this thing. Not to speak of employees, officers and workers of the LIC and GIC but people in general will not tolerate this type of an action, this type of a step which the Government is going to take.

With these words, I once again oppose this Bill.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsour) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to make my submission in brief because I do not want to reiterate those points which have already been mentioned by others. There are some apprehensions which are required to be resolved. First of all, I would like to quote some excerpts from Malhotra Committee's Report before introducing this Bill. Two or three recommendations made by the Malhotra Committee in their report require serious consideration. They have said in their report, "If you are allowing the foreign companies to enter then they should be allowed through joint public sector. We do not want that any foreign company establish his branches here. We had said that only those companies should be established here which are accountable to them." It seems that foreign companies will find their way to enter in any manner. An apprehension was expressed in the sitting of the

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

Standing Committee that America is repeatedly mounting pressure to this effect that other companies or foreign companies should be allowed to enter in other viable industries as well as service undertakings. Other wise, they can use Super 301 also. If it has been happened, the hon'ble Minister should clarify about it also.

I would like to submit another point that when a decision was taken to nationalize the Insurance Industry, it was under Private sector and other companies were also working in this field. But at that time the decision of nationalization was taken keeping in view the mismanagement of these companies and the irregularities committed there in but today we find that nationalisation has miserably failed. Now we are going to denationalise it. If the decision taken at that time was right then why it has been decided to change it now? Whether the reason behind it is not that the former Finance Minister had given assurance to foreign governments or America to this effect that we would definitely open the doors for the multinational companies by making a change in the economic process in any manner. There are some of the apprehensions about which hon'ble Minister should definitely clarify.

I would like to make submission with regard to the another recommendation of the Malhotra Committee. although these companies had made much progress in business point of view and their financial position was also satisfactory, however, Insurance business has not been expanded considerable in India. There are several aspects of this business which have not been fully utilized. The decision taken at that time that after it was brought under public sector, it will be utilized and certainly expanded, but it has not been happened. It is, therefore, envisaged to hand over the regulatory powers to an Authority. Although a provision of Controller is already existed in our previous law but it could be handed over to the government directly by giving him more powers, but it has not been given. If my doubt is baseless, then alright. Otherwise, the control of Government will increase and Government will be dominant on it and it will loose its autonomy and it will not be able to function in the manner as it should do.

Thirdly, it is said that it will also work in the rural areas for the rural insurance because there are two types of undertakings- the LIC and GIC about which Shri Kanti da and other members have also stated that what will be the process of crop insurance. Even today, our crop insurance scheme is incomplete. We are not able to think over it. Malhotra Committee also recommended that the private Sector Companies should be asked to work in the rural areas. We wanted that it should be mandatory for the Life Insurance Companies that if necessary, Life Insurance Companies should also work in rural areas.

It is quite different to General Insurances Companies. These are some of basic points which require serious consideration.

I would like to conclude while drawing the attention towards two points. There is a report namely " Suggestions to make Improvement in the field of insurance" dated 12th May, 1997. Shri Dasgupta gave his comments before the Standing Committee in this regard. Dr. Dasgupta had expressed his dissent with the objectives of Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill, 1996.

He had said in his comments that today the question is not to have a choice between private sector and public sector but the main issue is the choice between Indian Public Sector and Foreign Private Sector. One of the leftist M.P. gave an argument that the country's private sector would prefer to invest capital in Insurance Sector only with the cooperation of foreign companies. They are searching the way out in one form or the other. Whether today people of leftist parties are disagreed with this point. While 'disapproving with the comments made by their party members would they like to say something else? There they have shown their disagreement with this bill but here they are showing their consent, I would like to know what kind of consent is this?

I would like to draw your attention towards one another point that it has been openly stated and published again and again in the newspapers that a large number of members of Leftist Parties including Forward Block, CPI, CPM, Revolutionary Socialist Party have signed a letter that they will oppose these two bills being brought by Govt. One bill related to allotment of Govt. quarters and another is about Authority. We are going to oppose and will oppose these two bills. Whether the signed letter or the point made therein was false, as today they are openly supporting these bills? I have expressed some apprehensions here. I said that the Authority being constituted will make improvement to a certain extent but even now its doors are open for foreign companies or multinational companies. Unless the Hon'ble Finance Minister allays these apprehensions and categorically states that multinational companies and foreign companies will not be allowed in this industry in any way, we will not be satisfied.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Madam, now that the debate is coming to its logical conclusion, I would like to pinpointedly draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister only towards one salient point on which we have got basic fundamental difference. That finds place in the amendment which we have moved to Clause 13 of the Bill. The amendment says:

"Provided that the authorities shall not be empowered to permit any foreign company or foreign enterprises to do insurance business in India either on its own or through a Joint Venture."

It is being said that this apprehension is unfounded because the Bill as such is only meant to regulate the existing insurance system, which consists of the LIC and the GIC. However, it is to be borne in mind that the present Bill and the

Ordinance preceding it are on account of the Malhotra Committee's Report, which was submitted as back as 1993. It was mentioned in that Report:

"If and when an entry of foreign insurance companies is permitted, they should be required to float an Indian company preferable a joint venture with an Indian partner."

Now, this recommendation of the Malhotra Committee has not been rejected in spite of the fact that the Committee's Report has been examined at various levels by the Government authorities.

Now, therefore, this apprehension that under the guise and pretext of a Regulatory Authority, Section 13 would be used by the Regulatory Authority to authorise the multinational, foreign and also our private sector insurance companies to compete and enter the field of insurance cannot be said to be unfounded. If it is unfounded and if this assumption on which we are proceeding -- not only we but a big majority of the MPs sitting here and the people in the insurance sector consisting of lakhs of employees who have submitted their memorandum to the Standing Committee, opposing it -- is unfounded, then I would like to have a pin-pointed answer from the hon. Finance Minister. Why is it that 46 foreign insurance companies have already established their offices in India, on the Indian soil-some of them with collaboration, in a joint venture and some of them independently? It is not like Bangladeshis trespassing into Bengal or Indian border. They have done so with the express, specific permission of the Reserve Bank of India. May I know the reason from the hon. Finance Minister?

I would give the names in order to substantiate my point. They are :

1. Tokio Marine & Fire Insurance Company Limited of Japan.
2. Zurich Insurance Company of Switzerland.
3. General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Company of USA. It is having Bombay Dyeing as its partner.
4. Prudential Corporation of USA.
5. Chubb Pacific U.M.S.P. Limited of USA.
6. Yasuda Fire & Marine Insurance Company Limited of Japan.
7. Cigna International Corporation of USA.
8. Swiss RE of Switzerland.
9. Alianze Aktiengesellschaft Holding of Germany.
10. Cox and Kings Travel & Finance Limited of USA. It is having collaboration again here with the State Bank of India.
11. Liberty International of USA.
12. HSB Engg. Insurance Limited

13. Sumitomo Marine Japan & Fire Insurance of Japan.
14. Aon India Limited
15. Canada Life Insurance Assurance Company of Canada.
16. Sun Life Assurance Co. of Canada. It is having Sundram Finance as partner.
17. Commercial Union of U.K.
18. Aetna Insurance.
19. Legal & General Insurance of U.K.
20. Royal insurance of U.K.
21. Standard Life of U.K.
22. UAP Provincial insurance of U.K. It is having partnership with Integrated Finance.
23. Met Life.
24. Lincoln National of U.K.
25. Eagle Star Insurance.
26. American International Group of USA.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How many more you have?

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Just a few more, Madam.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then why do you not hand it over to the Minister?

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I am mentioning this to the hon. Finance Minister in order to show that I am not making a submission or an argument here. It is all substantiated by the names of the companies, names of the countries and names of the Indian partners. I would like to know from him one thing. If they are having an office only for liaison, as they say, then what sort of liaison it is ? Is it a liaison for kickbacks for Bofors? Is it a liaison for having some matrimonial relationship or love marriage? What for is the liaison there? What liaison are they doing there? Also these consist of not one but Switzerland, the U.K. and so on. I would not name all of them. They are 46 in number and they are having collaboration with Godrej, SK Modi Group, Peerless, Dabur Finance, Shriram Finance, Tatas, Cholamandalam Group, ITC, Integrated Finance, Hindustan Times and Sundram Finance. All these are Indian partners.

Now, these joint ventures with the Indian partners have established offices on the Indian soil. They are foreign companies. Why did the Reserve Bank allow them? If there is no intention or have no idea of doing insurance company business here what for are they here? This conclusively proves that the matter is not so simple as he is putting.

[Justice Guman Mai Lodha]

In the Regulatory Authority Bill, there is no provision for opening the insurance sector to privatisation either Indian or foreign. Therefore, the hon. Minister of Finance should, while giving the reply, categorically in turn say and make a commitment that whatever may have been done earlier by opening of these offices, by execution of M.O.U.s and agreements in the insurance sector, they were all illegal, unauthorised and they would never allow any foreign company, multinational company, either that company individually or in collaboration or with any joint venture in India, to enter into the insurance field. If that sort of commitment is made without any ifs and buts, without any sort of reservations, then, of course, we would take the words of hon. Minister of Finance, otherwise the hon. Minister of Finance should accept this amendment which we are proposing. What is the harm if this amendment is accepted? The Regulatory Authority and the entire scheme of the Bill would remain as it is. The object is to regulate, to put the Regulatory Authority in place of a controller. Now, that can be done. Therefore, I would say that this amendment should be allowed.

Now, I would like to say a word about the opening in India. We are not against it and whether this Bill contemplates it or not, it is a different matter. But we certainly feel that the interests of the policy holders should be supreme and with that end in view if the Indian companies are allowed to compete with the present companies, then it would be in the interests of the people. The opposition to have competitive swadeshi companies is based on a second class railway passengers mentality; the typical second class passengers mentality is that once one enters the compartment, then one cries that so far and no more; there is no space.

They were talking of the scams. Do you not know that the Mundra Deal and the Dalmia scam were the first in the insurance field way back in the fifties? So far as the Scams are concerned, they are in the banks, in the insurance sector. But one thing is very important that our service to the people, after an accident happens, is so bad that other companies come out with a competition that immediately after the death within five or ten hours the payment was made of the

insurance amount. But here even after three or four decades, I am sorry to say that even making compliments to L.I.C. would not do. We are certainly proud of the good things which have been done, but we must call a spade a spade. We must say that the people of this country are not happy. They want a competition with swadeshi companies and if that is allowed so far as we are concerned, we would only welcome it.

But we do not want Lord Clive to come again to this country. We do not want those Britishers who have gone back, who exploited us, who made us slave for so many years, to come from this backdoor as a trader, as a businessman, with sweet words, and then take away the precious money of this country saved by the people in insurance funds. Their whole lifetime's savings should not be sent to London or New York or Tokyo. We strongly protest against this.

With these words, I oppose this Bill so far as the opening of the insurance sector to the multinational companies is concerned, whether individually or under joint collaboration. If our amendment is supported or accepted by the hon. Finance Minister, either by acceptance of it in the Act or by an express commitment, then we would certainly like the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill to be passed. Otherwise, the amendment will be pressed. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you. Tomorrow, after the Question Hour, at 12.30 p.m., the hon. Minister will reply. Today the entire list of speakers is over. So, tomorrow at 12.30 p.m. the Minister will reply.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : At 12.30 I shall reply and then the voting will take place.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes.

The House now stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

19.27 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, August 6, 1997/Shravana 15, 1919 (Saka)*