

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. VII contains Nos. 31 to 38)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, May 17, 2000/Vaisakha 27, 1922 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER In the Chair)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 721

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, presentation of the Bill pertaining to the creation of a separate Chhatisgarh State is not included in today's List of Business but I have been told that the Government will keep the House in dark and will present this Bill suddenly in future....(Interruptions) The proposal was passed by us.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singhji, not now, after the Question Hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : The Bill to create the Uttarakhand was passed by the government of Samajwadi party.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Not now, later on.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singhji, not now, you can raise this issue during the Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR) : All the members should be taken into confidence regarding the Bill to carve out new states(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

[English]

Many Members wish to put their supplementaries.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singhji, this is not right. You please sit down.

*Not Recorded.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Today is the last day of the Session. Why are you unnecessarily obstructing the Question Hour?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Today is the last day of the Session. You are not allowing even the Question Hour to go on smoothly.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Not in Question Hour, I will allow you in the Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh ji, you are a senior member. It is not right to obstruct the Question Hour daily.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Geete, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Khanduri, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Please give time to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : Not in the Question Hour. I will give you time in the Zero Hour.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

New Department to Deal with NRIs and PIOs

*721. + SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

*Not Recorded.

(a) whether a new Department is being set up in his Ministry to deal exclusively with the problems of NRIs and persons of Indian Origin (PIOs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objectives behind setting up this Department;

(d) the other recommendations made by the committee constituted on the subject;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(f) the time by which the Department is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Office of the Chief Commissioner (Non-Resident Indians) has been transferred from the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance to the Ministry of External Affairs. This new arrangement would deal with all issues relating to Non-Resident Indians, as well as people of Indian Origin.

(c) This new division would formulate appropriate policies for deepening linkages with all NRIs and overseas Indians, for encouraging their participation in the development of the country in various fields including investments, education, culture, science and technology etc. It would also act as an inter-face between the organisations and associations of overseas Indians abroad and the Government of India. It would be the coordinator of activities of other Ministries and Organisations dealing with subject of interest to overseas Indians.

(d) The Government did not constitute any Committee specifically for this issue.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) An Additional Secretary rank Officer has already assumed charge in the Ministry of External Affairs.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, transferring the Office of the Chief Commissioner (Non-Resident Indians) from the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance to the Ministry of External Affairs is really a welcome step. They have rightly done it. There are a lot of opportunities now in India particularly after the liberalisation of the policies. There are about 15 million people of Indian Origin who are residing in 48 countries. Several countries are looking at our country for technology transfer and also for technical personnel particularly, in the field of Information Technology. The advanced countries like Germany and Japan are also looking at our country for various services.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is contemplating to set up a Study Group consisting of Indian Professors, Professors from other countries, and people of Indian Origin who are coming to India to have interface and study with each other so that there could be a greater involvement of the NRIs and PIOs could be made which would be useful to our country.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, the Government has taken a number of steps. As the hon. Member perhaps knows, recently there was an international Conference which was supported by the Ministry of External Affairs. The Conference was organised by the *Antarrashtriya Sahyog Parishad*. It was held on 12th and 13th of February in Delhi. Amongst recommendations of this Conference, there was also a recommendation relating to greater exchange of educational institutions, professors, etc. It is valuable suggestion and the Ministry will pay due regard to it.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Our country is still infested with poverty and illiteracy though some people have advanced in scientific and technological matters. There are people like Dr. Amartya Sen, Professor Bhagwati, Professor Raja Reddy and others who are very known globally. Their services are also required to be utilised in our country.

Sir, 25-30 years back, people had migrated to other countries. The second generation people already started migrating to other countries. They are working there. They have known roots but now they are losing their roots in India. I would like to know whether the Ministry is thinking of allowing dual citizenship so that the second generation people could come to our country and help rebuilding our country to a greater extent. The dual citizenship is available in other countries. So, it is not that our country is the first country which will be allowing dual citizenship.

Investments can also come in a greater way to our country. I would like to have a specific answer from the hon. Minister.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : The specific question relating to the grant of dual citizenship has been under examination of the Government for a considerable length of time. There are various aspects of dual citizenship that need to be carefully examined before any definite steps in this regard can be taken. As the hon. Member knows, a step in that direction has already been taken by the issuance of the card which facilitates travel, entry and other benefits. That is the first step. The grant of dual citizenship will have to be fully examined before it can be implemented.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : We want it to be expedited.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Yes, we will expedite it.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : I would like to know whether the Government is planning to announce any special package for tax benefits or for information technology transfer to India? Is there any special proposal for the NRIs and PIOs just like the Resurgent Indian Bond?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I am sure, the hon. Member knows that the phrase 'Non Resident Indian' is in itself really a tax-based phrase. It is defined by the length of stay in India and from that follows a number of consequential tax benefits. Periodically, whenever the Government has felt the need to announce a special scheme — for example, Resurgent India Bond—the Government definitely takes a step in that direction. But, on the aspect of Non Resident Indians, at the present moment, other than the tax benefits that are already attendant upon that category, no additional tax benefits are being planned.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : My question relates to the previous one that my colleague asked here. The External Affairs Minister has said that the question of dual citizenship is under consideration. I must tell you that, as has been pointed out so many times, the NRI presence is very strong all over the world. They have welcomed the PIO card. It has facilitated their taking visa and some other things. But it is not enough. They feel that they better had a shared identity with us, which the card does not give them. So, a dual nationality would give them what they really want. It looks that we have some reservation about it. All our neighbouring countries have it. Bangladesh has it and Pakistan has it. In this era of globalisation, the mother belongs to one nation, the father belongs to another and the children belongs to a third. So, it has already become a universal issue.

May I know what is the reservation which is holding us back and why are we saying for a long time that this is under consideration? Is there anything which is holding us back.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I must yet again make a decision that Non Resident Indians, as the phrase itself suggests, are actually Indian citizens. They are holders of Indian Passports. They travel to and fro India on the basis of that citizenship.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : What about the second generation?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Then you will not be a Non Resident Indian. What the hon. Member is referring to is the People of Indian Origin. So far as the PIOs are concerned and the grant of dual citizenship is concerned, the aspect of grant of dual citizenship has been under examination of the

Government. There are various aspects of it. I will separately have the hon. Member fully briefed on what are those various aspects and what are under the detailed consideration of the Government.

SHRI BALBIR SINGH : While I fully support the idea of dual citizenship, I also commend the scheme of issuance of cards of PIOs. As the hon. Minister knows, there are a lot of Punjabis settled in Canada, America and England. Whenever we go there or they come here, they always pretest that the fee charged for issuance of these cards is very exorbitant. Will the hon. Minister consider to have a look at this and decrease the fee? This is a genuine difficulty of these people.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Yes, certainly the Ministry is aware of this particular difficulty. The fee charged for the obtaining of PIO cards is something that the Government needs to look at again and if possible bring it down. It is something that the Ministry of External Affairs has to organise and manage in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Government is seized of this particular complaint and we are attending to it.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY : From the reply of the hon. Minister, it is seen that after the transfer of the Chief Commissioner, NRI, to the External Affairs Ministry from the Finance, they are doing some jobs like deepening linkages and interface transaction, etc. What had been this Commissionerate doing when they were in the Finance Ministry? Have they not done anything of this nature when they were there?

I am given to understand that the NRIs and the PIOs in the Asian countries, particularly in Singapore and Malaysia, find it extremely difficult and the Indian Embassies there are not at all helpful to them particularly to Tamil. They are taking a negative attitude and are indifferent towards them. Has any complaint come to the notice of the External Affairs Minister in this regard?

I need a specific answer for these two questions.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I will try to be as specific as I can be. Yet again, I have to make a distinction between the Non Resident Indians and the People of Indian Origin. Non Resident Indians are Indian citizens and they hold Indian Passports. In their case, the question of difficulties in regard to travel to and fro India because of any Consulate deficiencies in our Missions abroad simply does not arise. So far as People of Indian Origin are concerned, whenever we receive any particular complaint about the difficulty faced by any citizen of any country in regard to travel to India, the Ministry deals with it expeditiously.

It is correct that the Commissioner has only recently

been transferred to the Ministry of External Affairs from the Ministry of Finance in the reorganisation of the entire aspect of dealing with Non Resident Indians and the People of Indian Origin. At the moment, however, he continues to hold the charge of India Investment Centre. As the hon. Member knows, earlier there was an establishment called India Investment Centre which still continues to operate. It is really meant to promote investment into India and that was functioning under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance. There are a number of other Ministries that also come into play. It is not simply the Ministry of External Affairs that operates this. Therefore, for greater efficiency, this Commissioner is now a part of the Ministry of External Affairs. The question of India Investment Centre is yet to be resolved. The Cabinet Secretary is seized of it. Earlier, I have explained to the hon. Member the functions that the India Investment Centre performed.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : The Non-Resident Indians are contributing to a lot to our country. There are many Government officials and other people who are going to other countries for funds. But when the Indians come back to our country, they are treated as Non-Required Indians.

MR. SPEAKER : You are giving a new abbreviation.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : When they go inside any office, they never get attention. These people come on one month's leave and by the time, they really approach an officer and lay their problems, one month is passed. So, I request the hon. Minister, through the hon. Speaker, that some sort of an identity card should be given to such people so that their problems are immediately attended to in all segments of our Government Departments.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Here again, the hon. Member has asked about the Non-Resident Indians. They require no additional card of identification as such. They are Indians and I am ready to accept the other part of his observation that when they come back home on a short tenure or leave, they face administrative difficulties when it comes to their interface with the administration. This is an overall deficiency. We are mindful of this deficiency. Indeed, those of us who live here are often victims of that deficiency. But this not something specific to the Ministry of External Affairs alone. The Government is mindful of this point.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what is the total number of non-resident Indians and the country where the number non-resident Indians is maximum?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have returned from London by a

British Airways flight. I have been charged \$390 i.e. Rs. 22,000 for my luggage being excess by twenty kilogram. I would like to urge upon the Minister of External Affairs to write to the British Airways to reduce their rates and Rs. 22,000 charged excess from me should be refunded to me. If the British Airways does not refund it, the Union Government should pay Rs. 22,000 to me.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is no supplementary.

UK Stand on Indo-Pak Relations

*722. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been shift in UK stand on Kashmir issue;

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

(c) whether the UK Government has for the first time accepted the sanctity of the Line of Control and called for an end to the militancy in J&K; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (d) Sir, a Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

UK Stand on Indo-Pak Relations

1. In a comprehensive statement on Jammu and Kashmir, made following a debate in the House of Commons on 21 July, 1999, the UK Government, inter alia, stated : "It is important to recognize that the incursion, and the continued violence of the militants in Jammu and Kashmir, have done nothing, and can do nothing, to promote a durable solution in Kashmir. The evidence suggests that the militants have little in common with the ordinary people in Kashmir, and do not represent them."

2. This was reiterated by the Mr. Peter Hain British Minister of State in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office who, in response to a question in the House of Commons on 18th January, 2000, said : "Pakistani cross-border terrorism is providing to be an enormous threat to the stability of Kashmir. We look to General Musharraf to make sure that under his regime, such terrorism stops. We particularly look to General Musharraf, who is widely seen as the author of the Kargil

incident last year, to ensure that nothing like that ever happens again".

3. The UK Government have also stated : "We have welcomed the action already taken by the Indian authorities in addressing human rights concerns. The National Human Rights Commission is regarded as an effective custodian and promoter of human rights in India."

4. The UK, as a member of the European Union, is party to the European Union Presidency Declaration of 24th June 1999, which called for full respect of the Line of Control. Prime Minister Blair had, in his statement of 19th July, 1999, also said : "I hope both sides will respect the Line of Control". This was also repeated by Foreign Secretary Mr. Robin Cook during his recent visit to India (15-18 April, 2000).

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh that due to dynamic leadership of N.D.A not only U.K. but several other countries of the world have changed their foreign policy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a change in the British foreign policy regarding India and regarding L.O.C. the British Prime Minister had said that it should be honoured. In this context I would like to ask from the Minister of External Affairs whether this change in British foreign policy came after the policy we adopt during the Kargil conflict or after the heinous activities of the terrorists at Kandhar or it was changed before these two incidents?

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister also tell us to what is our foreign policy about Sri Lanka? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, though it is not good but the hon'ble Member has asked about the Government's policy about Sri Lanka. In this context I would like to remind him that the government have issued statements in both the Houses of the Parliament regarding its policy about Sri Lanka. Despite this if the hon'ble Member wants to know about the government's policy please go through that statement, you will come to know about it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question asked by the hon'ble Member Shri Katariji is concerned, the specific change noticed in the British foreign policy is obvious in itself and it is evident from the sequence of the events that this change in the policy of Great Britain and other countries started after the Kargil conflict. This emerged only after that.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : MR. Speaker, Sir,

England had partitioned our country. 52-53 years ago under its policy of 'divide and rule' today the Parliament of England through a comprehensive statement had admitted that the rising terrorism in Kashmir is not a threat only for India but it is a threat for the whole world. I would like to ask from the hon'ble Minister that whether India have ever talked to England that terrorists have been taking shelter in England. Whether England will change its policy in this regard also and will deport those people from its soil so that no terrorist could carry out anti-India activities on the soil of England.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question of the hon'ble Member has two aspects. About the policy of 'divide and rule' I would like to say only that things have changed a lot. For the first time a group named 'Friends of India' has been constituted in the Parliament of Britain as has been constituted in our country in regard to some countries. It comprises 99 members from the Labour Party. Similarly, Conservative Party has also constituted such a group. I think this is for the first time that a society like 'Friends of India' has been constituted in the Parliament of Great Britain. As far as the question of taking up the issue of Indian terrorists taking shelter in England frequently is concerned, it is imperative that Great Britain should re-consider this issue. We have had talks on this issue several times with them and the Great Britain been extending full cooperation to us in this regard.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, since most of the countries of the European Union, of which the United Kingdom is also a member, are not afflicted by the maladies of terrorism, they treat it as a mere law and order situation. Some of the African countries also treat it in that fashion. My question to the hon. Minister is this. What do the Government do just to impress upon them that this is not a mere law and order situation and it is something more than that, and they should come in support of us?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I would like to disabuse the mind of the hon. Member that it would, in fact, be an oversimplification by the hon. Member to say that whether it is the European Union or Great Britain, the Governments, there consider the question of terrorism as simply a law and order situation. I do not wish to take too much time of the House. But I do recommend to the hon. Member to refer to the Statement that I have placed on the Table of the House. It does cover that aspect quite adequately.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : In view of the terrorists activities that are going on across the border, supported either directly or indirectly, supported by Pakistan, several countries were unable to understand our viewpoint. After the visit of the

President of America, Mr. Bill Clinton to our country we feel, either through electronic media or Press or common view that has now erupted, there has been a shift in the stand of America or some of the European countries, including the U.K. May I know, through you, whether our Government has come to know of this shift of the stand relating to, either existential Line of Control or giving out all the credibility to the existential Line of Control between the two countries? Has there been a shifting of the stand in realising or understanding our viewpoint? Of late, exactly how many countries are there? May I know the names of the those countries?

MR. SPEAKER : This question relates to the UK's stand on Indo-Pak relations.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : The question really relates to the U.K. but so far as the United States of America is concerned, we do have, for the first time ever, a Joint Working Group on Terrorism, which kind of exchange and cooperation, the United States of America does not have with many countries.

So far as the United Kingdom is concerned, the shift is not inadvertent. In fact, it is a direct consequence of a better understanding of the Indian position. That better understanding is in fact a consequential term of the fact that the Government has been able to carry conviction on various aspects of the whole question of terrorism, including the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir.

So far as the Line of Control is concerned, may I remind the hon. Member that the Line of Control is a treaty document. It is born out of a Treaty, the Shimla Agreement. It is after all a Confidence-Building Measure.

With your permission, Sir, I do wish to very briefly emphasise the most emphatic and the most definitive statement by the Great Britain on Terrorism, Jammu and Kashmir, and Line of Control. It was actually made in the House of Commons in July, 1999, soon after the Kargil operations had terminated. It is really a landmark in the evolution of the Labour Party's thinking in this regard. It said that the long-term interests of both countries — referring to India and Pakistan Mr. Peter Hain, the then Minister of State in the Commonwealth Office — lie in a mutually agreed solution. It is important to recognise that the incursion and the continued violence of the militants in Jammu and Kashmir have done nothing to promote a durable solution in Kashmir and end to the support that the militants receive from outside Kashmir would greatly assist the search for a solution to the problem.

This is a very comprehensive statement. There have been a number of statements thereafter by the European Union, by the Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair, and most lately

by the hon. Mr. Robin Cook, when he was on a visit to India. This is the reaffirmation of the British stand which in turn is a consequence of the Government of India's Carrying conviction about its position with various Governments.

Foreign Aided Irrigation Projects

*723. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total investments involved in each of the externally aided water resources projects in the country;

(b) whether the foreign aid has been utilised fully;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to utilise the funds to the fullest extent; and

(d) by which time these projects are likely to be completed and made operational?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The project wise investment involved in case of the foreign aided water resources projects under this Ministry, the amount of external aid, its utilisation alongwith date of commencement and completion is attached as Annexure.

The utilisation of foreign aid is a continuous process and depends on signing of new projects for implementation with various donor agencies as is clear from the Annexure. Slow progress on some of the projects is due to project specific reasons, like financial crunch of the State Governments, teething problems, delay in land acquisition, shortage of staff, delay in finalisation of bidding documents and appreciation of donor currency etc.

The progress of the projects, including utilisation of funds are reviewed by the Government of India on a quarterly basis, and where the progress is not as per the schedule, necessary advice and instructions are given to the concerned State Governments at the level of Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries/Secretaries (Irrigation/Water Resources) and the project authorities to improve matters.

Annexure

State-wise Details of Externally Aided Water Resources Projects

S. No.	State	Name of Project	Donor Agency	Date of Commencement/ Completion	Total cost of the Project (in Rupees Crores)	Amount of Assistance (in Million Donor Currency)	Amount of Utilisation upto 31.3.2000 (Million donor Currency)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh						
		i) A.P. III Irrigation Project	World Bank	<u>03.06.1997</u> 31.01.2002	1889.78	US\$ 325.00	US\$ 81.270
		ii) A.P. Economic Restructuring Project (Irrigation component)	World Bank	<u>30.01.1999</u> 31.03.2004	932.60	US\$ 142.00	US\$ 50.00
		iii) Modernisation of Kunool Cuddapah Canal Project	JBIC-Japan	<u>11.01.1998</u> 26.03.2003	1033.74	Yen 16049.00	Yen 1487.92
		iv) APWELL Irrigation Project	Netherlands	<u>14.11.1994</u> 14.11.2002	73.00	NLG 37.00	NLG 19.58
2.	Gujarat	v) Hydroplus Fusegate System	France	<u>10.12.1998</u> 31.12.2000	40.28	FF 34.74	---
3.	Haryana	vi) Haryana Water Resources Consolidation Project	World Bank	<u>06.04.1994</u> 31.12.2000	1858.00	US\$ 258.00	US\$ 143.62
4.	Kerala	vii) Community Irrigation Project	Netherlands	<u>15.12.1993</u> 30.06.2000	16.32	NLG 6.175	NLG 2.805
		viii) Kerala Minor Irrigation Project	EEC	<u>21.05.1992</u> 31.12.2000	60.00	ECU 11.80	ECU 2.770
5.	Maharashtra	ix) Maharashtra Minor Irrigation Project	KfW-Germany	<u>31.12.1998</u> 31.12.2006	115.79	DM 45.00	DM 0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Madhya Pradesh	x) Rajghat Canal Project	JBIC-Japan	12.12.1997 05.02.2003	523.41	Yen 13222.00	Yen 1428.200
7	Orissa	xi) Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project	World Bank	05.01.1996 30.09.2002	1409.00	US\$ 290.90	US\$ 133.74
		xii) Rengali Irrigation Project	JBIC-Japan	12.12.1997 05.02.2003	510.90	Yen 7760.00	Yen 1880.83
		xiii) Lift Irrigation Project	KfW-Germany	19.12.1993 31.12.2000	119.55	DM 50.00	DM 37.88
		xiv) Orissa Minor Irrigation Project	EEC	03.07.1995 31.12.2000	50.80	ECU 10.70	ECU 0.465
8.	Pondicherry	xv) Modernisation of Tank Irrigation System	EEC	21.02.1997 21.02.2003	32.84	ECU 6.65	ECU 0.72
9.	Rajasthan	xvi) Sidhmukh & Nohar Irrigation Project	EEC	07.06.1993 31.12.2000	186.00	ECU 45.00	ECU 32.74
10.	Tamil Nadu	xvii) Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project	World Bank	19.04.1995 31.03.2003	815.00	US\$ 282.90	US\$ 93.49
11.	Uttar Pradesh	xviii) Bundelkhand Water Resources Management Project	Netherlands	12.06.1996 31.03.2003	6.00	NLG 3.087	NLG 1.35
12.	Multi-State	xix) Hydrology Project	World Bank	22.09.1995 31.03.2002	725.00	US\$ 142.00	US\$ 42.318

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have seen the reply of the Hon'ble Minister. The 21st report of the Standing Committee of Water Resources Ministry deals with the aspect only in which they had condemned the non-completion of foreign aided projects. You have mentioned in your reply that in every three months, monitoring is done, meetings are held with secretaries and Principal Secretaries, despite this out of 15 projects that you have mentioned, there are some projects, as in Maharashtra in which not a single paisa has been spent during the last four years. It will lead to an increase in the estimated outlay due to increasing prices. In these circumstances, how it is possible to complete the project in the remaining one year when work has not commenced in the last four years. So far, no progress has been made in these projects, what are its reasons, and who are responsible for it?

DR. C.P. THAKUR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has asked about foreign aided projects. Delay in projects is due to some general as well as specific causes. General cause is that the projects come under Water Resource Ministry of the State while its nodal ministry is the Ministry of Economic Affairs. Thereafter it goes to the World Bank. Then a meeting is called in Washington and the representatives of the State participate in it. Appraisal begins after it has been accepted by the World Bank. If there are shortcomings in the projects, it leads to delay in the World Bank. Another reason is that the State has to show in its budget that if there is a budget of Rs. 100 crore, they have to invest that amount. When the project begins, the State has to spend the amount first and they are reimbursed later. Delays are also caused sometimes on the part of the States in spending it and sometimes in gathering resources but they get the money from the Ministry of Finance once they have spent the money. As to the question of our monitoring we undertake friendly monitoring every three months, and when we say that the work is not being done, we are assured that the project will be started very soon. Thus the work has been stopped at some places. But initial teething problems are faced by all the states and the work is picked up after one and a half or two years time. Where work is that of procurement, delay is also caused by increasing prices, appreciation in dollars etc. Project in Maharashtra is a similar one and we expect that all funded projects would be completed by the end of their allotted time—only one—or two projects will be needing some extra time.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply of the hon'ble Minister, 15 projects have been mentioned. Few such states have also been mentioned where as much as four projects are under progress. Bihar does not figure in the list even when floods and rain affect it every year. I want to ask whether you will include the State of Bihar when you start foreign aided projects and if so, when will you sanction projects in Bihar.

DR. C.P. THAKUR : It is our desire also that some pro-

jects should also be started in Bihar since it is the poorest State. But for that to happen Bihar itself has to submit Projects to the center and will have to submit it according to the specifications set by the World Bank. As yet, Bihar has sent no such projects. Once it is sent to us, will get it examined by the department and try to help. ... (Interruptions) Hon'ble Members says that Bihar won't send it, I want to say that there is no provision under which we can initiate it on our own. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to be informed by the hon'ble Minister that uptill now, how many foreign assisted projects have been sanctioned for Gujarat? Sardar Sarovar project was earlier, a foreign aided project and the Central Government had given assurance to Gujarat Government. In this regard World Bank had put up some conditions, which were not in the interests of the project.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with respect to Sardar Sarovar Project, Central Government has assured them that it will provide the assistance, which was earlier given by the World Bank but so far that assistance has not been provided by the Central Government for the completion of the Project. Therefore, I wish to ask the hon'ble Minister whether he is going to provide the assistance, which was earlier to be provided by the World Bank, and for which he had promised so that the project could be completed?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, second thing that I want to ask is that some environmentalists, Medha Patkar and her friends are undertaking fasts and other forms of agitation under the influence of foreign assistance so that project is not completed in any circumstances and water do not reach Kutch and the situation is Kutch becomes like Kargil. To prevent them and resolve the crisis, whether the Government will, at the earliest, make efforts on the lines of Cauvery water issue?

DR. C.P. THAKUR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has rightly said that earlier it was a World Bank Project and when the environmentalists opposed it, World Bank declined to support and assist the project. Thereafter, the Central Government said that they will grant the funds already given by the World Bank as well as the remaining amount and we have already provided that amount. Thereafter field channels are being constructed. We are providing funds through A.I.D.P. At present, Supreme Court has stayed the construction of dams and we are assisting Gujarat in all possible manners.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very important question. But the reply, hon'ble Minister has given may be proper in his view, but it does not solve our and the country's problem and it does not address the issues before us. We are getting funds from the outside with the help of which we have to arrange for irrigation but we are not being able to even spend that amount. The informations provide to us reveal that all projects have time overruns and whenever there is time

overrun there will surely be cost overrun. On the one hand, the government says, they do not have funds. On the other side we are not being able to spend the money we have and the third aspect is that in the name of lowering budget deficit, even the morsel of the poor is being snatched from them. Hon'ble Minister has replied that work could not be completed due to problems in Acquisition Act, plan formulation and other things but it does not solve our problem. Efforts has been made to answer with the help of intellect why the work was not completed, but we are not getting the exact reply of our question. In these circumstances, we want to know from the Government and hon'ble Minister, if any sincere and well thought out action is proposed to be undertaken to correct the important problem of our country — our money which is not being properly used which is resulting in cost overrun and time overrun and increase in deficit, even the hunger of the poor is not being taken care of. What actions are being proposed to solve these problems?

DR. C.P. THAKUR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the concerns raised by hon'ble Members, but we undertake monitoring and that is a sort of friendly monitoring. On our part we make efforts, call the states and advise them to expedite the work. Apart from this we do not have financial power or any other sort of power. We are just nodal ministry, main Ministry is the Ministry of Finance. We make efforts that the funds we have got should be used effectively and quickly. Work can be delayed due to a number of reasons such as work stopped in Haryana due to floods. Cyclones in Orissa stopped the World Bank sponsored work which was in progress. Considering these things, I agree with you that whatever funds we get for the project, should be put to good use, so that the cost could be minimised.

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPAL : There is lot of irrigation potential almost all over India, especially in Andhra Pradesh. Ninety per cent of water is going into the Godavari. Only ten per cent is used by the State Government. Will the Government tell us if there is any plan for the entire country? Whenever we discuss about projects like Ganga-Cauvery project some proposal will come up. But after the Session, no proposal moves forward.

Is there any concrete proposal before the Government for the total utilisation of the water in the country and what is the irrigation potential for development in the country? There are also a lot of projects pending with the Government.

Is there any Co-ordinating Committee between the Endowments Department of the State and the Ministry of Water Resources to process the projects like the Polavaram Project and the SRS Project?

DR. C.P. THAKUR : Work is going on for the transfer of

water from one basin to another. There are some projects which are transferring water from one basin to another. About the Polvaram project on the Godavari also we are waiting that those projects will come up and there would be some agreement with the riparian States. That should be done and I think that the hon. Member of Parliament can also mediate in solving the dispute. If it is done, the projects can be executed very quickly.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask hon'ble Minister, through you, that whether Narmada Project, Jabalpur and Bargihat projects also comes under foreign aided water resources projects? If so, to what extent work has progressed in these projects?

DR. C.P. THAKUR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at present, Narmada River Project of Jabalpur is not included under foreign aided projects. If such proposals are made, we will consider that.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to ask hon'ble Minister through you that crops are being destroyed in lakhs of acres, lives and properties are being lost in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar due to floods caused by rivers originating in Nepal. Whether the Government propose to implement foreign aided projects so as to prevent the damages caused in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar due to floods. If not, why?

DR. C.P. THAKUR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to assure hon'ble Member that Uttar Pradesh is getting the highest assistance under the targets fixed by the World Bank. That state is going to get a lot of funds but your question pertains to floods and in that connection I wish to tell you that we have started consultations with the Nepal Government. Once the consultations are completed, we will approach the World Bank for its funding.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask hon'ble Minister through you whether Government has undertaken any survey to assess how much water is discharged in the rivers originating from Nepal and also about the extent of damage it causes in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar?

DR. C.P. THAKUR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to tell the hon'ble Member through you that the survey work is in progress.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we take loans and assistance from abroad to launch large scale projects for the benefit of the country and alongwith it we also give assurance to complete the project in time. If we do not complete the project in time, we have to pay some money to the foreign countries as a part of our commitment which not only causes loss to the country but also the projects remain incomplete.

I wish to ask hon'ble Minister how much we have paid to the foreign countries as commitment charges? I also wish to ask what is the number of foreign assisted irrigation projects in Haryana and whether they have been completed? Will you make the S.Y.L. project a foreign assisted one?

DR. C.P. THAKUR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Member is right that the projects should be completed in time. S.Y.L. Project in Haryana is not even formulated then how it can be made a foreign aided project? It may be considered only when we decide among ourselves about the date from which the S.Y.L. project is to be launched. Any how, S.Y.L. project does not need foreign assistance. Once agreement is reached over it, Central Government is prepared to provide the funds.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : You did not say anything about the commitment charge. How much has been paid to the foreign countries?

DR. C.P. THAKUR : The information will be provided to you.

SHRI SUJAN SINGH BUNDELA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, an assistance of 6 crores was provided for Balaghat Management Project in the year 1996 but as on today, we have been able to spend only 30% of the amount so far and in the meantime the project cost has increased heavily. People are crying there for a drop of water. We want to know who has been careless and who is responsible for that? What is its position and how the project is going to be completed. Only one small foreign aided project is continuing in such a large State as Uttar Pradesh in the Bundelkhand region. We want to know that where are the funds meant for that project?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? You are putting the question and you are not listening. What is this? Why are you recommending his name? That is not the procedure.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, great injustice is being done with Bundelkhand. ... (Interruptions) First the projects are not sanctioned and any how, if they are sanctioned, they are not given funds. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SUJAN SINGH BUNDELA : People of Bundelkhand are crying for even a drop of water. They have to fetch water from as far as 6 kms. ... (Interruptions)

DR. C.P. THAKUR : Balaghat project in Bundelkhand is almost complete. For that Madhya Pradesh has to pay Rs. 23

crores to Uttar Pradesh. We have called their meeting this month. We will launch Rajghat project from this year itself.

SHRI SUJAN SINGH BUNDELA : When will you launch that project? ... (Interruptions)

DR. C.P. THAKUR : We will launch it this year itself.

[English]

Defence Equipments

+
*724. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU :

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether as a part of the Government's policy to strengthen the SSI Sector the Government proposes to allow SSI units manufacture Defence equipments.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide any special concession to SSI Sector, which will be engaged in the manufacture of Defence items; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :
(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Policy measures for promoting and strengthening small, tiny and village enterprises announced on the 6th August, 1991, recognised the need to widen and deepen, complementaries in production programmes of large/medium and small industrial sectors. The Policy measures have been equally applicable for promoting small scale industrial units to manufacture Defence equipments.

(c) and (d) All concessions available to small scale units in general are also available to those small scale units manufacturing Defence Equipments. Besides the above, the special concessions are also available to small scale units, which register themselves with the Directorate General Quality

Assurance, Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence, Government of India, for supplying to Defence Organisations are as under :-

- (a) Small scale industries seeking registration with the Directorate General Quality Assurance (DGQA), Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence, are charged a concessional registration fee of Rs. 1,000/- against a fee of Rs. 2,500/- payable by large industries.
- (b) Drawings and specifications of the indigenously developed small items are issued free of cost alongwith tender enquiries to small scale units.
- (c) Free consultancy is provided to the SSI Sector to help them prepare for registration with the DGQA.

SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU : Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister what is the total production from the SSI units and what is the total purchase every year for Defence from the SSI units.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Sir, First of all, I would like to go back on the figures here. I do not have the figures in detail that the hon. Member has asked. But all I can say just now is that there is a lot of interaction between the Defence purchases as well as the Defence sales dealing with the small-scale industries.

I would just like to tell the hon. Member about the Units registered with the DGQA. In the field of Armaments, there are a total number of 73 Units, out of which 62 Units are SSI Units. In Vehicle, there are 341 Units, out of which 292 are SSI Units. In Electronics, there are 221 Units, out of which 160 are SSI Units. In Engineering, there are 232 Units, out of which 174 are SSI Units. In Stores, there are 445 Units, out of which 412 are SSI Units. And, the best of all, in Warship Projects, there are 248 Units out of which 204 are SSI Units.

There is a total number of 1560 Units, out of which 1304 Units deal with SSI Units dealing with the production.

As far as the total production is concerned, it is worth Rs. 527,515 crores to Rs. 550 crores, and the average share of the SSI in items of the value of the stores accepted by the DGQA during 1999-2000 is 35 per cent.

SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU : Sir, Defence gets more allotment of funds now. I would like to know, to give encouragement to the indigenous small scale industries and to give employment opportunities, whether there is any special programme or proposal to set up small scale model estates in different States. I would also like to know whether there is any proposal to set up a model estate which is meant for manufacturing equipments for Defence, in Pudukkottai constituency near Trichy since already there is an arms factory in Trichy.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Sir, as far as integrated industrial estates are concerned, there are 52 of these coming up in the country, but there is not any particular one which is dealing with only Defence.

As far as this area is concerned, under the New Industrial Policy and because of the fact that we would like to indigenise some of the Defence procurements, there is a Joint Action Plan today between the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence, and the Small Industries Development Organisation. This was finalised as early as 1994 and today, under this, we have an Action Plan which takes care of Awareness Programme-cum-Exhibitions which were organised between February, 1994 and May, 1994 at various places all over the country. We have more than 1,200 units, out of a large number of applicants, which have been selected for pre-qualification assessment by DGQA. Further, as a equal to this, there is an interaction between the DGQA officers and the entrepreneurs at various locations. A number of the then existing procedures, which included formalities which were prescribed by the DGQA have now been simplified. We have a Joint Services Guide on the assessment of vendors for Defence superseding various circulars which came into being. Looking at the response that the Indigenisation Programme-cum-Exhibitions has received from the small-scale entrepreneurs, SIDO has made it a practice to organise a number of Vendors Development Programmes every year where Defence organisations, including the DGQA, the DG, Air Quality Assurance, Indian Navy and Defence PSUs are invited to display their requirements for the various products and then they are picked up by the small-scale entrepreneurs.

As far as SIDO's Action Plan is concerned, I shall tell you a little about that. We have a number of these Vendors Development Programmes-cum-Buyer-Seller-Meets and Exhibitions which we are organising all round the country. These Programmes are at national as well as at State level. At the national level, we have Central Government Departments, such as the ones I have just mentioned to you, plus Central public sector undertakings, Railways, ONGC and also a number of multinationals and large national companies in the private sector. As far as the States are concerned, again we have had a lot of these that have been participated by the PSUs, the Government Departments and the municipal bodies.

As far as achievements of these are concerned, for the hon. Member's knowledge, I may tell that four National-Level Buyer-Seller-Meets and Exhibitions were organised in 1998-99. In 1999-2000, these went up to ten and in 2000-01, we hope to make them fourteen. We have already had the first two, we are about to have another two and we are looking forward to be able to complete this programme by the end of the year. These Buyer-Seller-Meets also provide education to the entrepreneur with some interaction about the procedure that small-scale entrepreneurs have to adopt so that they can

become competent and regular when they become sub-contractors to the Defence organisation.

[Translation]

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition of small scale industries in Rajasthan is not good. I want to know from the hon'ble Minister what is the number of small scale units which manufacture defence related equipments but are closed and how many are in working condition? What is the impact of the closure of these small scale units, which earlier produced defence equipments, on the defence equipment needs of the country and especially in Rajasthan?

12.00 hrs.

The people of Rajasthan have great expectations especially because the hon'ble Minister is from Rajasthan. Is she going to implement an action plan to improve the condition of small scale industries in Rajasthan? Whether any concrete steps are being taken to restart the units producing defence related equipments?

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Sir, as far as the first part of the question of the hon. Member is concerned, this information is centrally not kept. So, I am afraid I will not be able to inform you about the details of those small industries at the State level.

However, as far as the Vendor Development Programmes are concerned, in Rajasthan, in 1998-99 we have had two — one in Kota in February and the other one in Barah in March. As far as 1999-2000 is concerned, we have had three — in August, December and again in December in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Drought Conditions

*725. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has urged the nation through broadcast that people should liberally contribute for meeting the drought conditions in the country;

(b) if so, the amount received after this appeal;

(c) whether severe drought situation has affected many States;

(d) whether any assessment has been made in terms of loss of lives, cattle and crops etc. in these States;

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

(f) the requests received from each State for additional assistance from Natural Calamity Fund;

(g) whether the Government had convened an all party meeting to discuss the drought situation in the country; and

(h) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of contribution to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) are not maintained as the contribution to this Fund consists of voluntary contributions and does not form part of the Consolidated Fund of India.

(c) Yes, Sir. Gujarat, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh are reportedly experiencing severe drought conditions.

(d) and (e) While no loss of human or cattle life has been reported by any of these States, the shortfall in foodgrains production is likely to be 29.45% in Gujarat, 22.88% in Rajasthan and 10.08% in Andhra Pradesh.

(f) During 1999-2000, the Government of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh had sought assistance of Rs. 722.16 crores, Rs. 1144.40 crores and Rs. 720.36 crores, respectively, from the National Fund for Calamity Relief Fund (NFCR). In addition to the release of entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1999-2000 assistance of Rs. 54.58 crores to Gujarat, Rs. 102.93 crores to Rajasthan and Rs. 75.36 crores to Andhra Pradesh was released from the NFCR in the wake of drought. During 2000-01, three instalments of Central share of CRF to Gujarat, two instalments of Central share of CRF to Rajasthan as well as Andhra Pradesh have been released.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. The drought situation in various parts of the country was discussed in detail in an all party meeting, convened by Prime Minister, held on 25th April, 2000. It was suggested that adequate assistance should be given to the drought affected States. The need for long-term measures for mitigating the adverse effects of drought effectively was also discussed. At the suggestion of the Prime Minister, it was also agreed that the matter relating to drought be kept above politics.

Command Area Development Programme

*726. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme, the Government are providing financial assistance to encourage farmers to ensure their involvement in better water management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State where the Command Area Development Programme is being implemented at present;

(d) whether some States have not started this programme as yet;

(e) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(f) the per hectare grant-in-aid provided by the Government to each State; and

(g) when this per hectare grant was revised last?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) to (g) Yes, Sir, the Government is providing financial assistance in the form of one time functional grant to Water Users' Associations for encouraging farmers for their involvement in better water management. These Water Users' Associations should be registered and actually engaged in distribution of water in the commands of irrigation projects covered under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme. The functional grant is provided at the rate of Rs. 500 per hectare (Rs. 225 per ha. each to be provided by the Centre and State Governments and Rs. 50 per ha. to be contributed by the farmers). This amount is required to be deposited in the Bank and interest accrued thereon is used for the activities of the Water Users' Associations. Besides this, subsidy for development of ground water structures, installation of sprinkler and drip irrigation systems and land leveling and shaping is also provided to small and marginal farmers on the loan taken by them from the financial institutions. Presently, the Command Area Development Programme is being implemented in 23 States and two Union Territories, the details of which are given in Statement-I enclosed. In the remaining two States namely : Mizoram and Sikkim it has been decided by the Ministry to include some clusters of Minor Irrigation Projects under the Command Area Development Programme. The revised cost norms per hectare in respect of grant-in-aid provided by Government of India for implementation of different On-Farm-Development (OFD) activities are effective from 1.4.1996, the details of which are given in Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

Details of States and Union Territories where Command Area Development Programme is being implemented at present :

States

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Assam
4. Bihar
5. Goa
6. Gujarat
7. Haryana
8. Himachal Pradesh
9. Jammu & Kashmir
10. Karnataka
11. Kerala
12. Madhya Pradesh
13. Maharashtra
14. Manipur
15. Meghalaya
16. Nagaland
17. Orissa
18. Punjab
19. Rajasthan
20. Tamil Nadu
21. Tripura
22. Uttar Pradesh
23. West Bengal

Union Territories

1. Dadra & Nagar Haveli
2. Daman & Diu

Statement-II

Revised cost norms per hectare effective from 1.4.1996 in respect of various On-Farm-Development activities covered under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme

Particular	Central assistance admissible
1. Construction of Field Channels :	
(i) North Eastern States, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana of Rajasthan.	Rs. 5000.00 per ha or half of actual expenditure whichever is less for central assistance (the assumed cost of Construction is Rs. 10000.00 per ha)
(ii) For States other than given at item (i) above	Rs. 3000.00 per ha or half of actual expenditure whichever is less for central assistance (the assumed cost of construction is Rs. 6000.00 per ha)
2. Construction of Field Drains :	
(i) North Eastern States, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana of Rajasthan.	Rs. 1000.00 per ha or half of actual expenditure whichever is less (the assumed cost of construction is Rs. 2000.00 per ha)
(ii) For States other than given at item (i) above	Rs. 500.00 per ha or half of the actual expenditure whichever is less (the assumed cost of construction is Rs. 1000.00 per hectare)
3. Warabandi :	
For all States	Rs. 150 per hectare or half of the actual expenditure whichever is less (Total cost assumed @ Rs. 300.00 per hectare)
4. Reclamation of Waterlogged areas :	
For all States	Rs. 6000.00 per hectare or half of actual expenditure whichever is less (Total cost assumed @ Rs. 12,000.00 per hectare)

[Translation]

Production of Oil Seeds

*727. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to gain self-reliance in the production of oilseeds, pulses and maize and schemes launched under technology-mission;

(b) the details of export and import of oilseeds and pulses during the last three years; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to increase their production?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA):

(a) In order to make the country self-reliant, three Centrally

Sponsored Schemes namely Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP), National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) and Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP) are in implementation under the Technology Mission in various States/UTs for increasing the production and the productivity of oilseeds, pulses and maize.

(b) The details of export and import of oilseeds/edible oil and pulses during last three years from 1996-97 to 1998-99 is given in enclosed statement.

(c) Under three Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz, OPP, NPDP and AMDP, financial assistance are being provided for various critical inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, gypsum/pyrites, micro-nutrients, rhizobium culture etc. In addition to this, frontline and general demonstrations are also organised on the farmer's fields to disseminate the improved production and protection technologies.

Statement*Details of Import and Export of Oilseeds and Pulses during Last Three Years*

(Qty in 000' Tonnes Values in Rs. Crores)

S. No. Item	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Export						
1. Sesamum & Niger	103.800	275.280	129.320	302.580	103.29	324.59
2. Groundnut	148.780	325.840	245.400	566.300	48.91	122.48
3. Oilmeals	4787.850	3495.340	4497.910	3435.230	3566.92	1912.35
4. Castor oil	241.470	627.240	204.420	576.130	192.68	668.75
Total	5281.900	4723.700	5077.050	4880.240	3911.800	3028.170
Pulses	55.22	131.58	168.05	360.88	101.45	218.74
Import						
1. Oilseeds	--	4.700	--	2.470	--	8.83
2. Vegetable (Edible Oil)	1415.790	2929.190	1265.750	2764.670	2379.57	7131.41
Total	1415.790	2933.890	1265.750	2767.140	2379.570	7140.240
Pulses	654.91	890.24	1008.16	1194.64	312.74	404.52

[English]

		1	2	3	4
Development of Floriculture		Bihar	104	104	86
*728. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :		Delhi	1866	1866	3450
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :		Haryana	1850	1950	2250
(a) the total area of land under the floriculture cultivation during each of the last three years, State-wise;		Himachal Pradesh	100	114	133.3
(b) the allocation made for the development of floriculture during the said period; and		Jammu & Kashmir	133	167	75
(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to promote and encourage the floriculture in the country?		Karnataka	19656	20780	20780
THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDARLAL PATWA):		Madhya Pradesh	1334	1334	1956
(a) State-wise area of land under floriculture cultivation during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 is as under :-		Maharashtra	5439	4786	4979
		Manipur	78	78	140.5
		Orissa	--	--	175
		Punjab	550	550	560
		Rajasthan	2048	2048	2353
		Sikkim	50	60	NA
		Tamil Nadu	15856	16745	17750
		Tripura	--	--	25

Area in Hectares

State/UT	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	7616	8420	8357
Assam	442	442	NA

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh	320	321	350.08
West Bengal	13720	13720	10500
Daman & Diu	5	5	5
Pondicherry	46	46	46
Total	71213	73536	73970.88

Source : National Horticulture Board

N.A. : Not Available

(b) and (c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing a Central Sector Scheme for the development of commercial floriculture throughout the country. Under this scheme the following amounts have been made available to the States during the last three years :-

1997-98	Rs. 146.70 lakhs
1998-99	Rs. 563.82 lakhs
1999-2000	Rs. 400.00 lakhs

The major components of the above mentioned schemes are as follows :-

1. Setting up of Model Floriculture Centres.
2. Area expansion.
3. Training.
4. Demonstration plots.
5. Green houses and shade nets.
6. Nurseries.

Besides, National Horticulture Board with its scheme "Development of Marketing of Horticulture produce through participation in soft loan" provides soft loans for integrated horticulture projects including floriculture. Assistance under the scheme is demand based and no specific allocation is made. Besides Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) under Ministry of Commerce is promoting export of flowers by private sector, cooperatives and others.

Corruption in Steel Plant

*729. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of large scale corruption in Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any probe has been ordered by the Government to investigate the charges of corruption in Rourkela Steel Plant; and

(d) the action taken/proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (d) As on 1-5-2000, 19 employees have been Charge-sheeted in Rourkela Steel Plant for imposition of Major Penalty, and Departmental Enquiries are in progress. Out of these, cases of 5 employees are based on Investigation Reports received from CBI. In addition, SAIL/ RSP has granted Sanction to CBI to prosecute 13 employees.

Further as on 1-5-2000, CBI has registered 38 First Information Reports involving 53 employees of Rourkela Steel Plant. No separate probe has been ordered by the Government so far to investigate into any charge of corruption in Rourkela Steel Plant.

Modernisation of ESI Hospitals

*730. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched an Action Plan for modernisation of diagnostic facilities with induction of the state-of-the-art equipments at ESI hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, number of ESI hospitals modernised under the Action Plan during the year 1999-2000 with their locations indicating the details of diagnostic equipments made available to them; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for time-bound implementation of the Action Plan?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) The provision of medical care under the ESI Scheme is being administered by the State Governments/UT Administrations except in Delhi and NOIDA in where it is being administered directly by the ESIC. However, the expenditure on ESI medical care is shared between the ESIC and the State Governments/UT Administrations in the ratio 7:1. In order to bring improvement in the working of ESI hospitals/dispensaries, the ESI Corporation had recently formulated an Action Plan and forwarded the same to the State Governments for implementation in consultation with the ESIC. The Action Plan includes inter alia upgradation/modernisation of medical facilities in ESI hospitals by providing them equipments of ultrasonography, pulse oximeter, auto analyzer, semi-auto analyzer, cardiac monitor, dental unit, resuscitation equipments

etc. Under the Action Plan, the proposals for modernisation of ESI hospitals are required to be submitted by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The ESI Corporation has already considered and approved provision of modern equipments in respect of 112 ESI hospitals in 14 States/UTs.

Impact of Liberalisation

*731. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made an assessment after ten years of liberalisation on the impact it has created on growth rate of employment, farm labour and their wages;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the comparative figures in this regard to 1980, 1990 also; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to create favourable situation for the Labour in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (d) As per the information furnished by Planning Commission on the basis of latest comprehensive surveys on Employment & Unemployment conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) during 1987-88 (43rd round) and 1993-94 (50th round) average annual growth rate of employment as per Usual Principal and Subsidiary Status (UPSS) during 1987-88 and 1993-94 was 2.43%. This implies a positive employment growth.

The growth rate of employment in agriculture sector during 1987-88 and 1993-94 was 2.14%. The growth rate during 1983 to 1987-88 was 0.37%.

While comparing the figures of 1981-1991 and 1991-1998, it revealed that the increase in the annual real wage rate of unskilled agricultural workers was in the ratio of 2:1.

With regard to minimum wages, Central Government has tried to prescribe national minimum wages from time to time. Recently, Central Government has recommended to the State Governments that the floor level wages may be kept as Rs. 45/- per day. Government has implemented various labour laws for rights of labourers, their social security, health and welfare. The schemes being implemented in the rural & urban areas for poverty alleviation and employment generation will also have favourable effect on the welfare of labourers.

Inconvenience to Haj Pilgrims

*732. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of External Affairs had constituted a group of Ministers to look into Haj arrangements and authorities were asked to probe into the incident of stranding of hundreds of Indian pilgrims at Jeddah airport during the recent pilgrimage;

(b) if so, whether any report has been received in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) The Government constituted a Group of Ministers consisting of Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Minister of Finance and Minister of Civil Aviation to review Haj Charter operations.

(b) and (c) This group has already submitted its recommendations which are under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Subsidies To Farmers

*733. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the direct and indirect subsidies being provided to the farmers alongwith the annual assessment of their impact during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the subsidies which are extended to the small and marginal farmers and comparatively weaker sections of the farming community;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain whether such subsidies reach the targeted farmers;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the subsidies actually reach the targeted farmers?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (e) The major subsidies being provided to the farmers are in terms of subsidised prices of fertilizers, lower irrigation and power charges and subsidies on seeds and farms machinery etc. Statement-I showing the details of subsidies

provided to Agriculture Sector during the last three years as compiled by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) is enclosed. These subsidies have enabled the farmers in acquiring inputs at affordable prices and thus helped in enhancing the agricultural production. The State-wise irrigation subsidies compiled by the CSO for the last three years i.e. 1996-97 to 1998-99 is placed at enclosed statement-II. The CSO have informed that the State-wise details of other components of subsidies are not being compiled by them. The Government have not conducted any study so far to ascertain the impact or the benefit of subsidies reaching the targeted farmers. However the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, I.I.M., Ahmedabad and Institute of Social and Economic Change, Bangalore were asked in January, 2000 to carry out studies on the subject. The studies are yet to be completed. The Central Government is implementing several schemes for providing subsidies/incentives to the small and marginal farmers and comparatively weaker sections (SC/ST) of the farming community. These include subsidies on sprinkler irrigation system, drip irrigation, supply of improved farm implements for promoting agriculture mechanism amongst small farmers etc. Regular monitoring of these schemes is carried out in order to ensure that the benefits of subsidies actually reach the targeted farmers.

Statement-I

Details of Subsidies to Agricultural Sector

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Item	1996-97 (Actuals)	1997-98 (Actuals)	1998-99 (Actuals)	1999-2000 (Revised)
Subsidy to Agriculture Sector through inputs					
1.	Fertiliser (Total)	7578	9918	11596	13250
2.	Electricity**	8356	6210	N.A.	N.A.
3.	Irrigation ##	9155	10322	10880+	N.A.
4.	Other subsidies given to marginal farmers in the form of seeds, development of oilseeds, pulses and farmers co-operative societies etc.	879	1086	N.A.	N.A.

Source : 1. Fertilisers : Expenditure Budget 2000-2001, Vol.1 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 grow revenue is treated as imputed irrigation subsidy.

+ Quick estimate

Statement-II

State-wise Estimates of (Imputed) Irrigation Subsidies @

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State//UT	1996-97 (Actuals)	1997-98 (Actuals)	1998-99 (RE)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	87782	104439	113883
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	423	697	365
3.	Assam	2027	2024	4732
4.	Bihar	18063	15069	31532
5.	Goa	828	971	1350
6.	Gujarat	82471	92443	51237
7.	Haryana	20021	23390	42283
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3026	3517	3786
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6309	6024	8496
10.	Karnataka	46317	53009	51770
11.	Kerala	6817	6652	10363
12.	Madhya Pradesh	18254	20728	13037
13.	Maharashtra	125822	144367	95447
14.	Manipur	280	390	522
15.	Meghalaya	430	639	767
16.	Mizoram	152	143	187
17.	Nagaland	361	527	632
18.	Orissa	4724	7012	7905
19.	Punjab	13020	15364	16280
20.	Rajasthan	37513	41034	54904
21.	Sikkim	143	141	191

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Tamil Nadu	24000	29146	36758
23.	Tripura	1341	1387	1002
24.	Uttar Pradesh	107412	111514	123639
25.	West Bengal	23128	28392	42557
26.	Pondicherry	393	641	714
27.	Delhi	280	403	466
Total		629337	710063	714805
28.	Centre	126	126	166
Grand Total**		629463	710189	714971

RE Revised Estimates.

@ 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.

** The imputed irrigation subsidy at the National level includes consumption of fixed capital - estimates of which are not available at the State level.

[English]

Investment in Agriculture Sector

*734. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of investment made by the Union Government in Agriculture Sector during each of the last three years, State-wise, particularly in Manipur;

(b) the total amount of investment proposed in Agriculture Sector during the next three years, State-wise; and

(c) the corrective steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remove regional imbalances in Agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) Agriculture being a State subject, there is no investment in agriculture directly by the Central Government in the States. The investment in agriculture i.e. Gross Capital Formation (GCF) is the sum total of Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) and change in Inventory. Changes in inventory figures are not separately available by State and the Centre. A statement showing the estimates of GFCF made by the respective States including Manipur during the last three years viz 1996-97 to 1998-99 is enclosed.

(c) The Ninth Plan envisages differentiated strategies based on Agro climate zones : (a) High Productivity

Zone (North-West & Coastal region), (b) Low Productivity Zone (Central Plateau Region) and (c) Ecologically Fragile Regions including Himalayan & Desert Areas in order to remove regional imbalances in agriculture.

Statement

*Estimates of Gross Capital Formation in
Agriculture (Irrigation)
(At Current Prices)*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	State/Centre	Year		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (RE)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	54348	60638	71362
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1609	1454	1032
3.	Assam	7494	10983	9921
4.	Bihar	22603	6053	31131
5.	Goa	3085	2638	3479
6.	Gujarat	30893	34682	48201
7.	Haryana	14981	24064	23162
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2780	3771	2584
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1481	361	8670
10.	Karnataka	74472	60056	62916
11.	Kerala	17260	18263	4848
12.	Madhya Pradesh	40309	46815	38333
13.	Maharashtra	102939	83870	59849
14.	Manipur	4121	3744	5785
15.	Meghalaya	649	647	1482
16.	Mizoram	390	90	353
17.	Nagaland	502	562	236
18.	Orissa	38917	56337	65532
19.	Punjab	39917	50213	8931
20.	Rajasthan	36190	47484	50932
21.	Sikkim	114	138	44
22.	Tamil Nadu	3414	7609	22232

1	2	3	4	5
23. Tripura		896	929	1323
24. Uttar Pradesh		51172	51467	67452
25. West Bengal		16503	11109	28034
26. Delhi		46	84	117
27. Pondicherry		159	79	82
28. Total (States)		567244	584140	618023
29. Centre		345	308	207
30. Local Bodies		13200	15500	18500
31. N.D.C.U.		54900	55500	56000
32. Change in stock (combined)		23500	4800	-26200
Grand Total		659189	660248	666530

RE : Revised Estimates.

N.D.C.U. : Non-Departmental Commercial Undertakings.

Package For Agricultural Inputs

*735. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised any package deal to provide agricultural inputs to farmers in rice producing regions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have identified specific regions in rice belt of the country where the soil is fertile but the productivity is below the potential;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the productivity in these regions?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, The areas where soils are fertile but rice productivity is below the potential are located in agro-ecological regions comprising of Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Western Ghats in Goa and Kerala and North Eastern Hill region.

(e) Efforts are being made under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme—Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice) to improve the productivity and production of rice in the major rice growing States including Union Territory of Pondicherry. Under the scheme incentives are being provided on the critical inputs, viz. seeds of high yielding varieties/hybrids, farm implements, power tillers and sprinkler irrigation system. Besides, assistance is also being provided for the transfer of technology. Frontline Demonstrations were being carried out to demonstrate the appropriate technology.

National Seed Bank

*736. SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a National Seed Bank and Consulting Service in order to advise farmers about uses of various types of seeds and also to sell them at cheaper rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA):
(a) and (b) A Central Sector Scheme for Establishment and Maintenance of Seed Bank is being implemented by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation through National Seeds Corporation, State Farms Corporation of India and some State Seed Corporations to meet the sudden demand of seed arising due to various factors like natural calamity, shortfall in production, etc. The Seed Bank of foundation and certified seed of various crops is being maintained by the participating agencies and assistance is provided to them for meeting the expenditure on keeping the seed in the Seed Bank. In addition, assistance will also be provided to various agencies for creation of seed storage, maintenance of Data Bank and strengthening of quality measures.

(c) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

National Water Policy

*737. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the revised draft of the National Water Policy was approved by the National Water Board in 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the revised policy was to be placed before the Water Resources Council for consideration but the same has not been done as yet;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to implement the new national water policy at the earliest; and

(f) if so, the time by which the policy is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) to (f) The National Water Board in its tenth meeting held on 29.10.1998 had reviewed the existing National Water Policy and formulated an updated and revised draft National Water Policy for consideration and adoption by the National Water Resources Council (NWRC). The draft policy was included in the Agenda of the meeting of NWRC, scheduled for 4th April, 2000 which has been postponed. Implementation of the new National Water Policy depends on its adoption by the National Water Resources Council.

Important areas/aspects proposed to be incorporated in the existing policy inter alia include inter-sectoral water allocation particularly for diverse uses of water, inter-State river Water Disputes, water sharing amongst States, multi-sectoral perspective and participatory approach towards resources planning and management, private sector participation and integration of quantity, quality and environmental aspects in the water resources management, resettlement and rehabilitation of project affected persons, mandatory operation and maintenance funding and related policies for revenue generation and reforms related to legislation, institutions, incentives/disincentives, environment technology etc. under the water resources sector.

[English]

India-Nepal Talks

*738. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Nepal have decided to hold talks to make headway on the issues of construction of dams across the rivers originating from Nepal;

(b) if so, whether these rivers are responsible for extensive flooding in the northern Gangetic plain in particular north Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the extent to which Nepal has agreed to solve this problem;

(d) whether any concrete proposals were put forward by India; and

(e) if so, the extent to which they have been accepted by Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Under Indo-Nepal Cooperation in the field of Water Resources, talks between Government of India and His Majesty's Government of Nepal about the necessity of constructing dams on rivers Sarda, Kosi, Kamla and Bagmati within the Nepalese territory for the benefit of both the countries in the matter of irrigation, hydropower and reducing adverse affects of floods in the northern Gangetic plain particularly Eastern Uttar Pradesh and North Bihar have already been held at various levels.

Nepal has agreed for constructing dam on river Mahakali (Sarda in India) at Pancheshwar, near Indo-Nepal Border, for which a treaty viz. "Integrated Development of the Mahakali river including Sarda Barrage, Tanakpur Barrage and Pancheshwar Project" has been signed between the two countries on 12.2.1996 and has come into force with the exchange of Instrument of Ratification with effect from 5.6.1997. Also, in order to mitigate the flooding and inundation problems in the border areas of India and Nepal particularly in North Bihar, proposals have been made to extend existing embankments on Lalbakeya, Kamla, Bagmati and Khando rivers into Nepalese Territory and connect them to high grounds in Nepal. Nepal has since undertaken requisite works in respect of Lalbakeya River.

Government of India has impressed upon Nepalese Government the need for preparation of Joint Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project and Sapt Kosi High Dam Project through various Indo-Nepal Technical Level Meetings. Recently during meetings held with Nepalese Government in March, 1999 and August, 1999, Nepalese Government has agreed for preparation of Joint DPR for Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project and as a result a Joint Project Office - Pancheshwar Investigations (JPO-PI) has since been opened in Kathmandu with effect from 10.12.1999 with the mandate of preparation Joint DPR of Pancheshwar Multipurpose. Subsequently, during the last Indo-Nepal technical level meeting held in February, 2000, the modalities for the working of JPO-PI and action plan for investigations were discussed and finalised. During a meeting held on 8th May, 2000, at New Delhi, between the Foreign Minister of Nepal and the Minister of Water Resources, Government of India, Nepal has agreed to cooperate in the implementation of joint projects in the water resources development sector.

Varieties of Basmati Rice

*739. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to split the basmati rice into traditional and evolved varieties under the pressure of importers;

(b) if so, whether Rice Research Institute (RRI) has been consulted by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have received any protest from the RRI against such move of the Government as it is likely to harm the grower's interest; and

(f) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) to (f) The Government of India, in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has a proposal to introduce a 'Comprehensive Quality Monitoring System for Basmati' for protecting the country's commercial interest in the international market. The proposed system, inter-alia, contains :

(a) Proper classification of basmati rice and prescription of standards to establish the quality of the product; and

(b) Quality assurance to establish the authenticity of 'basmati' as declared by the exporters by analysing and creating an audit trail from farm to the consumer.

This classification, on Product parentage criterion, categorises 'basmati rice', amongst others, into 'Traditional Indian' and 'Evolved Indian' basmati rice varieties.

A draft of the Comprehensive Quality Monitoring System has been formulated in consultation with the various Rice Research Institutes. The Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad (ICAR), had initially held a view that both traditional and evolved basmati rice are similar in their characteristics, and therefore, should not require separate categorisation. Subsequently, during the consultation process, it was brought out that the DNA finger printing method, instituted in the United Kingdom, to scan basmati rice imported into that country, has the ability to distinguish traditional varieties from the evolved varieties. The traditional varieties of basmati fetch higher price in the International market. Therefore, a consensus was reached among the Government and the Research Institute, including the Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad, to prescribe a separate categorisation for traditional and evolved

varieties of basmati rice in the 'Comprehensive Quality Monitoring System for Basmati'. The proposed classification would help the country to earn more foreign exchanges on exports and help consumers obtain the original products consistently.

Food Processing Industries

*740. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any concrete steps are being taken up by the Government for providing self-employment to the rural youths by setting up Food Processing Industries;

(b) if so, whether the Government are encouraging Food Processing Industries based on agricultural produces like foodgrain, pulses, fruits, flowers, vegetables, oilseeds etc.;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to prevent the entry of Multi National Companies and big industrial houses in the field of Food Processing Industries based on agricultural produces; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Though the Department of Food Processing Industries does not set up food processing units under the Plan Schemes of the Department, financial assistance in the form of soft loan and grant is provided to private industries, public sector undertakings, Non-Governmental Organisations, Cooperatives, Human Resources Development Organisations and Research & Development Institutions etc., for the development of processed food sector. Which facilitates generation of employment opportunities among others the rural youth.

The development of food processing industries is undertaken by State Governments in accordance with the respective Policies and Plans, and Government of India provides technical and financial assistance and guidance through the designated Nodal Agencies of the States in this regard.

Steps to encourage food processing industries include exemption of most of the Processed Food Items from the purview of licensing under Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951, inclusion of food processing industries

in the list of priority sector for bank lending and automatic approval for foreign equity upto 100% for most of the processed food items excepting alcohol and beer and those reserved for small sector, subject to certain conditions.

(d) and (e) Multi National companies and big Industrial Houses, generally, are not allowed to set up industrial units to manufacture items reserved for small scale sector which in the field of food processing include the following items :

- (i) Pickles & Chutneys
- (ii) Vinegar
- (iii) Bread
- (iv) Confectionery except chocolates, chewing gums & toffees.
- (v) Rapeseed oil extracted.
- (vi) Mustard oil except solvent extracted.
- (vii) Sesame oil except solvent extracted.
- (viii) Groundnut oil except solvent extracted.
- (ix) Sweetened cashewnut products.
- (x) Ground and processed spices.
- (xi) Tapioca Sago.
- (xii) Tapioca Flour.

Financial Assistance for Andhra Pradesh

7873. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had met the Prime Minister on December 3, 1999 and had urged him to provide advance of Rs. 500 crores to the State on priority basis;

(b) if so, whether Chief Minister listed 37 demands to the Prime Minister;

(c) if so, the main demands thereof; and

(d) the number of demands accepted by the Prime Minister so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES

OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (d) The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh met the Prime Minister on December 3, 1999 and gave him a booklet containing 31 issues. The booklet handed over to the Prime Minister contains issues, financial and non-financial, concerning various Central Ministries. The demand regarding advance of an amount of Rs. 500 crore was not listed in the booklet. However, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, in a letter dated 3.12.1999 addressed to the Union Finance Minister, requested for Additional Market Borrowings (AMBs) as well as a Special Ways and Means advance of Rs. 500 crore.

Thirteen States including Government of Andhra Pradesh approached the GOI with their Fiscal reform programmes and signed agreement for formulation and implementation of a credible and monitorable programmes to achieve fiscal stability. The States which signed the MOU on fiscal reforms were given assistance in the form of Extended Ways and Means Advance and AMBs. The Government of Andhra Pradesh was provided Rs. 500 crore as AMBs and Rs. 200 crore was released as Extended Ways and Means Advance during the year 1999-2000 as medium terms assistance linked to their fiscal reform programme.

Promotion Without Medical Fitness

7874. SHRI ANADI SAHU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether services of an employee cannot be regularised and promotions can be given without production of Medical Fitness Certificate from competent authority based on FR-10;

(b) if so, under which rules, if not, what action can be taken against such employees ad per FR-10;

(c) upto how many years an employee can produce a Medical Fitness certificate and accepted by the Government Departments/Corporations; and

(d) the manner in which rule should be applied for certificates being received after 15 years

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) Fundamental Rule-10 states that "Except as provided by this rule, no person may be appointed in India to a post in Government service without a medical certificate of health. The Central Government may make rules prescribing the form in which medical certificates should be prepared and the particular medical or other

officers by whom they should be signed. It may, in individual cases, dispense with the production of a certificate, and may be general orders exempt any specified class of Government servants from the operation of this rule."

Instructions have also been issued by DOPT about procedure to be followed by the Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs). These instructions do not prescribe for production of Medical Fitness Certificate at the time of consideration of an employee for promotion. However, if the relevant Recruitment/Service Rule provide for such dispensation, these will have superior authority over the executive instructions issued by the Government.

[Translation]

Misuse of Aircrafts

7875. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the aircrafts owned by the SAIL are misused by the officials;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken against the officials found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (c) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 1998, Union Government (Commercial) (Steel Authority of India Limited) No. 6 of 1999 has been placed on the Tables of both the Houses of the Parliament. This report also contains a chapter on utilisation of Aircrafts owned by SAIL. This chapter inter-alia alleges misuse of aircrafts by officials. The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India is under examination of the Government.

[English]

Shifting Cultivation

7876. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Centrally sponsored scheme to control shifting cultivation was started in certain States;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the achievements made in this regard, State-wise;

(c) the number of tribal families engaged in shifting cultivation at present in different parts of the country, State-wise;

(d) whether any pilot scheme had been launched previously in some States to control the shifting cultivation; and

(e) if so, the result of that scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir. Under Special Central assistance to States, Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas is being implemented in the seven States of North Eastern Region from 1994-95.

(b) The financial and physical achievements made upto 1992-2000 are as under :-

Name of State	Physical (Area in ha.)	Financial (Rs. in lakhs)
Arunachal Pradesh	10824	661
Assam	7319	480
Manipur	38842	1880
Meghalaya	15328	761
Mizoram	40361	1936
Nagaland	36600	2200
Tripura	7506	664

(c) The number of families engaged in shifting cultivation in the country, State-wise are as under :-

1.	Andhra Pradesh	23200
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	54000
3.	Assam	58000
4.	Manipur	70000
5.	Meghalaya	52290
6.	Mizoram	50000
7.	Nagaland	116046
8.	Orissa	141000
9.	Tripura	43000

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A Pilot Project for Control of Shifting Cultivation was launched during the 5th Five Year Plan (1976-79) covering the whole of North-Eastern region, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. The Scheme continued for two years and

thereafter it was transferred to the State Sector. However, the Scheme was continued in 2 Union Territories namely Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram till 1982-83. Under the scheme 3400 ha. area was developed benefiting 1700 jhumia families with an expenditure of Rs. 129.711 lakhs.

Flood Relief to West Bengal

7877. SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the West Bengal Government has given any utilisation certificate for the sum of Rs. 66 crores provided by the Union Government for flood relief in the year ending March, 31, 1999;

(b) whether any follow-up action has been taken to ascertain the position;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the States which have not yet furnished the utilization certificates in regard to Central Relief Fund for natural calamities provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) The Government of West Bengal has informed about the utilisation of the full amount of Rs. 66.33 crores released to the State from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) during 1998-99, which has been allotted by the State to its different Departments for restoration and relief works for flood in the State.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The utilisation certificates are generally not being furnished by the States regularly.

Physically Handicapped

7878. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal under its consideration to extend the reservation benefits to the persons cured of leprosy but have become physically handicapped;

(b) if so, whether the Government also plan to extend facilities of visually handicapped, deaf and dumb and orthopaedically to those suffering from Pappilloma breathing through Tracheotomy Tube since long; and

(c) if so, the details of the guidelines being followed in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Unorganised Labour

7879. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the Government propose to streamline its concerned offices which deal with unorganised labour and their problems;

(b) whether any effort has been made to carefully give priority to some problems concerning bidi workers;

(c) if so, the details of priorities given;

(d) whether bidi unions are exercised over the possibility of strict anti-bidi restrictions being proposed by the Health Ministry;

(e) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to react to such steps; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The subject matter of unorganised labour is handled by a separate division in the Ministry of Labour. In order to address the specific problems, Welfare Funds have been created for workers engaged in beedi making, cine industry; Limestone & Dolomite Mines; Iron Ore Mines, Manganese Ore Mines & Chrome Ore Mines and Mica Mines sectors. For proper and smooth administration of the Welfare Funds, the country has been divided into 9 Welfare Regions. The functioning of the Labour Welfare Funds is reviewed periodically and suitable instructions are given wherever necessary.

(b) and (c) The beedi workers and their dependents are being provided benefits in the field of Health, Housing, Social Security, Education and Recreation under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund, at present.

(d) to (f) The organisations representing beedi sector have raised, from time to time, the issues relating to the possible adverse impact of certain proposals being considered by the Government. These have been brought to the notice of the concerned Ministries for taking into consideration before initiating any action on such proposals.

Employees Provident Fund in Kerala

7880. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that many offices of the Employees Provident Fund in Kerala are facing shortage of staff especially at Kannur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to appoint sufficient staff in the said office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) There are 23 posts including 14 at Kannur vacant in the E.P.F. offices in Kerala.

(c) Necessary action as required under the recruitment rules has already been initiated by the EPF Organisation to fill the vacant posts.

Blast Furnace of IISCO

7881. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the blast furnace of IISCO, Burnpur has been damaged;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to rebuild the furnace;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Out of 2 operating blast furnaces BF No. 3&4, No. 4 suffered hearth break out in December '98 and No. 3 in March and April, 2000.

(b) The exact reason for the hearth break out could not be established, though it can be attributed to one or a combination of a number of factors like excessive tuyeres burning, excessive wear of the refractories of hearth walls, inadequate cooling of refractories etc.

(c) to (e) The relining of BF No. 4&3 has been planned during 2001-02 and 2002-03.

[Translation]

Appeal by Albania to International Community

7882. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Albania has made an appeal to the international community to save the people of Albania origin being driven out from Kosovo by the Army of Yugoslavia;

(b) whether Albania has also made an appeal to the international community to exert pressure on Belgrade to prevent mass killings of the members of a particular community; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) The Government of Republic of Albania has not made any appeal to the international community on the people of Albanian origin in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia since June, 1999 when UN Security Council Resolution 1244 relating to the situation in Kosovo was adopted.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Separate Krishi Vigyan Channel

7883. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start a full time Krishi Vigyan Channel in the country propagating different types of research conducted by various Agriculture Universities;

(b) the number of Agriculture Universities (National or otherwise) conducting research in various fields of Agriculture including Horticulture, Sericulture etc. together with their names and fields of research;

(c) the percentage of farmers likely to benefited by this research; and

(d) the likely impact on propagating research as result the new channel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) At present, there is no proposal to start a full time Krishi Vigyan Channel in the country. Currently, Doordarshan is telecasting "Krishi Darshan" programme for half an hour for five days in a week including three days on "Gaon ke Mahilaon ke Liye", "Mitti Ki Mehak" and "Dharti Ka Aanchal".

(b) There are 34 Agricultural Universities including four Deemed Universities and one Central University. The names of the universities and fields of research are indicated in the enclosed statement.

(c) The benefit of research goes to all categories of farmers.

(d) As a mass medium, the existing TV programmes lead to awareness, contribute information and help to form opinion about agricultural technology.

Statement***Names and Major Areas of Research of Agriculture Universities***

Name of the University	Major Areas of Research
1	2
1. Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University Rajendra Nagar, Hyderabad. (Andhra Pradesh) - 500 030.	Agriculture, Horticulture, Vety. Sciences, Home Scinece, Fisheries, Dairy Technology.
2. Birsa Agricultural University Kanke, Ranchi. (Bihar)-834 006.	Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Vety. Sciences.
3. CCS Haryana Agricultural University Hisar (Haryana)-125 004.	Agriculture, Horticulture, Vety. Sciences, Home Scinece. Agril. Engineering.
4. Gujarat Agricultural University Sardar Krushinagar Banaskantha, (Gujarat)-385 506.	Agriculture, Agril. Engineering, Forestry, Horticulture, Vety. Sciences, Fisheries.
5. Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwa Vidhyala Palampur (Himachal Pradesh) 176 062	Agriculture, Vety. Sciences, Home Scinece.
6. Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidhyalaya Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh)-482 004.	Agriculture, Vety. Sciences, Food Scinece, Agril. Engineering, Forestry.
7. Kerala Agricultural University Vellanikkara Thrissur (Kerala)-680 654.	Agriculture, Agril. Engineering, Horticulture, Vety. Sciences, Fisheries, Forestry and Dairy Tech..
8. Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth Rahuri (Maharashtra)-431 722.	Agriculture, Horticulture, Vety. Sciences, Food Science, Agril. Engineering.
9. Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology Bhubneshwar (Orissa)-751 003.	Agriculture, Forestry, Horticulture, Vety. Sciences, Fisheries.
10. Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth Krishinagar Akola (Maharashtra)-444 104.	Agriculture, Horticulture, Vety. Sciences, Dairy Tech, Forestry, Agril. Engineering.
11. Assam Agricultural University Jorhat. (Assam)-785 013.	Agriculture, Horticulture, Vety. Sciences, Home Scinece, Fisheries.
12. Bindhan Chandra Krishi Vishwa Vidhyalaya P.O. Krishi Vishwa Vidyalyaya Mohanpur, Nadia (West Bengal)-741 252.	Agriculture, Agril. Engineering, Horticulture.
13. C.S. Azad University of Agriculture and Technology Kanpur. (Uttar Pradesh)-208 002.	Agriculture, Agril. Engineering, Vety. Sciences, Home Scinece.
14. Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology Pantnagar. (Uttar Pradesh)-263 145.	Agriculture, Horticulture, Food Scinece, Agril. Engineering, Agril. Business Management, Fisheries, Forestry, Home Science, Vety. Science.
15. Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwa Vidyalyaya Krishinagar, Raipur. (Madhya Pradesh)-492 012.	Agriculture, Horticulture, Vety. Science, Agril. Engineering, Dairy Technology.
16. Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth Dapoli (Maharashtra)-415 712	Agriculture, Horticulture, Vety. Science, Forestry, Fisheries.
17. Marathwada Agricultural University Parbhani. (Maharashtra)-431 402.	Agriculture, Agril. Engineering, Horticulture, Vety. Sciences.

1	2
18. Narendra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology Faizabad. (Uttar Pradesh)-224 001.	Agriculture, Horticulture, Home Science.
19. Punjab Agricultural University Ludhiana. (Punjab)-141 004	Agriculture, Horticulture, Vety. Sciences, Home Sciences Forestry, Food Science, Agril. Engineering.
20. Rajasthan Agricultural University Bikaner. (Rajasthan)-334 002	Agriculture, Agril. Engineering, Horticulture, Vety. Sciences, Home Science, Dairy Science.
21. Rajendra Agricultural University Pusa, Samastipur. (Bihar)-848 125.	Agriculture, Horticulture, Agril. Engineering, Vety. Sciences, Home Science, Fisheries, Dairy Tech.
22. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) 641 003.	Agriculture & Environment, Sericulture, Agril. Engineering, Agril. Marketing, Forestry, Horticulture, Home Science.
23. University of Agricultural Sciences Post Bag No. 2477 Bangalore. (Karnataka)-560 065.	Agriculture, Agril. Engineering, Sericulture, Horticulture, Dairy Sciences, Forestry, Fisheries.
24. West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences Belgachia, Calcutta-700 037. (West Bengal)	Vety. Sciences, Dairy Tech. Fisheries.
25. S.K. University of Agril. Sciences & Technology Shalimar Campus, Post Box-262 Srinagar. (J&K)-190 001.	Agriculture, Vety. Sciences.
26. Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University Madras. (Tamil Nadu)-600 007.	Vety. Sciences, Fisheries.
27. University of Agricultural Sciences Dharwad. (Karnataka)-580 005.	Agriculture, Agril. Engineering, Horticulture, Vety. Sciences, Home Science, Forestry.
28. Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry Solan. (Himachal Pradesh)-173 230.	Horticulture, Forestry, Fisheries.
29. Rajasthan Agricultural University, Udaipur (Rajasthan).	Agriculture, Dairy Science.
Deemed Universities	
30. Indian Agril. Research Institute Pusa, New Delhi-110 012.	Agriculture, Horticulture, Agril. Engineering & Allied Science.
31. National Dairy Research Institute Karnal, 132 001-(Haryana).	Vety. Sciences, Dairy Science.
32. Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar-243 122.	Vety. Sciences.
33. Central Institute of Fisheries Education Jaiprakash Road, Seven Bungalows, Versova, Bombay-400 058 (M.S.).	Fisheries.
Central University	
34. Central Agricultural University Imphal (Manipur)-795 001.	Agriculture, Vety. Sciences, Fisheries.

[Translation]

Setting up of a Mission in Karachi

7884. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times both India and Pakistan have withdrawn their diplomatic personnel from each other's country since 1990 alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(b) the present position regarding opening the mission in Karachi again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Since 1990, Government asked Pakistan to withdraw 35 officials of its Mission in India, for indulging in activities incompatible with their official status. During the same period, Pakistan asked for the withdrawal of 33 officials of the Indian Mission in Pakistan on false and baseless allegations.

(b) The Consulate General of India, Karachi remains closed since 1995 in response to the demand of the Government of Pakistan.

[English]

Jobs for SCs/STs/OBCs

7885. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) year-wise/category-wise number of SCs/STs and OBCs provided jobs in his Ministry/Department/ autonomous bodies and subordinate offices under his Ministry during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of SCs/STs and OBCs post lying vacant in each of the above offices as on March 31, 2000; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by his Ministry for filling up these vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) The desired information in respect of Planning Commission (including its autonomous bodies and subordinate offices) is as under :-

Year	Category of Employees			Total
	SC	ST	OBC	
1997	34	21	48	103
1998	06	05	17	028
1999	06	07	12	025

(b) The desired information is as under :-

SC	—	09
ST	—	08
OBC	—	29
Total	—	46

(c) 29 posts out of (b) above belong to the Central Secretariat Service, the Central Secretariat Stenographer Service and the Central Secretariat Clerical Service which are filled through the Department of Personnel & Training for which requisition have already been sent. 3 posts are to be included in the proposed Subordinate Economic Service for which action is being kept in pending for the time being. The process for recruitment to the remaining 14 backlog vacancies has also been initiated by the Planning Commission as well as the Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR), an autonomous body under its control.

[Translation]

Promotion of SSI

7886. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the action plan formulated by the Government to promote small scale industries, agriculture and rural industries in Rajasthan;

(b) the amount spent by Government on these industries separately in the form of grant or loan in Rajasthan;

(c) the amount provided to small scale industries, agriculture and rural industries in the current budget;

(d) whether the Union Government have prepared any list of agriculture, rural industries and small scale industries which are entitled for various benefits/concessions and loans in Rajasthan;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the total number of beneficiaries and loanees;

- (g) the total amount of loan provided under each category;
- (h) the number of applications for loan pending with the Government in this regard so far; and
- (i) the time by which these applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Besides the ongoing programmes/schemes implemented by Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO), National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) etc. for promotion of SSI Sector in the country, the Government of India has formulated an action plan in the form of "Mission for Millennium" for overall development and promotion of small scale, tiny and village industries in the country. The salient feature of the Mission are : revamping the infrastructural facilities, improving credit and technology facilities, promoting marketing and reducing sickness in industries etc. The Central Government provides support and supplements the efforts of the State Governments to promote the small scale sector and the schemes/programmes formulated are uniformly applicable to the entire country. In the State of Rajasthan, there is one Small Industries Service Institute (SISI), one Field Testing Station (FTS) at Jaipur and one Hand Tools Design and Development Training Centre, Nagaur. The SISI provides the Entrepreneurship/Managerial/Skill development training, consultancy, project profiles, extension services and common facilities to the Small Scale Entrepreneurs. Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, unemployed educated youth are provided opportunities for self-employment including setting up micro-enterprises. The Integrated Infrastructural Development Scheme aims at creation of necessary physical infrastructure for setting up small/tiny units. Under this Scheme, 4 centres in the Districts of Jodhpur, Udaipur, Tonk and Nagaur have been sanctioned and central grant of Rs. 4.97 crores has been released. The National Small Industries Corporation helps in supplying indigenous and imported machines on easy hire-purchase terms, assists in marketing and exports, develops prototype of machines and imparts trainings. Khadi and Village Industries Commission plans, promotes, organises and assists in implementation of various programmes for the development of Khadi and Villages Industries, viz., Rural Employment Generation Programme, Margin Money Scheme, etc.

(b) and (c) During the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, the Ministry of SSI & ARI incurred an expenditure of Rs. 735.10, Rs. 766.30 and Rs. 640.00 crores (provisional) respectively for the development and promotion of Small & Cottage Industries in the country. An amount of Rs. 1052.13 crores has been provided for in the current budget (2000-2001) for the Small Scale, Agro and Rural Industries development. The funds are allocated Scheme/Programme-wise and not State-wise..

(d) No, Sir

(e) to (i) Does not arise.

Industrial Training Institutes

7887. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the amount provided to the Non-Governmental Organisations (N.G.O.s) for Industrial Training Institutes in Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(b) whether any review has been made of the performance of these Industrial Training Institutes;

(c) whether these institutes are misappropriating funds in the name of industrial training; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to check the misappropriation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) For the year 1998-99, the Government of Uttar Pradesh granted Rs. 2.5 lakhs as a one time grant to 10 Inter Colleges to set up mini Industrial Training Institutes at block level. Out of these one college Kisan Inter College, Agra did not take the grant.

(b) These Institutes are being inspected by the Standing Committee as per the norms laid down by National Council for Vocational Training regarding infrastructure, staff, power supply etc.

(c) No such incident has come to light in which any institute is misappropriating the grant.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Use of Government Accommodation by Kendriya Bhander

7888. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :

SHRI C.N. SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Estates have allotted a number of Government residential quarters and office buildings to the Kendriya Bhandar to run its branch stores from 1963 onwards;

(b) whether during the last 37 years, the Kendriya Bhandar has not made any efforts to acquire its own properties to open their shops/store despite an offer from the Land and Development Office of the Ministry of Urban Development to Kendriya Bhandar in early 90s;

(c) whether the Directorate of Estates has asked the Kendriya Bhandar to vacate the Government residential flats and building premises and make their own arrangements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has been providing suitable accommodation in residential colonies for the whole-sale and primary stores of Kendriya Bhandar on nominal rent. The matter regarding allotment of accommodation to Kendriya Bhandar was reconsidered by the Directorate of Estates, Ministry of Urban Development and they decided in 1998 to allot vacant shops in various residential colonies to Kendriya Bhandar on payment of token rent of Rupee 1.00 per month.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Unemployed Youths

7889. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the unemployed youths are not provided jobs even after five years of their registration in the Employment Exchanges;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the criteria fixed by Employment Exchanges in this regard;

(d) the number of years within which the unemployed youths are likely to be provided jobs in future; and

(e) the number of persons who are likely to be provided jobs in the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This is true for such occupations where a large number of job-seekers are awaiting employment assistance through employment exchanges. This is essentially due to the gap between supply and demand.

(c) As per instructions, the employment exchanges are required to make submission in order to seniority of the candidates in the ratio of 1:20 in case of public sector vacancies notified to them. However, the State Directors have the discretion to raise this ratio in case the local conditions so demand.

(d) and (e) The employment exchanges only sponsor the candidates against the vacancies notified to them. They do not have any role in generating employment.

[English]

Welfare of Disabled Persons

7890. SHRI RAJAI AH MALYALA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated for the welfare of the "Disabled" during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the funds have been fully utilized during the above period;

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

(d) if not, the reasons for its under utilization and measures being taken to utilize the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (d) Statement-I indicating scheme-wise budget provision and the expenditure incurred during the years, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 in the disability sector is enclosed. The reasons for savings are given in the Statement II, III & IV. The existing situation of under utilization of funds is being remedied through periodical monitoring and vigorous follow up with the concerned agencies as well as by educating the grantee organization of various requirements under the Schemes.

Statement-I

Rs. in Corres PLAN

Programme/Schemes	BE 97-98	RE 97-98	Exp 97-98	BE 98-99	RE 98-99	Exp 98-99	BE 99-2000	RE 99-2000	Exp 99-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Disability Division									
National Institute for the Visually Handicapped	2,00	1,40	0,00	2,00	2,00	2,00	2,50	2,50	2,50
National Instt. for Orthopaedically Handicapped	1,75	1,25	0,07	1,75	1,75	0,00	2,50	2,50	2,50
National Instt. for Hearing Handicapped	1,90	1,25	1,25	1,90	1,90	0,95	2,90	0,80	0,00
National Instt. for Rehabilitation Research & Training	1,96	1,26	2,35	1,96	1,96	2,41	3,71	3,71	4,08
Instt. for Physically Handicapped	0,60	0,10	0,10	0,60	0,60	0,60	1,50	1,50	1,50
National Instt. for Mentally Handicapped	2,40	2,20	2,61	2,40	2,40	2,80	3,30	3,30	3,30
National Instt. for Multiple Handicapped	1,50	0,00	0,00	1,50	0,50	0,00	0,50	0,50	0,00
Employment of Handicapped	0,01	0,00	0,00	0,01	0,01	0,00	0,02	0,10	0,08
	0,18	0,18	0,14	0,18	0,18	0,18	1,41	1,41	0,53
	0,01	0,01	0,00	0,01	0,01	0,00	0,02	0,18	0,22
Total	0,20	0,19	0,14	0,20	0,20	0,18	1,45	1,69	0,83
Assistance to VOs for the Handicapped	22,00	18,29	17,61	25,00	25,00	23,30	0,00	0,00	0,00
Aids & Appliances for Handicapped	15,00	8,00	8,94	25,00	22,00	23,99	30,00	20,00	28,41
Asstt. to VOs for Persons with Cerebral Palsy & Mental Retdn. for Manpower Development	1,00	0,50	0,34	9,00	7,00	6,05	0,00	0,00	0,00
Technology Deve. in Mission Mode	0,90	0,86	1,62	1,00	1,00	0,68	1,00	1,00	0,85
Artificial Limbs Mafg. Corporn.	3,00	2,85	2,85	3,00	3,00	3,00	6,35	6,35	6,35
National Trust for Mentally Retarded & Cerebral Palsy	1,25	0,00	0,00	1,25	0,25	0,00	10,00	1,00	4,00
Rehabiln. Council of India	0,93	0,91	0,91	3,00	3,00	3,00	15,50	5,00	1,95

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Spinal Injury Centre	2,30	1,90	1,96	3,00	3,00	3,30	7,00	5,15	5,43
Asstt. to VOs for Rehabilitation of Leprosy Affected Persons	1,50	1,00	0,92	2,00	2,00	1,97	0,00	0,00	0,00
Development of Special School for Handicapped Children	2,50	1,25	1,33	10,00	5,00	4,52	0,00	0,00	0,00
National Rehabn. Prog. for Handicap Total	0,05	0,00	0,00	15,00	2,21	0,00	5,00	5,00	5,00
National Handi. Finance & Dev. Corp.	28,00	13,30	13,30	28,00	28,00	28,00	20,00	10,00	10,00
O/o Chief Commissioner for Handicap	1,00	0,15	0,00	1,00	0,50	0,12	0,50	0,50	0,50
Schemes for Impl. of the Persons with Disability Act	15,00	0,00	0,00	2,98	0,48	0,00	3,50	3,50	3,50
Scheme to Promote Vol Action for Persons with Disability	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	62,29	62,29	53,98
Total Disability Division	106,44	56,66	56,30	141,54	113,75	106,87	179,50	146,29	134,15

Non-Plan Rs. in Lakhs

Programme/Schemes	BE 97-98	RE 97-98	Exp 97-98	BE 98-99	RE 98-99	Exp 98-99	BE 99-2000	RE 99-2000	Exp 99-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
National Institute for the Visually Handicapped	192,00	236,10	236,10	265,00	265,00	291,50	265,00	300,00	300,00
National Instt. for Orthopaedically Handicapped	119,00	155,00	155,00	175,00	175,00	192,50	175,00	200,00	200,00
National Instt. for Hearing Handicapped	229,00	287,50	287,50	320,00	320,00	320,00	320,00	320,00	320,00
National Instt. for Rehabilitation Trg. & Research	180,00	237,23	229,23	258,00	258,00	258,50	258,00	280,00	280,00
Instt. for Physically Handicapped New Delhi	179,00	223,10	223,10	250,00	250,00	275,00	250,00	280,00	280,00
National Instt. for Mentally Handicapped	119,00	144,37	144,37	161,00	161,00	161,00	161,00	180,00	180,00
Asstt. To Vol. Organs for Disabled Persons	170,00	161,00	18,87	170,00	100,00	0,00	100,00	10,00	0,00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Estt. of Rehabilitation Centres	246,00	270,00	246,00	281,00	300,00	300,00	290,00	299,50	290,00
ALIMCO	41,00	39,00	38,95	41,00	311,00	241,00	192,00	192,00	192,00
Rehabilitation Council of India	36,00	50,00	50,00	56,00	56,00	81,00	66,00	63,00	66,00
Indo Foreign Cultural Exchange	2,00	1,00	0,00	2,00	1,00	0,00	1,00	0,50	0,00
Contribution to Fund of UN Decades of Disables	2,00	2,00	0,00	2,00	1,00	0,00	1,00	0,50	0,00
Handling Clearance of Duty Free Consignments Under Bilateral Agreements	378,00	359,70	475,09	400,00	490,00	490,62	370,00	771,00	770,00
Total Disability Division	1893,00	2166,00	2104,21	2381,00	2688,00	2611,12	2449,00	2896,50	2878,00

Statement-II**PLAN (1999-2000)****Statement-III****NON-PLAN (1999-2000)**

Scheme No.	Remarks
3.	NIHH could not utilise the unspent balance of the previous year. Hence savings.
7.	The Institute has not yet been set up and hence savings.
8.	In spite of the efforts made to pursue the matter with State Governments/UT Administrations, adequate proposals, complete in all respects, could not be received. Hence savings.
12.	Adequate proposals, complete in all respects, could not be received. Hence savings of Rs. 15.00 lakhs.
14.	The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disability Act has been passed by Parliament and assented to by the President on 30.12.1999. The Act provides for that the Government would provide one-time corpus of Rs. 100.00 crore. Only Rs. 4.00 crore could be utilised.
15.	At the time of formulation of budget, the RCI had a proposal to construct a building worth about Rs. 20.00 crores. The SFC ultimately approved the proposal for construction of building at a total cost of Rs. 390 lakhs. Hence savings.
20.	The Corporation could not utilise the funds released earlier. Hence less requirement.

Scheme No.	Remarks
1,2,3,4,5,6	Additional requirement is due to increase in dearness allowance and general increase in prices of items required for maintenance of these Institutes.
8.	Additional requirement was for purchase of equipment, such as, computers for DRCs.
13.	Additional funds are required to clear arrears from earlier years.

Statement-IV

Under the Scheme for assisting the voluntary organisations applications are to be made in the prescribed format alongwith documents such as audited accounts, utilisation certificate in respect of funds released previously, list of staff, list of beneficiaries etc. Besides, the second instalment of the year is released after the recommendation of the designated agencies, including State Government. The under utilisation is largely on account of proposals that are received being incomplete, delay in receipt of necessary documents/clarification and delay in forwarding of recommendations by State Governments.

Cultivation of Soyabean

7891. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the area under soyabean cultivation in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the soyabean farmers in the Karnataka are not getting better yield;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government provides assistance to Karnataka to set up soyabean processing unit and also to promote soyabean cultivation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO)

: (a) The area under Soyabean cultivation in Karnataka for the last three years from 1997-98 to 1999-2000 is as under :-

Year	Area ('000 hectare)
1997-98	68.0
1998-99	54.0
1999-2000	61.0

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The productivity of soyabean in Karnataka is lower than other States, mainly due to the fact that this is a recently introduced crop in Karnataka and it would take some time to improve its agronomy to suit to Karnataka agroclimatic condition.

(d) and (e) A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in implementation in the State for increasing the production and the productivity of oilseeds including soyabean. Under the scheme, financial assistance is being provided for various critical inputs like production and distribution of quality seeds, distribution of seed mixtures, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, gypsum/pyrites, micro-nutrients, rhizobium culture etc. In addition to this, frontline and general demonstrations are also organised on the farmers fields to disseminate the improved production technologies. However, there is no provision for providing any assistance, under this scheme, for setting up of soyabean processing units.

Attacks on Christians

7892. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a four member delegation of the National Minority Commission (NMC) visited Agra, Mathura and Kosikalan to investigate the attacks on Christians;

(b) whether the Commission has submitted its report to the Government; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) The National Minority Commission (NMC) had visited Agra, Mathura and Kosikalan on 26th April, 2000. Based on discussion with the Members of the Christian community and Administrative authorities, the Commission has observed that the incidents relate to law and order problem, and have no communal angle.

A copy of the report has been sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs for appropriate action.

Leather Export

7893. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain foreign companies are allegedly doing false propaganda to spoil the export of our leather products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to counter this propaganda?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : Base on inputs received from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, who are the nodal Ministry for handling the subject, a reply ad seriatim is given below :

(a) and (b) PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), which is a US-based animal rights organisation, has launched campaigns in the USA and West Europe against the Indian leather and leather products on the ground that the animals are subjected to cruel treatment while transporting them to slaughter houses for procurement of leather.

(c) The Council for Leather Export, which is the nodal agency for exports, has been asked by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to work out a strategy for sensitizing the transporters and the tanners in following the rules provided under Prevention of Cruelty against Animal Act, 1960. A three-pronged strategy, namely, preparation and propaganda through films, press statements in foreign media and campaign through Indian Missions abroad, is being worked out. It has also been decided by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to advise and address all State Governments for better implementation of Prevention of Cruelty against Animals Act, 1960.

SAIL

7894. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether SAIL has followed the instruction of the Union Government to adhere to the austerity measure to cut expenditure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the results achieved therefrom during 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) SAIL is making concerted and continuous efforts to reduce expenditure through cost control/reduction measures such as improvement of yield, reduction in consumption of coking coal and other raw materials, reduction in consumption of power and fuel of stores and spares, improvement in other techno-economic parameters, etc. Austerity measures include inter-alia trimming/closure of liaison offices, judicious use of telecommunication facilities instead of undertaking journeys, reduction of other administrative expenses, reduction in manpower through VRS and deferment of leave travel facility.

(c) The implementation of the above measures have resulted in saving of about Rs. 800 crores during 1999-2000.

Schemes for Graduate Unemployed

7895. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to recruit graduate unemployed in the industrial units as unskilled workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the alternate arrangements made/to be made by the Government in view of increasing unemployment among graduates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For the educated unemployed persons including Graduates both in urban and rural areas, Special Employment Programmes for setting up of self-employment ventures under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) are being implemented. In addition, as per the directions of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, a Task Force, under the Chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission has also been set up to

suggest various measures to be taken to create at least 100 million jobs in a period of ten years (10 million jobs each year).

Narora Nuclear Power Plant

7896. SHRICHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Nuclear Power Plant at Narora is situated at the seismically active fault;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to prevent leakage of radiation in the event of seismic activity to protect human life;

(c) whether there is a proposal to shut it or shift the plant in a more stable area in the national interest; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The seismicity at the site of the Narora Atomic Power Station is taken into account in the design and construction of the power station. Earthquake shock absorbers and other restraining devices have been incorporated to ensure integrity of piping and alignment of components during postulated seismic events. All safety related systems and components are seismically qualified. In addition, appropriate instrumentation is provided to monitor seismic events and to shut down the reactor safely if the need arises.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Extradition from US

7897. SHRI MANISHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether lists of persons to be extradited from the United States under the recent U.S.-India Extradition Treaty have been prepared and submitted to the U.S. authorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including action taken thereon by the U.S. authorities;

(c) whether the list contains details of terrorist

activities organised in and by terrorists based in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK);

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Kashmir Issue

7898. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan had raised the Kashmir issue in the conference held in Bangkok recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of India, Pakistan and other countries thereto;

(d) whether the representatives of India had opposed this move;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the countries with whom the Indian delegation held talks in Bangkok and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) No, Sir. During the UNCTAD-X Conference held at Bangkok in February this year, Pakistan did not raise the issue of Kashmir;

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

(g) Members of the Indian delegation to the UNCTAD Conference interacted with several delegations attending the conference including the delegations of the United Kingdom, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Iraq, Bangladesh, Nepal, Morocco, Belgium and Italy. Only trade and economic issues were discussed during these meetings.

[English]

Restriction on Visas by Gulf Countries

7899. SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has taken any diplomatic initiative with the Gulf countries, especially the Saudi Arabia, in respect of restriction of visas to unskilled and semi-skilled Indian labourers to those countries;

(b) whether the Indian missions situated in Gulf Countries, especially Saudi Arabia, provide language translation services, in Indian languages and English;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Indian missions abroad have any machinery to constantly monitor the well-beings of Indian citizens in these countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Due to economic slow down in Gulf countries including Saudi Arabia many expatriate workers have become redundant. The governments of the Gulf countries are, therefore, temporarily going slow on recruitment of foreign labour. It is hoped that the situation will improve as and when economic conditions improve and redundant workers are absorbed.

(b) and (c) In Saudi Arabia language interpretation service is provided by the Mission, inter alia, in the following circumstances :

(a) In the Labour Courts at the Investigation level, Primary Commission level and Higher Commission level, at Riyadh and Jeddah where the Indian Missions are located;

From Hindi/Urdu/English/Malayalam into Arabic and vice-versa.

(b) At police stations in Riyadh and Jeddah from Hindi/Urdu/English/Malayalam into Arabic and vice versa;

(c) In settlement of disputes between workers and sponsors at the premises or Missions or at the sponsor's office;

From Hindi/Urdu/English/Malayalam/Tamil/Telugu/Bengali into Arabic and vice-versa;

(d) At Shariat courts located in various parts of Saudi Arabia

From Hindi/Urdu/English/Malayalam into Arabic and vice-versa.

In UAE, to the extent possible officials having knowledge of Indian languages and local language (i.e. Arabic) are deployed at the receptions and counters. The Interpreter of the

Embassy provides assistance in translation from Indian languages to English/local language for settlement of labour disputes between Indian workers and the local employers. Authorised legal translators are available locally for undertaking legal translations of documents from English to Arabic and Arabic to English.

(d) and (e) The Indian Missions/Posts are fully sensitized to the problems of Indian citizens, including Indian workers, and render the required assistance, in the framework of the laws of the host countries. Labour sections in Indian Missions/Posts in the Gulf countries (with large Indian workforce) specifically focus on employment related problems of Indian workers and render assistance on a whole range of issues including non-payment of dues, harassment, arrests, death, death compensation and repatriation.

[Translation]

Exploitation of Child Labour

7900. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a symposium on 'Child and the Law' was organised by the Indian Bar Association recently;

(b) If so, the subjects discussed in the symposium;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the above symposium; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to end child exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) As per information available, Government is not aware of the symposium mentioned.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Feed Manufacturing Plants

7901. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether number of State Milk Federation running feed manufacturing units in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the monitoring system of their activities; and

(c) the raw material being used by these feed manufacturing plants during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are 46 Cattle Feed Plants run by the Federations/Unions viz., Andhra Pradesh-6, Assam-1, Bihar-2, Gujarat-8, Karnataka-4, Kerala-2, M.P.-2, Maharashtra-4, Orissa-1, Punjab-2, Rajasthan-4, Tamil Nadu-4, U.P.-2, West Bengal-2, Goa-1 and Pondicherry-1. The NDDB randomly picks up sample of raw materials and finished products from the various cattle feed plants by the milk unions/federations and provide the feed back to these organizations after analysis.

(c) Broken cereals (rice, wheat, bajra and barley), Cakes (Groundnut, Kardi and sunflower), Extractions (Babool, Cotton-seed, sunflower, sal seed, sesame, rice bran, palm kernel, kokum, kardi and groundnut) ricebran, lime stone, maize, gulden, molasses, salt etc.

Reservation for Women in PSUs

7902. SHRI RASHID ALVI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to put in place certain percentage of reservation for women in all the Public Sector Undertakings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) No final decision in this regard has been taken.

Regularisation of Services

7903. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIYA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether directions have been issued by the Union Government to all the Ministers, State Governments, PSUs, Banks, Financial Institutions and other Government organisations to regularise the services of contract labourers on permanent basis engaged in sweeping, cleaning, dusting and watching of office premises in the light of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement dated the 6th December, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of contract labourers regularised on permanent basis so far in Public Sector Undertakings in the light of Supreme Court judgement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 6.12.96 in the case of Air India Statutory Corporation Vs. United Labour Union and Others is the established law under Article 141 of the Constitution. It was published in 1997 LLR 288 and AIR 1997 SC 645. The implications of the judgement were examined in consultation with the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs (Department of Legal Affairs) and directions were issued to the enforcement agency of the Ministry of Labour to strictly implement the judgement in letter and spirit.

The information about the regularised contract workers by different ministries, departments etc., is not maintained centrally. However, as per available reports, 2978 workers have been regularised in two major Central Public Sector Undertakings.

Migration of Nurses

7904. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Nurses are getting jobs in foreign countries;
- (b) if so, the number of Nurses who have gone abroad for jobs during each of last three years;
- (c) whether such nurses are well employed;
- (d) if so, the details of their general emoluments in such countries;
- (e) whether the Government propose to encourage such migration; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (f) Certain categories of workers including Nurses possessing qualifications recognised under the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947 are entitled to obtain classification of 'Emigration Check Not Required (ECNR)' on their passports. As such, Nurses are not required to seek emigration clearance from the Offices of Protector of Emigrants, and therefore, no separate record of the Nurses leaving the country for jobs abroad is maintained. The terms and conditions of employment of nurses differ from country to country as also from employer to employer in the same country. Generally, there have been no complaints from the nurses against their employers, implying that they are satisfied with the terms and conditions of employment. The Government is not directly involved in the recruitment of any category of workers, including nurses, for placement with foreign employer. The workers, including nurses, are generally recruited by the

recruiting agents on the basis of the demand letter and power of attorney issued by the foreign employers in their favour.

Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

7905. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the workers of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant were lathi-charged recently for raising legitimate demands;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have looked into their demands;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the manner in which the Government propose to meet their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (d) Some workers of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant were lathi-charged recently by the Police, as they had violated prohibitory orders in force under Section 144 Cr. PC. The agitation was to demand steps to be taken to avoid Privatisation of Visakhapatnam steel Plant. Visakhapatnam Steel Plant had submitted a comprehensive turnaround proposal for its revival which inter-alia included waiver of losses. The Disinvestment Commission has recommended writing off the entire accumulated losses of the company as on 31.3.1999 alongwith disinvestment of not less than 51% of its remaining equity to a strategic buyer. The matter is in an advanced stage of inter-ministerial consultations. No final decision has yet been taken.

Natural Calamities

7906. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether after Orissa cyclones the Union Government have framed any scheme for "Disaster preparedness";
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the action proposed in this regard to protect the country from natural calamities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There already exists a well laid down institutional

arrangement for disaster preparedness and mitigation both at the Central and State level and the position is reviewed from time to time.

Obscene Pictures

7907. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the obscene pictures are being shown at several places as a result of availability of internet facility on computers;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether small clubs have been set up at some places which show obscene films on internet and encourage others to view them, thereby affecting the Indian culture adversely;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the strategy proposed to be adopted to check this trend?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (e) Government have no information in this regard. There are specific software available which can be used to block objectionable websites. However, it may not be technically feasible to completely block such sites because of their large proliferation internationally. As per Internet Service Provider (ISP) License Agreement, the licensee shall ensure that obscene contents are not carried in his/her Network. Cyber Laws when enforced will enable to deal with this matter more effectively.

Hockey Academy in Rourkela

7908. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has set up a Hockey Academy in the Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its cost;

(c) the facilities available there;

(d) whether it has been named after a very renowned sportsman; and

(e) the numbers and names of sportsman who have reached national and international level therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The SAIL Hockey

Academy commenced its activities from 27-7-1992. The capital cost of the Academy is Rs. 2.8 crores approximately. Cadets are being provided with food, education, reading material, accommodation, medical facilities, playing kits etc. free of cost and paid Rs. 350/- p.m. as stipend. Each cadet is also insured for Rs. one lakh.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) 49 cadets have participated at National Level Hockey Championships (senior and junior). Their names are given in the statement enclosed.

No cadet has reached the international level.

Statement

Cadets who participated in the National Level Hockey Championship (senior and junior)

Sl. No.	Name	Year Represented
1	2	3
Senior level		
	S/Shri.	
1.	Rajendra Bage	1993
2.	Marianus Ekka	1993
3.	Anil Ekka	1993
4.	Nageshwar Ekka	1993
5.	Ranjit Xavier Lakra	1993
6.	Joginder Singh	1995
7.	Rajukant Saini	1998
8.	Eman Kandulna	1998
9.	Sunil Tirkey	1998
10.	Nageshwar Topno	1999
Junior level		
1.	Rajendra Bage	1992
2.	Ranjit Xavier Lakra	1992
3.	Jageshwar Ekka	1992
4.	Linus Tirkey	1992
5.	Marianus Ekka	1992

1	2	3
6.	N. Jiten Singh	1992
7.	Rajukant Saini	1993
8.	Pradeep Kiro	1993
9.	Mangru Tirkey	1993
10.	Santosh Yadav	1993
11.	Digvijay Singh	1993
12.	Saday Minz	1993
13.	Marianus Lakra	1993
14.	Ignatius Minz	1993
15.	Anil Praful Ekka	1995
16.	Albert S. Tete	1995
17.	Rajukant Saini	1997
18.	Eman Kandulna	1997
19.	Kishore Xalxo	1997
20.	Linus Tirkey	1997
21.	Sunil Tirkey	1997
22.	Abid Ali	1997
23.	Lucas Lakra	1997
24.	Anus Toppo	1997
25.	Benjamin Tirkey	1997
26.	Walter Bara	1999
27.	Sunil Xess	1999
28.	Rabindra Tirkey	1999
29.	Sushil Tete	1999
30.	Dilip Barla	1999
31.	Nageshwar Topno	1999
32.	Ajit Tirkey	1999
33.	Tosil Ekka	1999
34.	Junas Bara	1999
35.	Rajeshh Kundo	1999

1	2	3
36.	Pius Kujur	1999
37.	Abraham Kujur	1999
38.	Saroj Kumar Dungdung	1999
39.	Rajesh Kullu	1999

Terrorism Issue with Neighbouring Countries

7909. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is in touch with Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Thailand about the misuse of their territories by insurgents and militants from the North-East;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether India have provided proof of terrorists' operations in their countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the combined strategy proposed to be chalked out by them to check the terrorist's activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (e) Government is aware of reports about various militant organisations misusing the territories of Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Thailand. The matter has been taken up at appropriate levels with the respective governments, who have assured the Government of India that they would not allow such elements to use their territories for activities prejudicial to security interest of India.

Renuka and Kishau Dam

7910. SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the stage at which the two projects namely viz. Renuka Dam and Kishau Dam Projects stands;

(b) whether the Rajasthan Government has signed the agreements relating to these projects;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to bring around Rajasthan Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) The two projects namely Renuka Dam and Kishau Dam were considered in the 72nd meeting of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Irrigation, Flood Control and Multipurpose Projects held on 18.01.2000. While Renuka Dam project was accepted subject to certain conditions, Kishau Dam Project was deferred with the direction to fulfil requirement for clearance of the Project.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Rajasthan Government does not agree with the clause of the agreement pertaining to share in hydro power.

(d) Minister of Power has been requested for convening a meeting of Chief Ministers and Power Ministers of riparian States at an early date to discuss the issue so as to arrive at an amicable solution on the sharing of hydro power.

Saffron Cultivation

7911. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Globe's costliest spice saffron is facing a rough very rough weather in Kashmir;

(b) whether saffron yield has dwindled to merely 10,000 kgs. when about 1,50,000 persons are associated with its cultivation and in some areas the production even dropped by 60 per cent; and

(c) If so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) The Saffron crop in Kashmir Division has suffered heavy loss due to occurrence of unprecedented drought during the year 1999-2000.

(b) The average yield of Saffron has increased from 2.62 Kg. per ha. during 1996 to 3.03 Kg. per ha. in 1998. The total production of Saffron in the region was 12,780 Kg. during 1998. The Kishtwar plateau of Jammu Division has been affected to the extent of 5 to 10 per cent due to corm rot disease.

(c) Government of India is implementing Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for Development of Spices which includes Saffron also. The programmes implemented during the first 3 years of the 9th Plan for increasing production and productivity of Saffron in Jammu & Kashmir are : (i) Establishment of Seed Multiplication plots and (ii) Demonstration plots. During the remaining period of the 9th

Plan, the saffron development programmes proposed to be implemented are : (i) Setting up of corm production centres for augmenting supply of quality seed material and (ii) Establishment of demonstration-cum-seed multiplication plots to propagate better farming practices and to encourage area expansion. The 9th Plan outlay earmarked for saffron development in Jammu & Kashmir is Rs. 10.50 lakhs.

[Translation]

Per-Capita Income

7912. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether per-capita income in the country is likely to be increased;

(b) If so, the per-capita income at the beginning and towards the end of 1990's, State-wise; and

(c) the estimated per-capita income in rural and urban areas of the country separately, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) According to the Ninth Five Year Plan, the per-capita income in the country measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost at 1996-97 prices is projected to increase from Rs. 12301 in the base year (1996-97) to Rs. 15567 in the terminal year (2001-02). These projections are based on 1980-81 series of National Accounts Statistics.

(b) Per-capita income in the States, measured by Net State Domestic Product (NSDP), for the year 1993-94 and 1998-99 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) State-wise estimates of per-capita income are not available separately for rural and urban areas. Per-capita income in rural and urban areas are available only at national level. The latest estimates in this regard are available for the year 1993-94. According to this per-capita income measured by Net Domestic Product in 1993-94 at current prices is estimated as Rs. 5783 in rural areas and Rs. 13525 in urban areas.

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Statement

*Per-capita Income Net State Domestic Product
at Constant (1993-94) Prices*

(Rupees)

Sl.No.	State/UT	1993-94	1998-99 (Q)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7494	9118
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8557	8979
3.	Assam	5715	5942
4.	Bihar	3955	4411
5.	Goa	15602	NA
6.	Gujarat	9997	13709
7.	Haryana	10970	13084
8.	Himachal Pradesh	7349	8864
9.	J & K	NA	NA
10.	Karnataka	8190	11153
11.	Kerala	7788	9807
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6645	7350
13.	Maharashtra	12705	16217
14.	Manipur	NA	NA
15.	Meghalaya	7331	8252
16.	Mizoram	NA	NA
17.	Nagaland	NA	NA
18.	Orissa	4877	5648
19.	Punjab	12991	NA
20.	Rajasthan	6251	7694
21.	Sikkim	NA	NA
22.	Tamil Nadu	9073	12287
23.	Tripura	5300	6637
24.	Uttar Pradesh	5287	5890
25.	West Bengal	6702	8622

1	2	3	4
26.	A & N Islands	NA	NA
27.	Chandigarh	NA	NA
28.	Delhi	17355	19091
29.	Pondicherry	9524	13111

Q : Quick Estimates

NA : Not Available

Notes :

1. Source data has been made available by the Directorate of Economics & Statistics of respective State Governments.
2. Owing to differences in source material used the figures for different State/UTs are not strictly comparable.
3. The State of Mizoram prepares these estimates at current prices only.
4. The UTs of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep do not prepare these estimates.
5. Position as on 4.5.2000, based on the latest 1993-94 series.

[English]

Cotton Mills in Co-operative Sector

7913. DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cotton mills set up under co-operative sector in the country during the last three years, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up new cotton Mills in this sector in the country during the next three years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) No new cotton Mill has been set up in the Cooperative Sector during the last three years.

(b) There is no proposal in hand for the present to set up new cotton Mills in the Cooperative Sector.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SSI in Madhya Pradesh

7914. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE :

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of small scale industries at present in the country as on April 30, 2000, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to take some new measures to encourage the small scale industries;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the programmes launched by the Government to encourage SSI, Cottage Industries and other industries in the various scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes dominated areas in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) the State-wise estimated number of registered SSI units as on 30th April, 2000 is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The new measures contemplated by the Government to encourage small scale industries consists of launching of Credit Guarantee Scheme to provide loans upto Rs. 10 lakhs without collaterals, measures to encourage technology upgradation and modernisation, setting up specialised bank branches and strengthening information technology network. The programmes launched for SC/ST and backward classes dominated areas consist of Integrated Infrastructural Development, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, entrepreneurship development etc. Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Centres have been sanctioned in the districts of Satna and Seoni in Madhya Pradesh to facilitate location of industries in rural and backward areas. Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, reservation of 22.5% for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and 27% for other backward classes and age relaxation for SCs/STs are provided. To generate additional employment, Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) is being implemented by the KVIC. Under the Margin Money Scheme, KVIC provides higher grant for weaker sections such as SCs/STs and for hill and tribal areas, North-Eastern region, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep. Under the hire purchase scheme, NSIC has launched a new scheme viz., SAMRIDHI for SC/ST entrepreneurs. SIDBI has sanctioned an assistance of Rs. 30 lakhs to an NGO for providing small loans to tribal communities

at village Kesla, district Hoshangabad for undertaking poultry and related activities. The State Government under its new Industrial Policy has laid special emphasis on accelerated development of SSIs in rural areas and encouraging entrepreneurship among SCs/STs and OBCs.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Estimated Number of SSI units (SIDO) Granted permanent Registration By State/UT Directorates of Industries by 30th April, 2000

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	30-04-2000
1	2	3
01.	Andhra Pradesh	127325
02.	Assam	23676
03.	Bihar	121361
04.	Gujarat	174177
05.	Haryana	84921
06.	Himachal Pradesh	16452
07.	Jammu & Kashmir	29633
08.	Karnataka	157401
09.	Kerala	198745
10.	Madhya Pradesh	323956
11.	Maharashtra	141586
12.	Manipur	6013
13.	Meghalaya	2651
14.	Nagaland	985
15.	Orissa	19325
16.	Punjab	152663
17.	Rajasthan	81833
18.	Tamil Nadu	307917
19.	Tripura	2118
20.	Uttar Pradesh	372684
21.	West Bengal	151710
22.	Sikkim	344

1	2	3
23.	Andaman & Nicobar	1198
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	4532
25.	Chandigarh	3041
26.	Darda & Nagar Haveli	971
27.	Delhi	25339
28.	Goa	5890
29.	Lakshadweep	416
30.	Mizoram	4359
31.	Pondicherry	4887
32.	Daman & Diu	1517
All-India Total		2549629

[English]

Promotion of Small Industries Under PMRY

7915. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the action plan formulated by the Government to promote tiny and small scale industries under Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana;

(b) the process made by these industries during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether any case of irregularities and misappropriation under PMRY have been found therein; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana envisages setting up 2.20 lakh self employed tiny units annually in industry, services and business sectors. Separate targets for tiny and small scale industries are not laid down under the scheme.

(b) The statement showing State-wise progress (for industry, services & business units) under the scheme for the last three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (up to Feb., 2000) as reported by the Reserve Bank of India is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The concerned bank branch takes appropriate necessary action in case of irregularities and misappropriation by the individual beneficiary under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana.

Statement

State-wise progress under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (upto 29th Feb., 2000)

(As reported by the Reserve Bank of India)

S.No	State/UTs	1997-98			1998-99			1999-2000 (ended 29.02.2000)		
		Target (No.)	Sanctioned by banks (No.)	Disbursement by banks (No.)	Target (No.)	Sanctioned by banks (No.)	Disbursement by banks (No.)	Target (No.)	Sanctioned by banks (No.)	Disbursement by banks (No.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Northern Region										
1	Haryana	6300	6202	4925	8300	7802	6337	7500	4933	2944
2	Himachal Pradesh	2300	2341	2009	2400	2314	1874	2500	1559	1202
3	Jammu & Kashmir	3500	2882	1969	5000	1459	864	4000	1076	717
4	Punjab	9000	9354	7934	9000	9568	7669	9000	7824	5097

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
5	Rajasthan	14300	12779	9681	16300	13756	8932	16100	11720	5580
6	Chandigarh	200	168	114	100	103	74	100	59	33
7	Delhi	4700	996	755	4700	679	466	4800	580	342
North Eastern Region										
8	Assam	13400	9355	7437	15000	9420	3498	12800	4054	1857
9	Manipur	1300	832	658	1350	813	393	1350	132	23
10	Meghalaya	550	456	377	550	361	190	550	96	52
11	Nagaland	450	403	335	250	165	46	200	22	11
12	Tripura	1300	549	211	1300	958	85	1300	282	25
13	Arunachal Pradesh	300	269	178	500	205	164	500	26	21
14	Mizoram	400	286	334	350	163	34	350	2	1
15	Sikkim	100	87	58	150	87	61	150	52	24
Eastern Region										
16	Bihar	21500	14071	12139	20500	10682	7275	21800	5295	1715
17	Orissa	9250	7962	4903	10100	8334	1952	10650	1744	265
18	West Bengal	23000	5103	4017	23000	3615	2416	22800	2245	1292
19	Andaman & Nicobar	100	70	61	100	94	74	200	82	61
Central Region										
20	Madhya Pradesh	31500	30910	22231	30800	30286	15802	31600	17864	6039
21	Uttar Pradesh	45200	37798	31476	51600	42720	31410	52000	30764	20111
Western Region										
22	Gujarat	12600	8223	7110	14600	11180	10145	14600	8727	7724
23	Maharashtra	42600	38845	30514	42500	35910	24750	43600	23018	14291
24	Daman & Diu	50	23	23	50	25	21	50	12	10
25	Goa	600	313	251	600	368	299	600	360	311
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	50	75	67	50	37	28	50	17	15
Southern Region										
27	Andhra Pradesh	34200	26309	20556	34200	23878	14131	33600	15446	7478
28	Karnataka	22000	17283	14021	21900	16940	11513	22200	9523	4058

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
29	Kerala	16000	13829	11542	20000	16118	11286	24000	11436	6446
30	Tamil Nadu	27700	15383	12745	18500	14863	10349	15000	10117	6506
31	Lakshadweep	50	47	40	50	33	31	50	19	9
32	Pondicherry	500	420	308	550	430	284	550	231	125
	Not Specified	12				6	6			
All India Total		263623	208979			263372	171459		169315	95385

[Translation]

Expansion of KVIC

7916. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government for the expansion of Khadi & Village Commission in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

River Bed Power House

7917. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether 200 MW reversible turbo-generator units are not available indigenously;

(b) the arrangement by the Government to procure the same; and

(c) the number of such units to be installed in River Bed Power House of Sardar Sarovar Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYACHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) 200 MW reversible turbo-generator units are not available indigenously, therefore, the procurement of 6 Nos. of turbo-generator sets required for River Bed Power House (RBPH) of Sardar Sarovar Project has been arranged through M/s. Sumitomo Corporation Ltd., Japan. M/s. Sumitomo Corporation Ltd. has also extended Suppliers Credit for supply of these sets.

Coconut Research Centre

7918. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned setting up of Coconut Research Centre at Holenarasipura, Hassan Taluk in Karnataka in 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the construction work on this centre has come to a stand still;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to revive the construction work of this centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the sanctioned programmes for the production and distribution of quality coconut seedling, there was a proposal to establish Research & Development Centre for Coconut in Hassan district of Karnataka State under Coconut Development Board. However, the R&D Centre could not be established by the Board due to the stay order issued by the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka vide PR 30694/6-CPS dated 29.6.94 in response to the Writ petition filed by 6 farmers.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Invitation to PM

7919. SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether our Prime Minister has been given an invitation by the U.S. President to visit America;

(b) if so, the date on which the Prime Minister proposes to visit America; and

(c) the issue to be discussed during this visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) During his recent visit to India, President Clinton extended an invitation to the Prime Minister to visit the United States of America. The Prime Minister accepted the invitation.

(b) The Prime Minister will visit the United States at a mutually convenient time to be worked out by the two sides.

(c) All issues of mutual interest including those specified in the Vision Statement such as co-operation in economic and commercial issues, counter-terrorism, energy and environment, and science and technology, would be discussed.

Impact of MNC on SSI

7920. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL :

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :

SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that SSI Sector has been threatened by the entry of Multi-National Companies;

(b) if so, the details of problems being faced by the SSI sector;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a regulatory body to look into the interest of SSI sector and suggest the measures for the safety of SSI sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The Small Scale sector in India has shown enough resilience in withstanding competition from Multi-National Companies (MNCs) in the past. SSIs have withstood competition from MNCs who are operating with C.O.B. permission/industrial license/50% export obligation. This is evident from their track record given below :-

	1990-91	1998-99 (Provisional)
No. of Units	19.48 lakhs	31.21 lakhs
Production at current prices	Rs. 1,55,340.00 crores	Rs. 5,27,515.00 crores
Export at current prices	Rs. 9,664.00 crores	Rs. 48,979.00 crores

However, the SSI sector has to become more competitive in order to enable it to face competition from liberalised imports.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

MECON Company

7921. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the functioning of MECON Company situated at Ranchi in Bihar is satisfactory;

(b) if so, the details of profit earned and losses suffered by this company during the last three years; and

(c) the steps likely to be taken by the Government for the expansion of this company to make it profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) The functioning of MECON Limited has been adversely affected due to a slow down in the steel sector. The details of profit earned and losses suffered by MECON Limited during the last three years is as under :-

	(Rs. In crores)		
Year	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Provisional)
Profit/Loss	3.17	(-) 11.17	(-) 27.16

(c) The Government is not likely to take any steps for the expansion of the Company. However, following steps are being taken to increase the profitability of the Company :

- (i) Downsizing of the company by giving Voluntary Retirement
- (ii) Diversification of MECON into non-steel areas like :-
 - Infrastructure (Water supply, roads, ports, flyovers)
 - Material Handling
 - Power
 - Environmental Engineering
 - Ocean Engineering
 - Oil & Natural Gas/Petro-Chemicals
 - Defence
 - ✓ Space
 - ✓ Nuclear Power
- (iii) Restructuring of the organisation by creating "Lines of Business" in a phased manner with orientation to specific market segments to ensure greater thrust.
- (iv) Economic measures introduced to cut down non-value adding costs and reduce expenditure.

Food Processing Industries

7922. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is necessary to explore the possibilities of setting up of Food Processing Industries on the basis of production and average yield in various regions of the country;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to take fresh steps to promote FPI in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (e) Setting up of food processing industries would depend upon several factors such as availability of processable varieties of raw materials, their productivity, demand for processed foods, cost of production and price etc.

The Government has taken a number of policy initiatives to promote the growth of processed food sector in the country. Some of these are as under :-

(i) Under the Plan Schemes of the Department of Food Processing Industries, financial assistance in the form of soft loan and grant is provided to private industries, public sector undertakings, Non-governmental Organisations, Co-operatives, Human Resource Development Organisations and Research & Development Institutions etc., for the development of processed food sector.

(ii) Food Processing Industries have been included in the list of priority sector for bank lending.

(iii) Most of the processed food items have been exempted from the purview of licensing under industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951.

(iv) Automatic approval for foreign equity up to 100% is available for most of the processed food items excepting alcohol and beer and those reserved for small scale sector, subject to certain conditions.

[English]

Export of Steel

7923. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the SAIL has explored new international markets for export of steel plates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any target has been fixed in this regard; and

(d) if so, details thereof alongwith foreign exchange likely to be earned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. SAIL has entered into new markets like Mexico, Dubai, Taiwan, Singapore and S. Korea for plates.

(c) and (d) No target for exports to new markets has been fixed.

Cultivation of Wheat, Rice and Sugarcane

7924. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area under the cultivation of wheat, rice, pulses and sugarcane at present, separately during the last three years and alongwith annual production in each State;

(b) the extent to which more area is likely to be covered under the cultivation of these crops as compared to that of the last three years;

(c) the financial allocation made to each State to bring more area under cultivation; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the area under cultivation of these crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) The State-wise area and production of wheat, rice, pulses and sugarcane during 1995-96 to 1999-2000 is given in enclosed statement I to IV.

(b) to (d) The area coverage depends upon a number of factors such as agro-climatic conditions, timely availability of inputs and credit, managerial abilities of farmers, etc. It is not possible to precisely assess the area that may be covered in a future date under the cultivation of these crops. Financial allocations are not made exclusively for increasing area under cultivation. However, to encourage farmers to increase area coverage, schemes are being implemented to increase productivity and production for these crops. These are centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in rice/wheat Based Cropping System Area, National Pulses Development Project, Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System etc. Under these programmes/project, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and use of improved farm implements. Research is also being continuously undertaken to develop improved technologies so as to enhance the productivity and production of foodgrains in India. Field demonstrations on farmers' holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers is being organised for effective transfer of technology. Finally Area Development subsidy is also provided for land levelling, shaping, development of ground water structure etc.

Statement-I

State-wise Area and Production of Wheat during 1996-97 to 1999-2000

State	Area (Thousand hectares)				Production (Thousand Tonnes)			
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000*	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	12.5	11.0	10.3	11.0	9.0	6.0	6.9	16.0
Assam	87.9	84.7	89.6	85.0	117.1	110.1	90.5	100.0
Bihar	2088.9	2074.7	2098.8	2119.0	4560.7	4848.7	4180.8	4367.0
Gujarat	581.0	694.1	701.4	481.0	1336.0	1647.0	1702.6	1032.0
Haryana	2017.0	2064.0	2188.0	2150.0	7826.0	7554.0	8568.0	8300.0
Himachal Pradesh	357.2	377.3	377.4	377.0	531.0	641.3	641.4	641.0
Jamm & Kashmir	246.9	244.7	238.5	257.0	412.6	396.5	365.0	501.0
Karnataka	248.4	250.7	268.6	256.0	190.3	118.5	219.9	176.0
Madhya Pradesh	4327.2	4589.7	4650.9	4454.0	7793.2	7220.2	8344.2	8400.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Maharashtra	799.0	747.0	1015.5	922.0	1167.0	671.0	1308.5	1174.0
Orissa	5.0	5.0	3.7	5.0	6.6	6.6	4.4	6.0
Punjab	3229.0	3300.0	3338.0	3335.0	13672.0	12715.0	14460.0	14200.0
Rajasthan	2474.3	2679.7	2766.3	2466.0	6782.0	6701.0	6879.8	5825.0
Tamil Nadu	0.1	0.2	0.1	1.0	Neg	0.0	Neg	
Uttar Pradesh	9014.3	9152.8	9230.7	9400.0	24049.6	22833.9	23189.5	24500.0
West Bengal	351.1	367.4	367.5	370.0	839.0	810.5	778.1	796.0
Others	47.3	53.1	52.7	53.0	58.1	64.6	58.9	65.0
All India	25887.1	26696.1	27398.0	26742.0	69350.2	66345.0	70778.5	70099.0

* Advance Estimates as on 27.3.2000.

Statement-II

State-wise Area and Production of Rice during 1996-97 to 1999-2000

State	Area (Thousand hectares)				Production (Thousand Tonnes)			
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000*	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	4109.0	3500.0	4112.0	3679.0	10686.0	8610.0	11434.0	9959.0
Assam	2491.7	2489.8	2420.1	2557.0	3328.2	3382.9	3254.8	3500.0
Bihar	5067.9	5112.3	5099.9	4985.0	7280.7	7133.2	6632.5	6739.0
Gujarat	642.0	672.5	622.1	697.0	946.0	1042.3	1015.8	851.0
Haryana	831.0	913.0	1083.0	1042.0	2463.0	2556.0	2425.0	2483.0
Himachal Pradesh	81.7	86.2	82.8	86.0	108.6	120.4	117.8	120.0
Jammu & Kashmir	275.3	275.7	270.3	228.0	431.4	549.3	589.1	434.0
Karnataka	1358.5	1353.4	1425.5	1344.0	3211.6	3212.7	3604.5	3380.0
Kerala	424.8	387.1	348.2	457.0	831.6	764.6	658.6	1031.0
Madhya Pradesh	5396.4	5426.7	5305.2	5309.0	5939.1	4528.2	5373.9	6303.0
Maharashtra	1477.5	1476.9	1483.1	1509.0	2614.4	2394.6	2467.6	2544.0
Orissa	4469.3	4496.8	4447.1	4511.0	4438.4	6204.6	5391.5	4971.0
Punjab	2159.0	2281.0	2519.0	2604.0	7334.0	7904.0	7940.0	8716.0
Rajasthan	147.1	163.5	168.0	200.0	174.2	190.3	205.4	253.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tamil Nadu	2173.7	2260.6	2396.4	2152.0	5805.3	6893.7	8215.3	7500.0
Uttar Pradesh	5549.2	5663.5	5932.3	5933.0	11770.7	12185.4	11615.9	12912.0
West Bengal	5800.6	5900.2	5904.1	6325.0	12636.8	13236.6	13316.5	15102.0
Others	978.3	986.8	988.6	989.0	1736.7	1745.7	1736.3	1755.0
All India	43433.0	43446.0	44597.7	44607.0	81736.7	82534.5	85994.5	88553.0

* Advance Estimates As on 27.3.2000.

Statement-III

State-wise Area and Production of Pulses during 1996-97 to 1999-2000

State	Area (Thousand hectares)				Production (Thousand Tonnes)			
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000*	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	1615.5	1565.0	1568.1	1476.0	838.0	515.7	763.4	784.0
Assam	119.6	117.9	126.9	150.0	68.4	64.5	69.2	80.0
Bihar	931.1	910.7	912.4	889.0	745.4	665.7	697.5	701.0
Gujarat	920.3	895.1	862.0	816.0	663.8	613.3	633.5	496.0
Haryana	417.4	422.0	427.1	150.0	345.0	374.7	353.2	149.0
Himachal Pradesh	35.1	34.9	35.2	35.0	11.4	12.6	12.9	14.0
Jammu & Kashmir	31.3	32.6	32.2	68.0	17.0	18.4	18.5	59.0
Karnataka	1776.4	1681.7	1811.6	1821.0	722.2	496.5	721.6	798.0
Kerala	20.4	34.6	34.4	36.0	14.6	27.6	27.1	32.0
Madhya Pradesh	5025.1	5014.8	5039.6	5117.0	3544.0	3282.2	3573.4	3683.0
Maharashtra	3325.0	3260.0	3499.5	3445.0	2036.8	1187.8	2254.9	2083.0
Orissa	658.8	786.2	738.6	787.0	225.9	286.5	263.9	285.0
Punjab	97.6	87.9	77.5	74.0	80.1	60.0	50.7	51.0
Rajasthan	3760.0	4389.4	4643.8	3268.0	1844.6	2634.9	2444.2	1102.0
Tamil Nadu	581.6	591.5	1017.6	967.0	232.8	244.2	471.5	618.0
Uttar Pradesh	2832.8	2753.7	2718.3	2701.0	2625.4	2285.2	2268.7	2311.0
West Bengal	231.5	220.5	202.9	318.0	171.5	151.6	126.1	251.0
Others	67.6	72.7	71.2	162.0	57.0	57.9	58.9	55.0
All India	22447.1	22871.2	23818.9	22280.0	14243.9	12979.3	14809.2	13552.0

* Advance Estimates as on 27.3.2000.

Statement-IV**State-wise Area and Production of Sugarcane (Cane) during 1996-97 to 1999-2000**

State	Area (Thousand hectares)				Production (Thousand Tonnes)			
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000*	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000*
Andhra Pradesh	199.3	192.2	213.8	221.0	15030.0	13955.0	16684.6	14840.0
Assam	35.9	31.3	30.6	30.0	1490.3	1287.5	1223.6	1200.0
Bihar	129.6	108.0	107.5	109.0	5842.5	4959.9	5218.8	5339.0
Gujarat	165.8	165.0	196.3	220.0	11404.3	11836.2	13566.3	16750.0
Haryana	162.0	142.0	125.0	150.0	9020.0	7550.0	6880.0	8000.0
Himachal Pradesh	3.4	3.8	3.3	4.0	70.3	139.1	120.2	139.0
Jammu & Kashmir	0.2	0.2	0.2	Neg	6.5	6.5	6.0	7.0
Karnataka	282.1	309.8	312.0	314.0	23374.4	28332.7	28454.0	29233.0
Kerala	5.9	5.9	5.6	6.0	548.1	548.1	406.4	410.0
Madhya Pradesh	45.0	42.3	50.2	51.0	1761.4	1631.7	1973.0	1886.0
Maharashtra	516.2	459.7	529.8	590.0	41804.8	38174.3	47151.1	55798.0
Orissa	23.5	18.7	22.3	45.0	1332.1	1144.0	1469.5	1990.0
Punjab	173.0	126.0	103.0	108.0	11040.0	7150.0	6130.0	6500.0
Rajasthan	26.7	23.2	22.6	20.0	1290.2	1158.7	1078.8	1215.0
Tamil Nadu	259.6	282.8	347.9	203.0	25918.8	30183.6	46672.8	27200.0
Uttar Pradesh	2110.6	1985.2	1970.6	1963.0	125348.4	129266.7	116302.8	119974.0
West Bengal	24.9	25.8	26.9	24.0	1810.3	1825.7	2001.9	1176.0
Others	10.4	7.9	8.0	7.0	467.6	394.7	386.2	380.0
All India	4174.1	3929.8	4075.6	4065.0	277560.0	279544.4	295726.0	292637.0

* Advance Estimates as on 27.3.2000.

Oustees of Jaduguda Mining Area

7925. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some tribals of Jaduguda uranium mining area have approached the Government to rehabilitate and resettle them in a safe area, far away from mining site;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government in the matter; and

(c) the time by which the rehabilitation work is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE

(SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) An organisation titled the "Jharkhandis Organisation Against Radiation" (JOAR) has recently submitted a representation to Prime Minister making a number of demands in the context of (alleged) adverse impact of the operations of the Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL), a central public sector undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), at Jaduguda in the East Singhbhum District of Bihar. Apart from alleging that the impact of the uranium mining operations (low-level radiation) is hazardous to the environment, health, safety and socio-economy of the Jaduguda area, demands have also been made on issues like the constitution of a multi-disciplinary team from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi to study the above mentioned (alleged) impact, evacuation of villages around the existing tailing ponds/dams of UCIL to safer places and their resettlement, establishment of a medical centre in or around Jaduguda to treat low-level radiation related diseases, stoppage of (alleged) "import" of radio-active waste and radio-medical waste into Jaduguda for (alleged) dumping/storage and autonomy of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).

UCIL operates three uranium mines at Jaduguda, Bhatin and Narwapahar respectively and a uranium-processing mill at Jaduguda. Since UCIL's inception, the radiation levels in and around its mines and plants have been continuously monitored by the Health Physics Unit of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), a constituent unit of the DAE. The Health Physics Unit stationed at Jaduguda consists of qualified specialists in the relevant field.

The radiation levels in and around Jaduguda on account of releases from the mines/plants of UCIL are well within the limits prescribed in this behalf by the AERB which are, in turn, based on the recommendations of the International Commission on Radiology Protection.

Surveys conducted in the recent past by teams of medical doctors and other specialists, including doctors from the Tata Main Hospital, Jamshedpur and Health Department of the Government of Bihar and health physicists and medical officers from BARC have also established that the specific cases of diseases examined by the teams have no relation to radiation. Recent radiation survey of the area around Jaduguda has also reconfirmed that the operations of UCIL have not resulted in any increase in the background radiation levels beyond those prescribed by the AERB.

About 51 acres of private land were acquired by UCIL in the recent past, through the local District administration, for construction of its third stage tailing pond. Full compensation for the land so acquired has been paid by UCIL. Alternate land has been provided by the District administration for housing of the families whose lands/houses were acquired. This land has been levelled by UCIL which has also provided drinking

water tube wells there. Additional financial assistance (over and above due compensation for acquisition) has also been committed by UCIL to reach affected family for construction of dwelling houses. Finally, 51 persons from 46 families whose lands and houses were acquired and 10 persons from 10 families from which only lands were acquired have been provided employment in UCIL. Thus, all necessary steps have been taken by UCIL, in consultation with the local District administration, for resettlement of the families whose lands/houses were acquired for construction of the third stage tailing pond. There is, however, no need for resettlement of these families at any other far away location in view of the reasons detailed above.

Loss of Man Days

7926. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARIA :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of strikes and lockouts took place in various parts of the country particularly in Gujarat from January 1, 1998 to till date alongwith the dates on which these strikes and lockouts took place;

(b) the extent of loss suffered by the employees, Union and State Governments, public and owners in each case separately;

(c) the number of mandays in terms of work loss suffered by the workers;

(d) the number of working days loss suffered by the owners alongwith the financial losses;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to create conditions to avoid such strikes and lockouts;

(f) the number of workers and employees detained for criminal activities during strike period; and

(g) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The total number of strikes in various parts of the country during 1998 and 1999 is given in enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) The extent of loss suffered by Government, Employers and workers on account of strikes and lockouts is measured in terms of mandays lost, production loss and wage loss. The total mandays lost, Production loss and wage loss during 1998 was 22.06 millions, Rs. 694.32 crores, Rs. 103.08 crores and during 1999 was 24.50 millions, Rs. 923.55 crores and Rs. 54.14 crores respectively.

(e) As and when a strike notice is received by the Government, conciliation proceedings are held to avert the strikes and lockouts.

(f) and (g) Police and Police order being State subjects, information of this nature is not maintained Centrally.

Statement

Incidence of Strikes and Lockouts in selected States in 1998 and 1999 (Provisional)

State/U.T.	1998			1999		
	S	L	T	S	L	T
Andhra Pradesh	60	151	211	29	84	113
Bihar	22	7	29	10	8	18
Delhi	2	11	13	1	9	10
Goa, Daman & Diu	6	0	6	2	2	4
Gujarat	114	18	132	92	10	102
Haryana	49	1	50	22	2	24
Karnataka	36	7	43	26	6	32
Kerala	17	17	34	17	18	35
Madhya Pradesh	26	0	26	13	0	13
Maharashtra	23	12	35	14	8	22
Orissa	14	3	17	8	0	8
Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0
Punjab	17	5	22	7	4	11
Rajasthan	25	8	33	21	7	28
Tamil Nadu	186	42	228	117	26	143
Uttar Pradesh	24	26	50	12	18	30
West Bengal	21	116	137	30	150	180
Others	23	8	31	16	4	20
Total	665	432	1,097	437	358	793

S = Strikes

L=Lockouts

T= Total Number of Strikes and Lockouts

Source : Labour Bureau, Shimla

Funds for Natural Calamities

7927. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to non-implementation of welfare projects drought and famine like conditions prevail in the country;

(b) If so, the reasons for not releasing the funds sanctioned by the Planning Commission;

(c) the projects that were held up for want of funds and the amount of money remained unspent during the last three years; and

(d) whether the Government propose to fix the responsibility in regard to allocation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) to (d) Assistance is provided to the States under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) every year for undertaking immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. The Department of Land Resources is reported to be implementing Area Development Programme, namely, Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP). According to them, 947 blocks of 164 districts in 13 States have been identified for coverage under DPAP and 277 blocks of 40 districts in 7 States have been identified for coverage under DDP at present. 8335 projects under DPAP and 3694 projects under DDP are at various stages of implementation. No project was held up by them for want of funds and release of funds was reportedly not withheld if the financial progress of the project satisfied the financial norms.

Promotion of SSI

7928. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a District and Village level Boards in the country to promote small scale industries in the country; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF

PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Reduction of Nuclear Warheads

7929. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Russian President and the US President have agreed to hold a Summit meet for the reduction of nuclear warheads;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has reacted to this development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Russia has said that it is prepared to reduce strategic offensive arms on a reciprocal basis with the United States to a level lower than that provided for in the 1997 Russian-American agreement in Helsinki i.e. to 1500 warheads each instead of 2000-2500. A Summit meeting between the Russian President and the US President is scheduled for June, 2000. As in the past the future course of bilateral nuclear arms reduction measures is expected to form part of the discussions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Diplomatic Relations between India and Afghan

7930. SHRI ABDUL HAMDI :

SHRI R.L. BHATIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Afghan Government has made any request to India for the establishment of diplomatic relations with it; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) India recognises the Government of President Burhanuddin

Rabbani as the legitimate government of Afghanistan and has full fledged diplomatic relations with the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Software Export Promotion Council

7931. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Computer Software Export Promotion Councils are set up in all the major cities in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the performance of these Promotion Councils in terms of quantity and value of export of computer software, peripherals as well as other electronic items during the years 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000;

(d) the steps taken by the government to promote and propagate E-commerce in India alongwith the initial responses from the multinational companies and consumers in this regard; and

(e) the total value of money involved in the IT industries in India at present, their annual expenditure and the income generated by the Government through these industries in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) The Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council has its Headquarters at New Delhi and a Regional Office at Bangalore. The export performance in various sectors of Electronics and Computer Software for the year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Some of the key steps taken by the Government to promote the E-Commerce in the country are :-

1. The Government has implemented ISP Policy and 307 parties have been given license to provide ISP services in the country. These ISPs have been allowed to set up International Gateways independent of VSNL.

2. The Department of Telecom has also set up internet nodes at 75 Telecom Districts in the country.

3. The Lok Sabha has passed the Information Technology Bill, 1999 on 16.05.2000 to provide the legal framework for electronics commerce, electronic data interchange and prevent computer misuse and computer crimes.

4. A Centre of Excellence has also been set up at CMC, Hyderabad to develop security product and application in the area of E-Commerce.

(e) The IT industry is de-licensed. The Government do not collect the details of their annual expenditure and income. The Government generate the revenue from IT industry

through collection of various levies and taxes such as sales tax, excise and customs. These levies are collected by the different agencies. No consolidated record of the revenue generated is compiled.

Statement

Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council Export of Electronic/Computer Software and Services

Sector	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000 (estimated.)	
	US\$ M	Rs. Cr.	US\$ M	Rs. Cr.	US\$ M	Rs. Cr.
Electronics Hardware						
Consumer Electronics	99	370	102	425	-2.35	1.18
Telecom Eqpt. & cables	80	300	60	250	-30.51	-28.00
Instruments/Office Eqpt. Medical Eqpt.	64	240	42	175	-9.00	-5.71
Electronic Component	213	800	217	900	28.68	33.33
Computer Hardware	293	1100	72	300	96.24	103.33
Computer Software & Services	1813	6800	3012	12500	4000	17000

[Translation]

Fruit and Vegetable Processing Industries

7932. SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN :

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the huge quantity of agricultural products lichi and potatoes have perished due to lack of adequate processing arrangements in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the States who have suffered losses on this account alongwith the quantum thereof during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have contemplated to encourage the setting up of fruit processing industries;

(d) If not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government are formulating any scheme to provide training information, loan etc. to set up the processing industries in these regions; and

(f) If so, the details thereof??

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF

FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNÁWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) In 1995, Government of India constituted a Working Group on Post Harvest Management, Marketing & Export. This Group estimated that post-harvest losses in different crops ranges from 8 to 37%. These losses occur during different stages after harvest. The Indian Institute of Horticultural Research has assessed that losses occur at the following stages :-

- (i) Harvesting & pre-harvesting; due to spoilage, spillage and trimming.
- (ii) Transport; due to spoilage, bruising, breakage and infection as a result of dust and heat.
- (iii) Storage; due to over-ripening or under-ripening, with rain and humidity.
- (iv) Processing and packing; due to inefficiency and contamination.
- (v) Marketing; due to loss of weight and quality with multi-level handling.

State-wise data regarding losses on account of inadequate processing arrangements, for individual crops, are not available.

(c) to (f) Department of Food Processing Industries provides support to facilitate overall growth of food processing sector. Under its plan schemes, the Department provides concessional finance to establish/expand/modernize food processing industries, for training of manpower, promotion of R&D, dissemination of information and knowledge etc. and also provides marketing assistance. Besides, other agencies like National Horticulture Board (NHB), agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA), National Co-operative Development Corporation also provide assistance under their respective schemes.

Atomic Power Plants

7933. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether several units in Atomic Power Plants are not generating power;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have chalked out any concrete programme to make such units functional;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The generating performance of the nuclear power stations of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) during the past three years is as follows :

Years	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Generation in (MUs)*	9618	11174	12460
Capacity Factor (%)	71	75	80

* Besides RAPS Unit-1 which is a non commercial Government owned reactor managed by NPCIL as an agent of the Government also generated 480 MUs, 827 MUs and 934 MUs in the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively.

(c) to (e) The units have been functioning well as given above and have recorded progressive improvements, with the capacity factor during 1999-2000 being above 80%. However, steps and various measures to reduce planned and forced outages, root cause analysis of outages and corrective actions thereof are continuing activities.

[English]

Minimum Wages

7934. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of employments for which the minimum wage has been fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 by both Union and the State Governments;
- (b) the details of minimum wages fixed in Tamil Nadu;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the minimum wages are fixed either by Committee Method or by Direct Notification Method and not under the Minimum Wages Act;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government are contemplating to amend the Act to fix minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The Union Government has fixed minimum wages in respect of 44 scheduled employments in the Central sphere. In so far as State sphere is concerned, the number of such employments is 1222.

(b) In the State of Tamil Nadu, there are 60 scheduled employments for which the minimum wages have been fixed. A statement showing the names of the scheduled employments and the minimum wages is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The Minimum Wages Act provides for fixation of minimum wages both through Committee Method and Notification Method.

(e) and (f) The Government has been in the process of bringing Amendments in the Minimum Wages Act. However, given the procedure/steps involved, it may not be possible to indicate any time frame.

Statement**Minimum Wages of the Scheduled Employments in the State of Tamil Nadu, as on 1.4.99**

S. No.	Name of the Scheduled Employments	Minimum Wages per day (In Rs.)
1	2	3
1.	Employment in any Woollen Carpet making and Shawl Weaving Establishments	39.44
2.	Rice Mill, Flour Mills and Dal Mills	43.54
3.	Tobacco Manufacturing	
	(i) Jodi beedi rolling	65.48
	(ii) Sada beedi rollers	43.78
	(iii) Scented and Chewing Tobacco	36.58
	(iv) Sunff Industry	38.69
4.	Any Plantation	45.73
5.	Any Oil	41.08
6.	Construction or Maintenance of road or buildings	67.37
7.	Public Motor Transport	74.58
8.	Tanneries and Leather Manufactory	35.57
9.	Cotton Ginning and Pressing and Cotton Waste	44.97
10.	Salt Pans	48.90
11.	Coir Manufactory	50.24
12.	Match and fire works manufactory	41.58
13.	Hosiery	Wages were last fixed on 30.8.60 at Rs. 1.55 p.d. The Government has decided not to revise the wages.
14.	Brick and Tiles Manufactory	42.35
15.	Laundries and Washing Clothes (including woollen)	72.27
16.	Timber Industry	65.87
17.	Sago Industry	49.13
18.	Automobile Workshop	57.27

1	2	3
19.	Powerloom	43.54
20.	Cashew Nut	49.75
21.	Gold and Silver Articles	53.90
22.	Handloom Silk Weaving Industry	Price rate exists
23.	Handloom weaving	Price rate exists
24.	Hotels and Restaurants	48.77
25.	Printing Press	44.52
26.	Shops and Commercial Establishments	48.13
27.	Cinema Industry	70.34
28.	Motion Picture Industry	53.06
29.	Synthetic Gem Cutting	Price rate exists
30.	Loading and Unloading	35.00 + VDA
31.	Bought Leaf Tea Factory	59.60
32.	Vessels Utensils Manufactory	41.58
33.	Bleaching and Dyeing	59.37
34.	Tailoring	43.20
35.	Hospitals and Nursing Home and other than Government and ESI Hospital and dispensaries	58.32
36.	Coffee Curing Works	38.83
37.	Soap Manufactory	67.32
38.	Auto Rikshaw and Taxi	48.53
39.	General Engg. Fabrication Industry	63.92
40.	Tin Container Manufactory	48.32
41.	Toddy Tapping	79.00
42.	Sea Food Industry	45.29
43.	Aerated Water Manufactory and Breweries Manufactory	43.36
44.	Footwear Making Industry	89.76
45.	Leather Good Manufactory	89.76
46.	Polythene Processing Foam Item	60.80

1	2	3
47.	Bakery and Biscuits	41.58
48.	Gunny Industry	72.80
49.	Silk Twisting	48.58
50.	Carpentry and Blacksmithy	66.58
51.	Electronic Industry	55.74
52.	Apalam Manufactory	47.97
53.	Coconut Peeling Industry	41.58
54.	Food Processing Industry	60.79
55.	Paper and other incidental process	51.36
56.	Sericulture	48.58
57.	Neera Tapping	90.74
58.	Employment in Local Authorities	The Local Authorities are being pursued by the Commissioner of Labour for taking a decision to revise the minimum rates of wages for employment in any local authority by placing the subject in the ensuing meeting of the State Minimum Wages Advisory Board.

PART - II

59.	Agriculture	54.00
60.	Employment in Forestry	49.55

Pending Irrigation Projects

7935. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the major and medium Irrigation projects of Maharashtra kept pending with the Union Government for environmental clearance;

(b) whether same irrigation projects have been returned to State Government during the last three years;

(c) If so, the details thereof, alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the final approval is likely to be accorded to these irrigation projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) The names of Irrigation Projects of Maharashtra which require clearance from Environmental/Forest angle are as under :

S.No.	Name of Project	Major/Medium
1.	Dudhganga Irrigation	Major
2.	Warna	Major
3.	Lower Wunna	Major
4.	Sangola Branch Canal	Major
5.	Talamba Irrigation Project	Major
6.	Utwall	Medium

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Final approval of these projects is linked with compliance of observations of the various central appraising agencies by the Government of Maharashtra.

Participation of Workers in Management

7936. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have same policy to allow workers' participation in management in the Public Sector Steel Plants of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the Steel Plants where such policy has been implemented;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a consultative machinery with the trade unions of public sector steel plants to ensure workers' participation in Management where it has not been done so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Steel Plants under the Steel Authority of India Limited and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited have organizational structure to allow workers' participation in management to facilitate bipartisan decision making at the company level and at various levels of the plant. These are as follows :

(i) National Joint Committee for steel industry whose main objective is negotiations for wage

agreement for workers and its implementation, matters concerning productivity, quality, cost reduction, welfare amenities and facilities. (Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited is not a member of NJCS).

- (ii) The Joint Committee on Safety, Health and Environment in the Steel Industry – an apex bi-partite forum at the industry level to discuss the issues pertaining to safety, health, environment in the steel industry.
- (iii) Production and Productivity Committee of SAIL – an apex level bi-partite forum of the Company to discuss productivity related matters.

In Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, 65 bi-partite participative Committees at Corporate, Department and Shop levels provide major forums for workers' participation in management of issues relating to production, productivity, quality, safety, incentives, job rotation, deployment etc.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of answer to parts (a) and (b) above.

Expenditure on Publicity

7937. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount sanctioned on advertisement and publicity under Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying for the year 1999-2000 and how does it compare with the last three years;

(b) the reasons for increasing the allocation for the year 2000-2001;

(c) whether the funds are utilised fully and effectively; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The position is as under :

Year	(Rs. in lakhs)	
	Sanctioned Budget Grant	
	Plan	Non-Plan
1996-97	--	2.00
1997-98	--	2.00
1998-99	--	3.00
1999-2000	2.00	3.00

(b) Office International Des Epizooties (OIE), the World Organisation for Animal Health has instituted one Gold Medal and three Meritorious Awards to be given annually for international recognition of special or outstanding services to the veterinary science. India is a member of the OIE and, therefore, can make nominations for these awards. A Committee has been constituted to screen nominations. The Committee have not received any response from private individuals and organisations in India in the past. It has therefore, now been decided that wide publicity be given for these awards to elicit nominations from individuals and private sector also. This would require release of advertisements in newspapers on all India basis for which the plan Budget under this head has been proposed at Rs. 28.00 lakhs during BE 2000-2001.

Additional provisions has been proposed in the Non-plan for release of advertisements in major daily newspapers inviting sound and viable proposals for conduct of research studies and holding of seminars/workshops under the plan scheme entitled 'Project on Animal System' which is an important scheme for proper coordination between livestock/ dairying sector and other sectors of economy. The budget also includes expenditure liability on issue of tenders for Hardware etc. for the Information Technology Plan and for normal recruitment notices.

(c) and (d) The funds are utilized depending upon the requirement of recruitment notices to be issued.

Rebuilding of Coastal Orissa

7938. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a master plan for rebuild the coastal area of Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide fund for the purpose; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Immediately after the occurrence of the Super Cyclone in the coastal districts of Orissa on 29.10.1999, a High Powered Task Force (HPTF) was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Defence Minister to prepare a comprehensive plan for rehabilitation and reconstruction in the cyclone affected areas in addition to overseeing the immediate rescue and relief measures. The HPTF recommended various medium and

long term measures for the affected areas of Orissa in the field of health, water and sanitation, shelter, food and nutrition, education, agriculture, environment and social sectors. As recommended by the HPTF, Government of India has, on 24th February, 2000, constituted the Orissa Cyclone Reconstruction Authority (OCRA) to give consideration at the highest level to the reconstruction and rehabilitation matters. The OCRA has Defence Minister as Chairman and Finance Minister, Minister for Agriculture, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Minister for urban Development, Minister for Rural Development and Chief Minister of Orissa as Members. The OCRA will henceforth take over the functions of the HPTF for rehabilitation and reconstruction in the affected coastal districts in Orissa, including finalisation and implementation of the reconstruction programmes.

(b) and (c) Assistance has been provided to Orissa for rebuilding the cyclone affected coastal areas of Orissa as indicated below :

Assistance from National Funds for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the wake of Floods/Cyclones	Rs. 828.15 crores
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Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1999-2000	Rs. 42.50 crores
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Advance assistance for rehabilitation	Rs. 450.00 crores
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Additional Central Assistance for meeting the counterpart funding for availing World Bank assistance for the immediate phase of reconstruction work.	Rs. 43.00 crores
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Old Age Homes

7939. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have announced a scheme for the construction of old age homes through NGOs;

(b) if so, the details of the amount allocated for the purpose and the areas identified therefore alongwith the names of NGOs allocated to undertake the job;

(c) the functions of the National Council for old age persons and its achievement so far; and

(d) the extent to which the National Policy on old age persons has been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institution/Voluntary Organisations for Construction of Old Age Homes which was being implemented since 1996-97 was revised and broad based during 1998-99. Under the revised scheme which bears the nomenclature; Scheme of assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisation/Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes//Multi Service Centres for Older Persons a one time grant of Rs. 30 lakhs is provided to eligible organisations.

(b) The budget allocation for the year 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 has been Rs. 393.00 lakhs, Rs. 163.00 lakhs, 239.00 lakhs and Rs. 239.00 lakhs respectively. No areas have been identified, as such. The grant is provided to such Non-Governmental Organisations/Self-Help Groups and Panchayati Raj Institutions for construction of Old Age Homes or a Multi Service Centre, who approach the Government with complete proposals and fulfill all the eligibility conditions. A statement showing the State-wise details of NGOs and the amount released to them for the purpose is enclosed.

(c) The basic functions of National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) shall be to :

- (i) Advise the government on policies and programmes for older persons;
- (ii) Provide feedback to the government on the implementation of the National Policy for Older Persons as well as on specific programme initiatives for older persons;
- (iii) Advocate the best interest of older persons;
- (iv) Provide a nodal point at the national level for redressing the grievances of older persons which are of an individual nature;
- (v) Lobby for concessions, rebates and discounts for older persons both with the government as well as with the corporate sector;
- (vi) Represent the collective opinion of older persons to the government;
- (vii) Suggest steps to make old age productive and interesting;
- (viii) Suggest measures to enhance the quality of inter-generational relationship;
- (ix) Undertake any other work or activity in the best interests of older persons.

The NCOP is also the designated office for receiving suggestions/complaints and grievances from individual older persons. The NCOP shall also organise national and regional consultations to gather the views of older persons and present them periodically through specially designed instruments to the government. In advocating the interests of the older persons the NCOP shall make use of public for a, media, the courts and other appropriate means.

The Working Group of NCOP has held two meetings so far. Secretariat of NCOP by the name AADHAR has started functioning since December, 1999 and is receiving suggestions/Complaints and grievances from individual older persons and organisations representing them and taking follow-up action thereon on a regular basis.

(d) The Government have announced a National Policy on Older Persons in January, 1999. The policy provides a broad framework for inter-sectoral collaborations and cooperation both within the government as well as between governmental and non-governmental agencies. In particular the policy has identified a number of areas of intervention, financial security, health care and nutrition, shelter, education, welfare, protection of life and property etc. for the well being of older persons in the country. The Government has constituted a National Council for Older Persons in May, 1999 to operationalise this Policy. The Project on Old Age and Income Security (OASIS) has also been commissioned by the

Ministry which has since submitted its final report to the Government. The policy has been circulated to all State Governments and Union Territory Administrations and Central Government Ministries/Departments with the request to prepare action plans on action points concerning them. At the Central level also a draft action plan for implementation of the Policy has since been prepared. Both the on-going schemes of the Ministry for the Welfare of older persons have been reviewed and revised in light of the National Policy with a view to make them flexible so as to be able to meet the divers needs of the older persons. On the request of this Ministry, the Chief Justice of India has advised Chief Justices of all High Courts in the country to issue suitable instructions for expeditious disposal of cases involving older persons. Again in response to requests made by this Ministry, the Ministry of Health have issued instructions to all State Governments to ensure separate queues for older persons at all stages in hospitals. At the initiative and with the financial assistance of this Ministry a Telephone Helpline for older persons is functioning in New Delhi since April, 1999. The AADHAR, set up as Secretariat for NCOP, is also functioning as bureau for redressal of individual grievances/complaints of older persons since December, 1999. The National Institute of Social Defence, a subordinate office of this Ministry, has started a six-month course on 'Home Care for Elderly Disabled Persons' in August, 1999 to train young persons and family members to equip them with theoretical and practical knowledge, skills and attitude, necessary for giving care to the aged elderly disabled persons.

Statement

Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons

(Scheme Commenced from 1996-97)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	NGO	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh				
1.	East Godavari District				
1.	AMG, India International, Guntur	--	--	--	10.00
2.	Cosmopolitan Recreational Centre, Ravulapalem	--	--	--	10.00
2.	Nellore District				
1.	K.S.R. Memorial Charitable Trust for Rural Development Hyderabad	--	--	--	10.00
3.	Srikakulam District				
1.	Sri Srikakulam Elders Association	--	--	--	10.00
4.	Medak District				

1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Sevashram, Hyderabad	--	--	--	10.00
2.	Assam				
1.	Nalbari District				
1.	Bengal Road Naboday Sangha	--	2.50		
2.	Darrang Distt.				
1.	Dhula Regional Physically Handicapped Dev. Association Dhule	--	--	4.15	
3.	Nagon Distt.				
1.	Bahumukhi Krishi Aru Samaj Kalyan Samity Noor	--	--	21.00	6.00
2.	Sadan Aassam Gramya Pathibarel Sanstha Halbargaon	--	--	3.74	
4.	Mailakanti Distt.				
1.	WOD WICHEE Lakshirbond	--	--	10.05	
5.	Kamrup Distt.				
1.	ILA Trust, Delhi		--		12.70
	(project at Guwahati)				10.16
3.	Haryana				
1.	Ambala Distt.				
1.	Indian Red Cross Society, Ambala City	--	2.50	18.50	9.00
2.	Kurukshetra Distt.				
1.	PRENA, Sri Jqalamukhi Mandir, Kurukshetra	--	2.50	2.50	
3.	Rohtak Distt.				
1.	Manav Seva Sangh Rohtak	--	2.50	2.50	
4.	Sonepat Distt.				
1.	Bal Gram	--	2.50		
5.	Hissar Distt.				
1.	Biswas	--	--	--	10.00
6.	Yamunanagar				
1.	Red Cross Society	--	--	--	10.00
4.	Kerala				
1.	Distt.				
1.	Sneh Bhawan St. Stephan's Charitable Society	--	2.50	--	--
2.	Ernakulam Distt.				
1.	Paravur Municipality, North	--	--	2.50	--

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Murathupurzha	--	--	3.50	--
3.	Kasargod Distt.				
1.	Y's Niwas Chittankkal	--	--	3.50	
4.	Kottayam Distt.				
1.	Deepti Centre Aruvithra	--	--	3.50	
5.	Pathanamthitta Distt.				
1.	Abhay Bhawan Society, Muthoor	--	--	4.50	
5.	Maharashtra				
1.	Ahmednagar Distt.				
1.	Netaji Subash Town Mandal Trust, Tal Ahmednagar (Project at Nimbalk), Agnedbagar	5.00	--	--	--
2.	Akola Distt.				
1.	Shri Gurudatta Shikshan Prasark Mandal, Seeta Unayyan (Project at Sinauday, Kamikhed	5.00	--	--	--
3.	Amravati Distt.				
1.	Prabodhanka Thakare Shikshan Sansthan Amravati (Project at Bazar Market, Raja Peth)	5.00	--	--	--
4.	Aurangabad Distt.				
1.	Jeevanbai Tapadia Charitable Trust Mau, Sulibhajan, The. Khultabad (Project at Silihajan, The Khultabad)	5.00	--	--	--
5.	Beed Distt.				
1.	Ankur Pratishthan Sanshodhan Sansthan, Ambejogai, Beed (Project at Ambejogai)	5.00	--	--	--
6.	Bhandara Distt.				
1.	Vidyasagar Education Society Gondiya (Project at Katingi Road near Nagara village, Tah. Gondia)	5.00	--	--	--
7.	Chandrapur Distt.				
1.	Bhartiya Samaj Seva Sangh, Mau-Bhimkund (Project at	5.00	--	--	--
8.	Dhule Distt.				
1.	Dr. K.L. Dugal Smruti Samiti (Project at Mehndalagao Sakri Road, Jamanagiri)	5.00	--	--	--
9.	Gadchiroli Distt.				
1.	Adarsh Shikshan Prasark Mandal Gadcheroli (Project at Gadcheroli)	5.00	--	--	--

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Jalgaon Distt.				
1.	Keshav Smruti Vridha Ashram, Sevarshade, Jalgaon (Project at Saverkhede (Budruk) Tah-Jalgaon)	5.00	--	--	--
11.	Jalna Distt.				
1.	Shivaba Pratishthan Jalna (Project at Ganednagar, Ambad Road, Jalan)	5.00	--	--	--
12.	Kolhapur Distt.				
1.	Siddhai Mahila Mandal, Adata, Tah - Hatkanangala (Project at Adata Tah - Hatkanangala)	5.00	--	--	--
13.	Latur Distt.				
1.	Shri Vivekanand Medical Foundation Research Centre, Latur (Project at Arvi Tah - Latur)	5.00	--	--	--
14.	Nagpur Distt.				
1.	Bharataya Adim Jati Sevak Sangha, Savner (Project at Adasa Tah)	5.00	--	--	--
15.	Nanded Distt.				
1.	Shri Kannoba Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Madnapur Tah-Kinvit (Project at Pngli Tah-)	5.00	--	--	--
16.	Nashik Distt.				
1.	Thariyamsahab Jijan Seva Sanstha, Samangao (Project at Samangao The Nashik)	5.00	--	--	--
17.	Osmanabad Distt.				
1.	Shri Tulajabhavani Mandir Sansthan Tullapur, Osmanabad (Project at Sindhphal Tah-Tuljapur)	5.00	--	--	--
19.	Pune Distt.				
1.	Shivraj Pratishthan Hingane, Tah - Haveli (Project at Hingane Tah Haveli)	5.00	--	--	--
20.	Ratnagiri Distt.				
1.	Shivtej Arogya Seva Sanstha Ambuja, Tah Khed (Project at Ameyu Tah Khed)	5.00	--	--	--
21.	Satari Distt.				
1.	Jyotirmayee Swayamseva Sanstha Satara (Project at)	5.00	--	--	--
22.	Sindhudurga Bhikshan Pracharak Mandal Sangue (Project at Kankawati Tah Kamkawati)	5.00	--	--	--

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	Solapur Distt.				
1.	Sadguru shikshan Pracharak Sansthan Pandharpur (Project at Pandharpur)	5.00	--	--	--
24	Thane Distt.				
1.	Jeevan Samdhya Mangalayaa Society Thane (Project at Sura Tah Bhawandi)	5.00	--	--	--
25	Yeotmal Distt.				
1.	Sanskriti Samvardhak Mandal, Man. Nikona (Project at Nokona Tah Yetomal)	5.00	--	--	--
26	Wardha Distt.				
1	Matru Seva Sangha, Pimri Megh Wards (Project at Pimpri Megh, Tah-Wardha)	5.00	--	--	--
6.	New Delhi				
1.	Aashriwad	--	--	--	10.00
7.	Orissa				
1.	Cuttack Distt.				
1.	Women's Moral Education Centre Sabalpur, Bantkar	--	--	3.50	--
8.	Punjab				
1.	Bathinda Distt.				
1.	All India Guru Nanak Mission, Bathinda	--	--	3.50	1.50
2.	Jalandhar Distt.				
1.	Gulab Devi Memorial Trust, Jalandhar	--	10.00	10.00	--
3.	Patiala Distt.				
1.	Indian Red Cross Society, Patiala	--	--	7.00	--
2.	Sadhu Basant Trust	--	--	--	10.00
4.	Faridkot Distt.				
1.	Red Cross Society	--	--	--	10.00
5.	Mansa Distt.				
1.	Red Cross Society	--	--	--	10.00
9.	Chandigarh				
1.	Sri Satya Sai Trust	--	--	--	10.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Rajasthan				
1.	Jaipur Distt.				
1.	Indian Council of Social Welfare	--	2.50	--	--
2.	Srigangangar Distt.				
1.	Vivek Ashram Manav Kalyan Samiti, Sriganganagar	--	--	5.00	--
3.	Jodhpur Distt.				
1.	Opium Deaddiction Centre Maneklao	-	--	--	10.00
11.	Tamil Nadu				
1.	Distt.				
1.	Chetna Vikas Parthibanin	--	2.50	--	--
2.	Coimbatore Distt.				
1.	Sri Anuvashilingam Education Trust Institute	--	--	12.00	--
3.	Vellore Distt.				
1.	Red Cross Society	--	--	--	10.00
12.	Uttar Pradesh				
1.	Gazipur Distt.				
1.	Krishak Vikas Samiti, Mohammadabad	--	--	3.49	--
2.	Ballia Distt.				
1.	Martyrs Memorial Trust Ballia	--	--	--	21.00
3.	Pilibhit Distt.				
1.	Vrish Seva Sansthan Pilibhit	--	--	21.00	6.00
13.	West Bengal				
1.	Midnapur Distt.				
1.	Hitaljore Koshoribala Databya Chikitsalaya	--	--	3.70	--
2.	Calcutta Distt.				
1.	Soumyoloke Biswa Seva Niketan	--	--	--	10.00
14.	Manipur				
1.	Thoubal Distt.				
1.	Volunteers for Rural Health & Actions	--	--	--	10.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Pondicherry				
1.	Yanam Old Age Home, Yanam	--	--	6.00	--
16.	Himachal Pradesh				
1.	Shimla Distt.				
1.	Age Care India	--	--	--	10.00

Employment Generation in SSI

7940. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the contribution of small scale industrial sector towards the employment generation, total industrial production and export;

(b) the present policy of the Government with regard to this sector; and

(c) the extent to which this policy has been helpful for nurturing and strengthening this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :
(a) The contribution of the small scale sector towards employment generation in the industrial sector is estimated at 35.45%. During the year 1998-99, the contribution of the small scale sector towards total industrial production and exports were 39.07% and 34.59% respectively.

(b) The present policy of the Government is to impart greater vitality and growth impetus to the SSI sector to enable it to contribute its mite fully to the economy, particularly in terms of growth of output, employment and exports.

(c) The policy measures taken by the Government have helped the SSI sector to maintain sustained rate of growth, contribute significantly to the growth of output, generate employment, earn foreign exchange and develop a strong entrepreneurial base.

Chief Executive in PSUs

7941. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the SC/ST Parliamentarians in the representations submitted to the Prime Minister on 17.12.1996, 1.9.1997 and 23.7.1998 have demanded placement of persons belonging to the SCs/STs in posts such as Chief Executives, Functional Directors, Part-time Chairman and Official/Non-Official Members of the Board of management of PSUs and Enterprises;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the number of names finalised and posted to the said posts during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the number of persons belonging to the SCs/STs among them as well as percentage of such persons as compared to the total number referred to above;

(e) the nature and composition of selection Committees formed for selection of persons for the said posts and provisions made for participation/association of persons belonging to the SCs/STs category on such Boards/Committees; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :
(a) to (f) The Memoranda submitted by the Parliamentary Forum for SCs and STs urged the Government of India for taking comprehensive measures for development of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, inter-alia, requesting for posting of suitable persons belonging to the SCs/STs for posts of importance like Governors, Ambassadors, Members of Planning Commission, Secretaries to the Government of India, Members of the UPSC, PESB, Directors of PSUs etc.

The policy as enunciated in the resolution No. 27(21)EO/86(ACC) dated 3.3.1987 is to appoint to board level posts in

PSUs through a fair and objective selection procedure, outstanding professional managers to Level-I (Chief Executives) and Level-II (Directors) posts and posts at any other level as may be decided by the Government from time to time.

Caste is not one of the criteria for selecting persons for appointments to the board level posts of PSUs, and therefore, information on the number of persons belonging to the SCs/STs among those appointed to such posts is neither available nor maintained.

The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) (the body which makes recommendations for appointments to board level posts in (PSUs) as laid down in the aforesaid Government of India resolution dated 3.3.1987 (as amended) comprises one part-time or full-time Chairperson and three full-time Members and they shall be persons who have had a long and distinguished career in management of public or private corporations or public administration and have a proven record of achievements, preferably, in the field of personnel, finance, production or marketing. There is no explicit provision for participation/association of persons belonging to the SCs/STs category on the PESB.

[Translation]

Processing of Fruit and Vegetables

7942. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of fruits and vegetables produced and processed in the country;

(b) the main flows in the full development of the Food Processing Industry in the country; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to modernise this industry in view of inadequate development of Food Processing Industry in the country despite India being the largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) The production of fruits and vegetables in the country during 1997-98 was 1128.82 lakh M.T. It is estimated that less than 2% of the total production of fruits and vegetables is processed.

(b) Low demand-low volume of production-high per unit cost again low demand are the main constraints faced by the Processed Food Sector. This sector is considered to be having high risk and low margin by the entrepreneurs.

(c) Department of Food Processing Industries provides support to facilitate overall growth of food processing sector. Under its plan schemes, the Department provides

concessional finance to establish/expand/modernize food processing industries, for training of manpower, promotion of R&D, dissemination of information and knowledge etc. and also provides marketing assistance. Besides, other agencies like National Horticulture Board (NHB), Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA), National Co-operative Development Corporation also provide assistance under their respective schemes.

[English]

Asylum To Karmapa

7943. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have unofficially permitted Karmapa to stay in India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Lama Ugyen Thinley Dorji, recognised by his supporters as the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa, arrived in Dharamsala from Tibet on January 5, 2000. The official Chinese position on Lama Ugyen Thinley Dorji's arrival in India is that Lama Ugyen Thinley Dorji had gone abroad to "get the musical instruments" of the Buddhist rituals and the "black hat" used by previous Karmapas. The Chinese side has been requested to share with us details regarding the circumstances of his departure from Tibet for India. India and China have been in touch through diplomatic channels. The two sides have noted with satisfaction the improvement and development of bilateral relations on the basis of Panchsheel.

Leasing of Natural Resources

7944. SHRI BUTA SINGH :

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee headed by the Prime Minister recommended for formulation and implementation of a scheme for leasing of natural resources' licenses to the SCs/STs in the year 1993;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the steps taken for the implementation of the said scheme;

(d) the result achieved in this regard so far; and

(e) the reasons for not achieving the satisfactory results therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Delhi Wakf Board

7945. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2985 on March 16, 1999 and state :

(a) whether the desired information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Delhi Govt. has reported that complaints were received in respect of properties located in Mehrauli (Saun Burj) and Panchsheel Park. Possession on Saun Burj by one Momin Latif has been found illegal. In Panchsheel Park, Occupation by DDA, over some portion is on account of dispute of ownership rights and other encroachers have made pucca houses without any legal right over the land.

Delhi Wakf Board has been asked to take remedial measures as per legal provisions.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Migrants from Drought Hit Areas

7946. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of people migrated from drought hit areas, State-wise;

(b) whether any financial assistance has been provided to these people by the Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) No details on migration of people from drought hit areas have so far been received from Gujarat, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh, which have reportedly been experiencing severe drought conditions.

(b) and (c) During 1999-2000, in addition to the release of entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), assistance of Rs. 54.58 crores to Gujarat, Rs. 102.93 crores to Rajasthan and Rs. 75.36 crores to Andhra Pradesh was released from the National Fund for calamity Relief. During 2000-01, three instalments of Central share of CRF to Gujarat (Rs. 31.14 crores) and two instalments of Central share of CRF to Rajasthan (Rs. 112.12 crores) and Andhra Pradesh (Rs. 77.78 crores) have also been released.

Food Processing Training Centres

7947. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Food Processing Training Centres set up in the country, State-wise with locations;

(b) whether all the Training Centres are functioning in rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the utility of these Training Centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) Since the inception of the Scheme of "Person Power Development in Rural areas" in 1992-93, a total number of 325 Food Processing & Training Centres (FPTC) have been assisted by this Department till 1999-2000.

A State-wise break-up of these Centres with locations is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) While the majority of training centres have been set up in rural areas, there are no reports from State Nodal Agencies suggesting that some or any of them are not functioning.

(d) The Scheme for FPTC provides a "Hands On" experience in operating and managing a small processing unit. The trainees participate in various activities such as book keeping, manufacturing, quality testing and marketing of products.

Statement***State-wise Details of Food Processing & Training Centres assisted during the period 1992-93 to 1999-2000***

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of FPTCs Assisted	Location
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	Diglipur (North Andaman)
2.	Andhra Pradesh	5	Hyderabad, Jadcherla (Dist. Mahboobnagar), Gandhinagar (Hyderabad), Karim Nagar, Nagarkurnool (Dist. Mahboobnagar).
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	West Siang Distt.
4.	Assam	25	Ulbari (Dist. Guwahati), Nagaon, Jorhat, Sibsagar, Tinsukhia, Silchar, Kokrajhar, Mongoldoi, Bonda, Chandrapur Bagicha (Dist. Kamrup), Tejpur, Jagi Road, Nalbari, Rangiya, Dhubri, Howli (Dist. Barpeta), Seju Nagar of Beltola (Dist. Guwahati), Majgaon (Dist. Nagaon), Topatoli (Dist. Kamrup), Sonapur (Dist. Kamrup), Chamata (Dist. Nalbari), Morigaon, Mangoldoi (Dist. Darrang), Morigaon, Kharapara or Jalukbari.
5.	Bihar	27	Bariatu, Angara, Gumla, Gotra, Torpa, Dumka, Gumla, Shaliganj, Torpa, Lumbai (Dist. Bandgaon), Baradwari (Dist. Jamshedpur), Chandli (Dist. East Singhbhum), Bandra (Dist. Lohardaga), Chakradharpur (Dist. West Singhbhum), Asansole (Dist. Dumka), Danapur Road (Dist. Patna), Ramgarh Cantt. Danapur, Deoghar, Sutihaar-Nawada (Dist. Saran-Chhapra), Jaiprakash Nagar of Arrah (Dist. Bhojpur), Titauthur (Dist. Rohtas), Sridharnagar of Raghunathpur (Dist. Muzffarpur), Bhaktiyarpur (Dist. Patna), Nayatola (Dist. Patna), Gulzarbagh (Dist. Patna), Behat.
6.	Delhi	7	Delhi Cantt. Burari (North Dist. of Delhi), Hastsal (West Delhi), Baprola (West Delhi), Patparganj (East Delhi), Khanjhwala (North Delhi), Ladpur (Dist. North Delhi)
7.	Gujarat	3	Gandevi, Junagarh, Bardoli (Dist. Surat).
8.	Haryana	9	Karnal, Murthal (Dist. Sonapat), Tauru (Gurgaon), Ambala, Sirsa, Narnaul, Sonapat, Bhubneshwari (Dist. Gurgaon), Farrukh Nagar (Dist. Gurgaon).
9.	Himachal Pradesh	7	Shogi, Katrall (Dist. Kullu), Kalpa (Dist. Kinnaur), Fagu (Dist. Shimla), Subathu (Shimla Hills), Taradevi, Udaipur (Dist. Chamba)
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	8	Kathua, Kupwara, Sri Nagar, Rajouri, Anantnag, Phulwama, Udheywala West (Jammu City), Shalimar Campus.
11.	Karnataka	11	Habbal, Hulkoti (Dist. Dharwar), Gulbarga, Bidar, Gonikoppal (Dist. Coorg), Mudigere (Dist. Chickmagalur), Arabhavi (Dist. Belgaon), Belgaon, University of Agri. Science of Bangalore, Hudli (Dist. Belgaon), Belgaon.

1	2	3	4
12.	Kerala	6	Vellayani, Vellanikkara, Aluva (Dist. Cochin), Changanacherry, Narikkuni (Dist. Kozhikode), Mattannur (Dist. Kannur).
13.	Maharashtra	17	Dhanu, Nasik, Wardha, Latur, Indiranagar (Latur), Chakan (Dist. Pune), Umri, Khadgaon Road, (Dist. Latur) University of Mumbai (sub Centre, Ratnagiri Theeba Palace Road Ratnagiri), Budhoda (Dist. Latur), Gulewadi (Dist. Ahmednagar), Kandhar (Dist. Nanded), Kasturbawadi (Pune), Ashtvinayak Nagar (Dist. Nanded), Aurangabad, Babhaleshwar (Ahmednagar), Nandurbad (Dist. Dhule).
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5	Satpura, Sagore, Jabalpur, Indore, Jabalpur
15.	Manipur	3	Porompat (Dist. Imphal) Tausem, Tamei.
16.	Mizoram	6	Sairang Lawngt-lai, Vairengta, Khawzawl, Chhingchhip, Lunglei.
17.	Meghalaya	1	Shillong (Happy Valley).
18.	Nagaland	2	Dimapur, Kohima.
19.	Orissa	62	Nayagarh, Bhubneshwar, Sundergarh, Puri, Kishore Nagar (Cuttack), Nayagarh, Potlampur (Ganjam), Paralakhemudi Gajpati, Bhubneshwar, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Keonjhar, Baikala (Keonjhar), Naria Road (Kalahadi), Ashrayagada (Gajpati) Sabolong (Kendrapada), Delang (Puri), Dhenkanal, J.S. Pur, Dhenkanal, koraput, Mayurbhanj, Bhapur (Dist. Dhenkanal), Dhenkanal, Bhubneshwar, Tigiria (Cuttack) Deula Sahi (Cuttack), Sankumari (Dist. Balasore), Debidwar (Dist. Jajpur), Mahimagadi (Dist. Dhenkanal), Deogaon (Dist. Dhenkanal), Barikpur (Dist. Bhadrak), Sankumari (Dist. Balasore), Kishore Nagar (Cuttack), Balishahi (Dist. Jagdishpur), Jatni (Dist. Khurda), Odegaon (Dist. Nayagarh) Chandipur (Dist. Balasore), Rourkela, Bali Sahi of Nuapara (Dist. Cuttack), Gandhi Nagar (Dist. Koraput), Pardhanpalli (Dist. Rourkela), Hosanga (Dist. Cuttack), Virasat (Dist. Dhenkanal), Neelgiri (Dist. Balasore) Baldyaketeni (Dist. Dhenkanal), Ankoli Berhampur (Dist. Ganjam), Borida of Kabi Surya Nagar (Dist. Ganjam), new Jamposi of Sukinda (Dist. Jajpur), Aruhan of Chirulei (Dist. Dhenkanal), Belapadapatna (Dist. Nayagarh), Macheswar of Rasulgarh (Dist. Khurda), Sarion (Dist. Dhenkanal), Raghunathpur of Baripada (Dist. Mayurbhanj), Chhatrapur (Dist. Ganjam) Dayavihar College of Kanas (Dist. Puri), Khalar (Dist. Angul), Balabhadrapur PO : Dhenkanal, Bantala (Dist. Angul), Balipatna (Dist. Khurda).
20.	Punjab	2	Chounikalan (Hoshiyarpur), Patiala.
21.	Rajasthan	3	Udalpur, Bharatpur, Udalpur.

1	2	3	4
22.	Tamil Nadu	33	Tiruppattur, Samathuvapuram Village (Dist. Pudukkottai), Palaniappa Nagar (Dist. Pudukkottai) Trichi, Gombum Valley (Dist. Madurai), Wellington (Dist. Nilgiris), Omachikulam (Dist. Madurai), Thirmullaivoil (Distt. Chengai MGR), Shivgangai (Dist. Muthuramalinga Thever), Wadhwa Valli (Dist. Coimbatore), Valayathur (Dist. North Arcot Ambedkar), Jawaharpuram (Dist. Madurai), Velluthareddy (Dist. Villupuram) Shanmugapuram (Dist. Puzhal), T. Kalupati, Madurai, Tiruchengodu (Dist. Salem) Nallamanarkottai (Dist. Dindigul Anna), Tuticorin, Ponnuthu near Pannimadai Vill, (Dist. Coimbatore), Ramavaram (Dist. Chennai) Vikki-ramangalam (Dist. Madurai), Okkuppatti (Dist. Sivagangai), Campus of T.N. Agri. Univ. Kovilangulam (Dist. Virudhnagar), Kelambakkam (Dist. Kanchipuram), KK Nagar (Dist. Trichi), Karpagam (Dist. Coimbatore), Krishngiri (Dist. Dharampur), Coimbatore, Natrajapuram (Dist. Sivagangai), Thanxdiombu (Dist. Dindigul), Rajapalayam.
23.	Tripura	1	Agartala.
24.	Uttar Pradesh	67	Deoria, Allahabad, Ramgarh, Ramnagar, Amethi, Haldwani, Ghazipur, Hardoi, Allahabad, Lucknow, Merrut, Lucknow, Saharanpur, Lucknow, Sharanpur, Faizabad, Gorakhpur, Basti, Sitapur, Palla (Dist. Amethi), Sultanpur, Madhupur (Dist. Mirzapur), Illia (Dist. Varanasi), Chail (Dist. Allahabad) Autaurpur (Dist. Pratapgarh), Leansdown, Ranikhet, Bareilly, Fatehgarh, Lucknow, Faizabad, Lucknow, Dhoelamau (Dist. Pratapgarh), Ashokpur (Dist. Gonda), Phaphamau (Dist. Allahabad), Bhairabha (Dist. Sonbhadra), Lalgopalganj (Dist. Pratapgarh), Tankuhiraj (Dist. Padrauna), Kalakankar (Dist. Pratapgarh), Barl (Dist. Sitapur), Sirdo (Dist. Bhimtal), Lochanganj (Dist. Allahabad), Gauhania (Dist. Allahabad), Adarsh Nagar (Dist. Unnao), Kapsethi (Dist. Banaras), Kondhiara (Dist. Allahabad), Pratapgarh, Rae-Bareilly, Mau (Dist. Shanoji), Ashram Vihar (Dist. Pratapgarh), Devkali (Dist. Faizabad) Jamalpur (Dist. Sultanpur), Dodaaur (Dist. Rae-Bareilly), Haldwani, Varanasi, Lucknow, Saora-Bharose (Dist. Lucknow), Rae-Bareilly, Vikashpuram (Dist. Faizabad), Mohadpur of Malihabad (Dist. Lucknow), Sadarpur-Sadat (Dist. Gazipur), Loran (Dist. Varanasi), Bir-Qazi of Phulpur (Dist. Allahabad), Guleria of Amroha (Dist. Jyotiba Phule Nagar), Haldia (Dist. Allahabad), Lakawali (Dist. Agra), Bopara (Dist. Muzaffarnagar).
25.	West Bengal	13	Baruipur (Dist. South 24 Parganas), Makda, Howrah, Burdwan, Hattuba Gram (Dist. North 24 Parganas), Jhargram, Belpahari, South 24 Parganas, Ichapur, Kalyan of Vivekanand Nagar (Dist. Purulia), Kalagarchiya (Distt. South 24 Parganas), Sujapur (Distt. Makda), Krishnanagar (Dist. Sealdah).
Total		325	

Right to Raid

7948. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sought comments from various businessmen, associations in regard to the law relating to the right of police to raid the premises of Infotech firms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to make a law to curb misuse of Infotech networks;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (e) The Lok Sabha has passed the Information Technology Bill, 1999 on 16th May, 2000. The Bill empowers a police officer not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police and other officers of the Central Government or State Government authorised by Central Government in this behalf to enter in public place and search and arrest without warrant any person found therein who is reasonably suspected of having committed or being about to commit any offence under this Act. The Bill also provides penalties and compensations for misuse of Infotech networks. Copies of the Bill have been sent to all State Governments, High Courts, industries associations and IT companies in the country. The Bill is also available on the website of the Ministry of Information Technology. The comments received from different organisations and industries associations have been sent for the consideration of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology and Environment & Forest. The legislation when enacted would curb misuse of Infotech networks and prevent computer crime and computer misuse.

Audit of Kendriya Bhandar

7949. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government would get the Accounts of Kendriya Bhandar audited by CAG from 1993 onwards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The audit of Accounts of Kendriya Bhandar is conducted as per section 53 of Delhi Cooperative Societies Act, 1972 and Rule 84 of the Delhi Cooperative Societies Rules, 1973 as amended. According to these rules, the Statutory Auditor is appointed by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Delhi and annual audit is being conducted every year on regular basis.

Small and Marginal Farmers

7950. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes taken up by the Union Government for the benefit of small and marginal farmers, since the commencement of the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the Government have made any analysis of the benefits which accrued to these farmers as a result of these Schemes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have noticed shortcomings in the said Schemes; and

(e) the corrective steps taken/being taken to rectify the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) to (e) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing a variety of schemes, the benefits of which flow to all categories of farmers, including small and marginal farmers, in direct and indirect manner. It has not been possible to quantify/evaluate the impact of the Schemes on small and marginal farmers. Through regular monitoring of implementation of schemes, bottlenecks & lacunae are detected and resolved with appropriate corrective interventions.

Protection of Tobacco Farmers

7951. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether ICAR has played an active role in protecting the interest of tobacco farmers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has played an active role in protecting the interests of tobacco farmers within the area jurisdiction of its mandated operation. During the last 50 years the Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI), Rajahmundry under the aegis of ICAR has done commendable work in developing high yielding tobacco varieties and matching production and protection technologies resulting in economic upliftment of tobacco farmers. ICAR is giving full encouragement and sufficient funding for conducting various research activities on tobacco for the welfare of tobacco growers. As compared to VIII Plan (Rs. 465.39 lakhs under Plan and Rs. 2138.45 lakhs for Non-Plan) CTRI has been allocated Rs. 600.00 lakhs under Plan and Rs. 3640.00 lakhs under Non-Plan for the IXth Plan. For the All India Coordinated Research Project on Tobacco, Rs. 200.62 lakhs was sanctioned for VIIIth Plan which has been increased to Rs. 391.00 lakhs in the IXth Plan.

National Crop Forecasting Centre

7952. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a National Crop Forecasting Centre (NCFC) has been set up for periodical crop forecasting for major crops as also for coordination and assimilation of various methodologies and technical advancements relating to crop forecasting;

(b) if so, the details of work done by the Centre during the last one year; and

(c) the States linked on computer network by the Centre for rapid data flow in the mechanism of crop prospects tracking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the year, system of integrating diverse data sets and their analyses for real-time monitoring the prospects of mandated crops has been strengthened. These analyses are vital input in working out advance estimates of crop production released by the Government from time to time. The NCFC is the secretariat of the Crop Weather Watch Group (CWWG) in the Ministry of Agriculture, which meets every week to discuss various factors that have influence on crop scenario. "The Weekly Status of Crop Prospects" supports the

decision making process. "The Monthly Status of Agriculture", initiated by NCFC, provides consolidated accounts of various developments concerning agriculture. NCFC also coordinates with Department of Space for integrating the Remote Sensing technology in crop assessment. During the year, National Kharif Rice assessment using Remote Sensing for the year 1999 was done for the first time. Besides, the Remote Sensing based National Wheat Assessment for 1999-2000 was also done.

For rapid data flow from the States on the computer network, the State nodal agencies have been identified and provision has been made in the budget of 2000-2001, for providing computer facilities to these nodes.

Nandyal Water Scheme

7953. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether works on the Nandyal Water Scheme of Andhra Pradesh is progressing very slow;

(b) if so, the main reasons for delay; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to complete the schemes expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) No such matter has been reported by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Irrigation being a State subject, Irrigation Projects are executed by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities.

[Translation]

Industrial Training Institutes for Women

7954. SHRI RAJOSINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the year-wise details of the financial assistance provided to State Governments particularly to Government of Bihar for imparting industrial training to women especially in the backward areas during the last three years till date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaints of misuse of funds in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal to continue a monitoring group in this regard; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected from the concerned States and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Introduction of Bus Service Between Indian and China

7955. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government contemplate to introduce a bus service between India and China;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this bus service is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Technology Upgradation Fund

7956. SHRIDALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the department of small scale industries is planning to constitute the Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF);

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the period of operation of the scheme formulated by the department along with the subsidy to be provided by the small Scale Industrial Bank of India and the role to be played by the National Small Scale Industrial Development Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) A Scheme of Interest Support

for Technology Upgradation in the SSI Sector is under the active consideration of the Government.

Welfare Projects

7957. DR. BALRAM : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain welfare projects of Uttar Pradesh are pending with the Union Government for sanction at present;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of proposals lying pending due to non submission of the inspection report by the State Government;

(d) the financial assistance sought by the NGOs working in Uttar Pradesh;

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be sanctioned;

(f) the amount provided to NGOs working in Uttar Pradesh for welfare works during the last three years, year-wise; and

(g) whether the Government have made any provision for providing special assistance to those NGOs which are 25 to 50 years old and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) 116 projects of Uttar Pradesh are pending with the Union Government for approval at present.

(c) 84 are pending for want of inspection reports from the State Government.

(d) The financial assistance sought by NGOs in Uttar Pradesh are for welfare of disabled, pre-examination coaching for Other Backward Classes and Minorities, old age homes, vocational training, voluntary organisations working for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes, street children and social defence.

(e) There is no specified time for sanctioning of projects. The time taken for disposal of applications depends upon the receipt of complete documents, recommendations of the designated authorities and established need for the project in the area where it is proposed to be set up.

(f) The amount provided to NGOs during the last three years for welfare works in Uttar Pradesh, year-wise, is as under :-

(Rs. in lakhs)	
Year	Amount
1997-98	0802.83
1998-99	1724.79
1999-2000	2939.22

(g) No, Sir.

[English]

Modernisation of Irrigation Projects

7958. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have sent proposals for modernisation of irrigation projects;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to clear these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) State-wise details of 37 proposals for modernisation of irrigation projects sent by the State Governments alongwith their present status of appraisal is given in the enclosed statement. Clearance of these proposals depends upon compliance of observation of the various central appraising agencies by the concerned State Government.

Statement

Sl. No	Name of Project	State	Major/ Medium	Estimated Cost (Rs. Crores)	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Krishna Delta System Mod.	Andhra Pradesh	Major	659.16	B
2.	Modernisation of Machchu-I	Gujarat	Major	8.12	B
3.	Proposal for construction and Extension of Minor (RIDF-I)	Haryana	Major	60.08	A
4.	Proposal for cons. & Extn. of minors and flood protection woks (RIDF-II)	Haryana	Major	81.00	A
5.	Mod. of Dadi Canal	J&K	Medium	10.91	A
6.	Mod. of New Pratap Canal	J&K	Medium	10.94	A
7.	Mod. of Kathua Canal	J&K	Medium	12.00	A
8.	Mod. of Zaingir Canal	J&K	Medium	10.07	A
9.	Mod. of Nandi Canal	J&K	Medium	6.61	A
10.	Mod. of Lar Canal (Pulwama)	J&K	Medium	37.05	A
11.	Mod. of Ahji Canal	J&K	Medium	7.96	A
12.	Mod. of Lar Canal (Budgam)	J&K	Medium	6.63	A
13.	Mod. of Sonaman Canal	J&K	Medium	4.58	A
14.	Mod. of Mavkhul	J&K	Medium	7.00	A
15.	Mod. of Martand Canal	J&K	Medium	17.72	A
16.	Remod. of Dab Canal Ganderbal	J&K	Medium	5.40	A
17.	Modernisation of Babul Canal	J&K	Medium	4.77	A

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Madhya Pradesh WRC Project	M.P.	Major	441.90	A
19.	Upper Indravati Ext. Project	Orissa	Major	136.67	B
20.	Upper Kolab Extension Project	Orissa	Major	71.66	B
21.	Improvement of Salki Irr. Project	Orissa	Major	10.80	A
22.	Improvement of Taladanda Main Canal and Distributory No. 12	Orissa	Major	57.06	A
23.	Improvement of Sason Canal System of Hirakud distribution system	Orissa	Major	33.14	A
24.	Drainage Development (Ph-I) in Mahanadi delta Stage-I&II	Orissa	Major	227.75	A
25.	Raising Lining of Bhakra Main Canal	Punjab	Major	16.02	A
26.	Kandi Canal Extension from Hoshiarpur to Balachaur	Punjab	Major	147.12	B
27.	Remodelling of Channels Upper Bari Doab Canal System	Punjab	Major	154.00	B
28.	Mod. & Ext. of Badahabi Canal	Punjab	Medium	11.77	A
29.	Punjab Irrigation Project (Lining of Channels) Under RIDF fund	Punjab	Medium	49.02	A
30.	Modernisation of Gang Canal	Rajasthan	Major	450.04	A
31.	Indira Gandhi Nahar Stage-I (ERM)	Rajasthan	Major	121.92	B
32.	Mod. of Cauvery delta Phase-I	Tamil Nadu	Major	78.80	B
33.	Raising of Meja Dam	Uttar Pradesh	Major	65.0	B
34.	Lining of Channels in Bundelkhand	Uttar Pradesh	Major	57.37	B
35.	Modernisation of Agra Canal	Uttar Pradesh	Major	45.83	A
36.	Increasing Capacity of Bhupali Pump Canal	Uttar Pradesh	Major	64.86	A
37.	Mod. of Kangsabati Res. (Phase-I)	West Bengal	Major	471.90	A

STATUS :

- A Under Correspondence.
 B Put up to Advisory Committee & accepted subject to observations.
 C Deferred by Advisory Committee.
 D Pending with Planning Commission for Investment Clearance.

Schemes for Disabled Persons

7959. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have introduced a revised Scheme entitled "Scheme to promote voluntary action for persons with disabilities" with effect from January 20, 1999;

(b) if so, the objectives of the Scheme;

(c) whether any proposals have been received by the Government from NGOs during the year 1999-2000 in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and assistance being extended to the organisations involved therein, location-wise;

(e) if not, the reasons for not considering/supporting 'Survey, Research, Legal Counselling/Aid and Manpower Development, activities and setting up of Resource Centres, etc.; and

(f) measures being taken to overcome the late processing/irregular processing of applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities was effectively put into operation from 1st April, 1999. The objectives of the Schemes are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Proposals have been received from a number of organisations seeking assistance for various objectives listed in the Scheme. The details of assistance given State-wise during the year 1999-2000 are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(e) and (f) All proposals including the ones on Survey Research Legal Counselling/Aid and Man Power Development Activities etc. that are complete in all respects are examined within the framework of the norms and guidelines laid down under the scheme and are considered for sanction on merits.

Statement-I

The Objective of the Scheme :

- To ensure effective implementation of the Act.
- To encourage voluntary action.
- To create enabling environment.
- To ensure equal opportunities, equity and social justice to persons with disabilities.
- To empower persons with disabilities
- To implement outreach and comprehensive Community-Based Rehabilitation programmes in urban and rural environments.
- To enhance education opportunities at all level and in all forms.
- To enlarge the scope of vocational and professional opportunities, income generation and gainful occupations.
- To support all such measures as may be necessary for promoting formal as well as non-formal employment and placement opportunities.
- To support people with disabilities in projects which are environment friendly and eco promotive.
- To support efforts to ensure protection of human, civil and consumer rights to persons with disabilities.
- To support legal literacy, including legal counseling, legal aid and analysis and evaluation of existing laws.
- To support the development publication and dissemination of information documentation and training materials.
- To support the conduct of surveys and other forms of epidemiological studies.
- To support (a) construction and maintenance of building, (b) furniture and fixtures, and (c) installation and maintenance of machinery and equipments.
- To support and facilitate the availability of appropriate housing homes and hostel facilities.
- To establish the support facilities for sport, recreation, leisure-time activities, excursions, creative and performing arts, cultural and socially inclusive activities.
- To promote research in various development areas, innovative strategies, assistive devices and enabling technologies and support production of such devices ensuring quality control.
- To support manpower development activities to train required personnel at different levels for all programmes/projects/activities for persons with disabilities.
- To set up well equipped resource centres at different levels.
- To promote and support the development of self-help groups, parent organisations and independent living.
- To encourage coordination, cooperation and networking and multisectoral linkages.
- To support such other measures, which may meet the needs of the persons with disability and fulfil the obligations as prescribed in Disability Act, 1995.

Statement-II

Andhra Pradesh	12.08
Arunachal Pradesh	0.13
Assam	0.28
Bihar	0.60
Chandigarh	0.01
Delhi (including Army Welfare Society)	6.79
Goa	0.18
Gujarat	0.75
Haryana	0.58
Himachal Pradesh	0.32
Jammu & Kashmir	0.09
Karnataka	5.72
Kerala	4.42
Madhya Pradesh	0.17
Maharashtra	2.64
Manipur	0.57
Meghalaya	0.17
Mizoram	0.25
Orissa	1.94
Pondicherry	0.01
Punjab	0.65
Rajasthan	0.88
Tamil Nadu	3.26
Tripura	0.07
Uttar Pradesh	7.72
West Bengal	3.66

Banned Pesticides/Insecticides

7960. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the use of many pesticides and insecticides banned for agricultural use in other countries is acting against the interest of the Indian exports; and

(b) If so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) Sir, agricultural products having pesticide residues, beyond the limits prescribed by some countries, are rejected by such importing countries affecting our agricultural exports.

(b) The Government has taken various steps in this regard as under :-

- (i) The pesticides which are banned for agricultural use in other countries are reviewed by the Government through Expert Committee from time to time. Based on the recommendations of these Committees, the Government have banned 23 pesticides for use in the country.
- (ii) The State Governments have been advised from time to time to ensure through the notified functionaries under the Insecticides Act, 1968, that the banned pesticides are not sold/used in agriculture.
- (iii) Regular training programmes at the major export-oriented centres are organised to create awareness among the farmers, traders and exporters for reducing the use of chemical pesticides and need for observance of Good Agricultural and Sanitation Practices.
- (iv) A number of bio-pesticides and bio-control agents which are safer, easily bio-degradable and are not known to cause residue problems, are being promoted through Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to minimise the use of chemical pesticides.
- (v) The State Governments/State Agricultural Universities through their extension functionaries impart training to educate the farmers to follow instructions given on the labels/leaflets about the dose, time of application, method of application and observance of safety intervals so that the residues of pesticides in agricultural commodities remain at the minimum.

Appointment of SC/ST Officers as Ambassadors/High Commissioners

7961. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR :

SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINAGI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'SC/ST Parliamentarians' in the representations submitted to the Prime Minister on December 17, 1996, September 1, 1997 and July 23, 1998 have demanded placement of SCs/STs Officers as Ambassadors/ High Commissioners/Heads of Indian Diplomatic Missions abroad;

(b) if so, whether the action has been taken thereon;

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

(d) the number of posts of Indian Ambassadors/ High Commissioners/Heads of Indian Diplomatic Missions abroad and the number of persons belonging to the SCs/ STs working against such posts as on January 1, 1996 and January 1, 2000; and

(e) the percentage of SCs/STs officers occupying the posts mentioned above as compared to the total posts as on January 1, 1996 and January 1, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The representations were forwarded by the Prime Minister's Office to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to be followed up by them with the other Ministries/Departments of the Government of India for implementation.

(d) The total number of Indian Missions/Posts functioning abroad on 1.1.1996 was 152 and on 1.1.2000 was 157. The number of persons belonging to the SC/ST category working against these posts on 1.1.1996 was [SC-18; ST-7] and on 1.1.2000 was 22 [SC-13; ST-9].

(e) The percentage of SCs/STs officers occupying the posts mentioned above as compared to the total posts as on January 1, 1996 was SCs-12% and STs-5% and on January 1, 2000 was SCs-8% & STs-6%.

Public Issue of CMC

7962. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have postponed the public issue of the CMC Limited at the last moment;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether inspite of share market prices of all the infotech companies are going up, the shares of CMC has remained the same;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to conduct any inquiry in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) CMC Ltd. had made a proposal for additional funds in the context of its expansion plan during the period 1997-02. In the absence of budgetary support from the Government, the Company requested for raising the funds from the market by enhancing its equity base. This was considered and agreed to. However, before taking a final decision on the method of raising the equity, CMC was asked to submit details/calculations of different options for raising the equity after weighing the pros and cons. The earlier Investment Plan finalised by the company in March 1998 was based on the then prevailing market conditions. Since then substantial changes had taken place in the capital market and there are fresh openings in the areas such as E-Commerce and E-Governance. The company was in these circumstances asked to firm up its future business plan and submit the proposal for actual fund requirement to decide the size of the issue. Pending submission of these details and formal approval of the Government, the company was advised not to take up the matter regarding raising the additional equity which they proposed to discuss/consider in its Extraordinary General Meeting scheduled for 20.1.2000.

(c) and (d) The market price of shares is purely a function of market forces and as such no specific reason can be attributed to volatility in share prices of IT companies. One of the factors in deciding the market price is the availability of the floating stock of the Company for trading. At present about 8% of CMC equity is available to the public. So far as CMC is concerned, its share price too has fluctuated between Rs. 287-873 during the last one year.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Centrally Sponsored Scheme Under Cooperative Sector

7963. SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes Implemented/proposed to be implemented under Cooperative Sector;

(b) the number of new schemes to be implemented during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to enhance the premium rate per person per year under Janta Personal Accident Insurance Scheme for Labour Cooperatives; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANARAO):

(a) Following five Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented in Cooperative Sector;

- (1) Assistance for Cooperative Marketing, Processing and Storage programmes in Cooperatively Underdeveloped States and Union Territories.
- (2) Share Capital Participation in Cooperative Sugar Mills.
- (3) Assistance for growers' Cooperative Spinning Mills.
- (4) Assistance to Weaker Section Cooperatives.
- (5) Assistance to Women Cooperatives.

(b) Following new schemes are under consideration for implementation during the Ninth Five Year Plan:

1. Janta Personal Accident Insurance Scheme for Labour Cooperatives.
2. Development of Wool Processing and Industrial Cooperatives.
3. Annual Collection, compilation and Dissemination of Cooperative Statistics all over the country.

(c) and (d) Initially, the oriental Insurance Company agreed to a premium rate of Rs. 5.25 per person per year under Janta Personal Accident Insurance Scheme for Labour Cooperatives. Now the Insurance Company has proposed to enhance the rate of Rs. 9.75 per person per year. The issue of upward revision of premium rate is being sorted out in consultation with the Insurance Company and Ministry of Labour.

Educational Facilities to Child Labour

7964. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aiding or sponsoring any schemes for providing educational facilities for child labour in the country through Non-Government Organisations or otherwise;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the salaries or stipends paid to teachers and other workers under the scheme;

(c) whether there are demands to raise the salaries/ stipends to a reasonable degree to the minimum needs of such teachers and workers; and

(d) if so, the final decision taken by the Government in raising the salaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) :

(a) The Government of India has been implementing two schemes for rehabilitation of Children withdrawn from work, namely the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) and the scheme of Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations. The scheme of National Child Labour Projects is implemented through District Child Labour Project Societies set up under the Chairmanship of the District Collector/Magistrate. 92 NCLPs are currently under implementation in 10 Child Labour endemic states for rehabilitation of 1.9 lakh children. Under the Scheme of Grant-in-Aid (G.I.A.), funds are released to Voluntary Organisations, on the recommendation of the concerned State Government, for taking up action oriented projects for the benefit of working children. Over 70 projects are under implementation under the Scheme of Grant-in-Aid.

(b) Under the Scheme of NCLP, Volunteers imparting Educational and Vocational Instructions in the Special schools/rehabilitation centres are paid an honorarium of Rs. 800/- per month. Clerk-cum-typist-accountant and Peon of the special schools/rehabilitation centres are paid Rs. 800/- and Rs. 400/- p.m. (consolidated honorarium) respectively. Under the Grant-in-Aid scheme to Voluntary Organisations, salaries are paid by the Organisation on the basis of approvals accorded by the G.I.A Committee.

(c) and (d) There has been demand for increase of salaries of staff working under the scheme of NCLP. An increase in the model budget for special schools/rehabilitation centres for child labour under NCLP scheme is envisaged. The proposed increase, inter-alia, includes, increase in honorarium to volunteers and other project functionaries and for office support expenses.

Mother Friendly Workplace

7965. SHRI RASHID ALVI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mother Friendly Workplace initiative was launched in 1993;

(b) if so, the details of the programme;

(c) the States covered by the programme so far;

(d) the number of women workers, State-wise;

(e) the training/programmes launched by the Government to boost this scheme;

(f) whether Government propose to telecast programmes in the regional languages; and

(g) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) and (e) to (g) As per available information, no such scheme was launched by the Government.

(d) A statement showing the number of female workers State-wise, is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise Number of Female Workers (1991 Census)

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	No. of Workers
1	2	3
INDIA		89,767,563
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11,252,643
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	149,789
3.	Assam	2,324,535
4.	Bihar	6,116,974
5.	Goa	117,977
6.	Gujarat	5,180,886
7.	Haryana	821,299
8.	Himachal Pradesh	888,985
9.	Karnataka	6,472,816
10.	Kerala	2,347,268
11.	Madhya Pradesh	10,430,890
12.	Maharashtra	12,617,454
13.	Manipur	350,134
14.	Meghalaya	302,853
15.	Mizoram	143,964
16.	Nagaland	215,722
17.	Orissa	3,241,991

1	2	3
18.	Punjab	418,646
19.	Rajasthan	5,744,129
20.	Sikkim	57,790
21.	Tamil nadu	8,236,872
22.	Tripura	184,333
23.	Uttar Pradesh	8,019,310
24.	West Bengal	3,662,855
25.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	16,584
26.	Chandigarh	29,443
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	32,944
28.	Daman & Diu	11,584
29.	Delhi	314,076
30.	Lakshadweep	1,906
31.	Pondicherry	60,911

Note : - Census was not held in Jammu & Kashmir in 1991

[Translation]

Bus Service between Agartala and Dhaka

7966. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the neighbouring countries alongwith the destinations from where the bus services are being made available as on date;

(b) whether a bus service from Agartala to Dhaka is proposed to be introduced;

(c) If so, the details thereof;

(d) the progress made so far in this regard; and

(e) the time by which this service is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Passenger bus services are available between Calcutta-Dhaka (Bangladesh) and New Delhi-Lahore (Pakistan) under

agreements with the Government of Bangladesh and the Government of Pakistan respectively. However, there are also bus services which ply between India-Bhutan & India-Nepal on Ad-hoc basis.

(b) to (e) During the visit of the Minister of State for external Affairs to Bangladesh in January, 2000, it was agreed that a bus service between Agartala and Dhaka would be started, the modalities for which will be worked out by the two countries. A bilateral meeting to work out the modalities for operationalising the Agartala-Dhaka bus service is being scheduled.

[English]

Construction of a Dam

7967. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to intervene and advise the State Government of Karnataka to refrain from undertaking the construction of proposed dam across the river Chitravati in Karnataka;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have issued any instruction to the State Government of Karnataka in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has requested Union Minister of Water Resources to advise the Government of Karnataka to restrain from undertaking construction of the proposed anicut and the immediately furnish a copy of the project report to Andhra Pradesh and not to take up construction of any work on the river without obtaining prior concurrence of Andhra Pradesh in terms of 1892 agreement,

(b) to (d) State Government of Karnataka has been requested by Chairman, Central Water Commission on 03.04.2000 to furnish details of the project to Andhra Pradesh in terms of 1892 Agreement.

[Translation]

Promotion of Agro Products

7968. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to increase its share in the international agricultural produce market;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to make changes in its domestic agricultural policy keeping in view of the initiation of free trade in the international agro product market;

(c) whether the Government propose to raise demand about lifting of protective duty or non-duty sanctions imposed by the developed countries so as to boost exports of agro products from the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) The steps taken/being taken to boost the export of agricultural produce and products include the following :

1. Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical know-how of farmers through demonstration, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers;
2. Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control and modernisation of processing units;
3. Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for eliminating pest incubation in the product, especially in mangoes for gaining greater access to overseas markets;
4. Grant of Air Freight Subsidy for exports of floricultural items and select fresh fruits and vegetables;
5. Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions;
6. Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling exports of perishable items such as flowers, fresh fruits and vegetables;

7. Providing assistance for development of data base and dissemination of market information;
8. Providing assistance for setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, eliminating contamination and ensuring freedom from fungi and bacteria.

(b) Efforts are being made on a continuous basis through various programmes and policies to increase agricultural production and productivity for meeting domestic demand as well as for generating surpluses for exports.

(c) and (d) As per the mandate of article 20 of the W.T.O. Agreement on Agriculture, negotiations to further reform international trade in agricultural products have commenced this year. One of the main issues which India is to highlight is the high tariffs prevalent in certain developed country trading partners on items of export interest to developing countries including India. The substantial scaling down of high tariff peaks and reduction in tariff escalation which affects value added agro-products exports is high on India's agenda for the ongoing negotiations on the Agreement on Agriculture.

It has also been observed that certain developed countries apply non-tariff barriers on agro exports in the form of sanitary and phyto sanitary standards, which are sometimes beyond the international norms, without adequate scientific justification. India has been consistently highlighting this problem and will continue to do so in the relevant multilateral fora as well as during the negotiations on the Agreement on Agriculture.

Recognition of SC/ST Employees Organisations

7969. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to accord departmental recognition to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes Organisations;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of representations received by the Government in this regard so far;

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon; and

(e) the time by which these organisations are likely to be accorded departmental recognition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT

OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (e) Recognition of Service Associations of Central Government employees is regulated under the Central Civil Services (Recognition of Service Associations) Rules, 1993 which inter alia provide that membership of Service Associations shall be restricted to 'distinct category' of Government servants having common interest and that such associations shall not be formed on the basis of any caste, tribe or religious denomination or any group within or section of such caste, tribe or religious denomination.

Though representations are received in this regard separate Associations of SC/ST Employees are not being considered for recognition under these Rules in the interest of unified Civil Service.

[English]

Release of Fishermen from Pak Captivity

7970. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLBHBHAI PATEL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of fishermen released by Pakistan recently;

(b) whether a number of fishermen are still languishing in Pak jails;

(c) if so, since when they are in Pak captivity;

(d) the succour being provided to the families of such fishermen; and

(e) the efforts being made to secure their release?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (e) 22 Indian fishermen were repatriated to India on April 23, 2000 following their release on the night of April 22-23, 2000.

According to available information, 112 Indian fishermen are held in Pakistani custody. These fishermen were apprehended by the Pakistani Maritime Security Agency during the period October, 1999 to January, 2000.

Government is in continuous contact with Pakistan through diplomatic channels for securing the earliest release and repatriation of these fishermen.

[Translation]

Funds for Centrally Sponsored Schemes

7971. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the Centrally Sponsored Schemes launched during the last three years and current year;

(b) whether the Government have released funds to the concerned States under Employment Assurance Scheme and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes;

(c) If not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have chalked out any effective policy to release the funds to each State under the above said schemes for their timely implementation; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Statement is enclosed.

(b) Funds for Centrally Sponsored Schemes are released by the concerned Central Ministries/Departments as stipulated in the guidelines for implementation of each Scheme. The Government has been regularly releasing funds to States under Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS).

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) To monitor the Implementation of these schemes, and the timely release to funds to each State, Planning Commission, inter-alia, participate in the Quarterly Performance Review Meetings convened by the concerned Central Ministries/Departments.

Statement

Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) approved by the Cabinet/full Planning Commission during 1997-98 to 1999-2000.

1997-98

NIL

1998-1999

1. Rural Women's Development and Empowerment Project of the Department of Women and Child Development.

2. Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Taj Protection Mission of the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MOEF).

3. Pre-Matric Scholarship for the OBC Boys and Girls of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

4. Post-Matric Scholarship for the OBC Boys and Girls of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

5. Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

6. Residential Schools for OBC Boys and Girls of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

7. Strengthening of the District Rural Development Agencies to be named "DRDA Administration" a new CSS of Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment.

8. Continuation and Revision of the CSS "Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment" of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

9. Technology Mission for Cotton Development of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

10. National Resource Centre for Women (NRCW) of Department of Women and Child Development. *(Yet to be launched)*

11. Central Assistance to the State Poultry/Duck Farms during the Ninth Plan of Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying.

12. Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme.

13. Central Interest Subsidy Scheme.

1999-2000

1. "Upgrading Existing Polytechnics to Integrate the Physically Disabled in the Mainstream of Technical and Vocational Education" of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education).

2. A new 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) titled "Annapurna" for the benefit of Indigent Senior Citizens (sponsored by the Ministry of Rural Development) during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

3. A Scheme called Balika Samridhi Yojana started as Central Sector Scheme in 1997-98 was converted into Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the approval of the Cabinet.
4. Central Comprehensive Insurance Scheme.

2000-01

1. "National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding" during the Ninth Plan of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Agriculture.

[English]

National Minerals Development Corporation

7972. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the profit or loss as shown in the balance sheet of National Minerals Development Corporation during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) the amount proposed to be earmarked by the Government for the above Corporation during 2000-2001; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to make the above Corporation profit making?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The profit before tax for the year 1998-99 was Rs. 171.99 crore and the estimated profit (pending Audit) for the year 1999-2000 is Rs. 206.84 crores before tax.

(b) No budgetary support is proposed by Govt. of India during 2000-2001 to NMDC.

(c) NMDC is making profits consistently over the last many years and paying 25% dividend to Govt. of India.

Production of Fruit and Vegetable

7973. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAI SI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the name of largest fruit and vegetable producing country;

(b) India's place in regard to production of fruit and vegetable at present in the world;

(c) whether a large quantity of fruit and vegetable get perished due to non-availability of storage facilities and packaging material in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of countries to whom India is exporting fruit and vegetable alongwith average annual production in India and percentage of exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) As per FAQ Yearbook, 1998, China is the largest fruit and vegetable producing country in the world.

(b) India is the 2nd largest producer of fruits and vegetables after China in the world.

(c) and (d) An average loss of about 25% has been assessed though the range varies between 8% to 37% in various crops during post harvest management including storage facilities and packaging material in fruit and vegetables.

(e) India is exporting fruit and vegetable in about 119 countries during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98. The annual average production of fruits and vegetables during 1996-97 to 1998-99 was 42.48 million tonnes and 78.01 million tonnes respectively. The percentage of exports of fruits and vegetables was 0.37 and 0.58 per cent during the above period.

[Translation]

Safety Measures for Mine Workers

7974. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken by the Government for the safety and welfare of the workers in the diamond mines and stone quarry;

(b) the utilisation of the fund for the safety and welfare of the workers during each of the last three years indicating the number of workers benefited therefrom, State-wise;

(c) the number of workers killed in the mine/quarry accidents during 1998 and 1999; and

(d) the assistance provided by the Government to their families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Provisions for safety of persons employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952, and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. The safety laws are kept under constant review and amended from time to time. The Directorate General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the management

for improving safety measures. These provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety inspect the mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance with the safety provisions, and to take action as provided for under the Mines Act, 1952, in case of default.

Besides the legislative measures, the Government is promoting a number of other initiatives, such as :-

1. Conference on safety in mines.
2. Self-regulation by management.
3. Worker's participation in safety management.
4. Tripartite and Bipartite reviews at various levels.
5. Training of work persons.
6. Observations of safety weeks and safety campaigns.
7. National Safety Awards.

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

(c) The number of workers killed in the mines/quarry accidents during 1998 and 1999 are as under :-

	1998	1999*
Diamond mines	0	2
Stone mines	6	6
Total	6	8

*Provisional

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

[English]

Regional Imbalance

7975. SHRIBHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry are assessing the reasons for regional imbalances in Orissa;

(b) If so, the study conducted on the regional imbalances of North, South and Central Orissa during the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the findings of the study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (c) Planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose are primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Hence, Planning Commission has not conducted any particular study of regional imbalances in Orissa.

However, to deal with the basic problems of the undivided districts of Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi (KBK) in Orissa a Long Term Action Plan was launched in 1995 for the development of these districts. Thereafter, to ensure better focus on high priority schemes which would deal with the basic problems of these districts, the Government of Orissa was asked to prepare a revised plan. The Revised Long Term Action Plan (1998-99 to 2006-07) consists of Central Plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes in various sectors, namely agriculture, horticulture, watershed development, afforestation, irrigation, health, drinking water, emergency feeding, welfare of SCs/STs and rural connectivity.

Recurring droughts and weak administration resulting in slow implementation of schemes, besides certain policies followed by the State Government are among the reasons for the continued affliction of these pockets with abject poverty. Efforts are being made to mitigate the endemic poverty of this region through a three-pronged approach : (i) Drought - proofing through watershed development, afforestation and extension of irrigation facilities; (ii) A more responsive administration, and (iii) A change in some of the policies of the State Government related to non-timber forest produce, land acquisition, restoration of alienated land and autonomy to village panchayats in financial matters.

Houses for Beedi Workers

7976. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses constructed for beedi workers in each State under the Integrated Housing Scheme for Beedi workers since the inception of the scheme till March, 2000 also indicating the number of dwelling units proposed to be constructed by each State during 2001;

(b) the number of units constructed individually, through cooperatives and otherwise; and

(c) the number of houseless beedi workers, State-wise; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The Integrated Housing

Scheme for beedi workers was introduced w.e.f. 14th June, 1999, after merging all the three existing separate Housing Schemes. Construction of houses being a continuous and on-going process, the figures of houses sanctioned/constructed for beedi workers in various States belonging to the period from inception till March, 2000 are :

State	Component of the Housing Scheme		No. of proposals received for construction of houses for beedi workers in various States during 2000-2001
	Houses sanctioned/constructed by State Govt. under EWS till March, 2000	Houses sanctioned/constructed by individual beedi workers under BYOHS till March, 2000	
Andhra Pradesh	40,063	1617	10,000
Tamil Nadu	298	175	3,000
Maharashtra	5354	137	10,000
UP	--	210	21
Orissa	100	4626	400
West Bengal	--	1358	175
Assam	--	352	25
Tripura	--	12	--
Rajasthan	150	25	--
Gujarat	173	25	61
Karnataka	2816	88	25
Kerala	--	3432	150
Madhya Pradesh	3642	32	7167

Statistics regarding number of houseless beedi workers is not maintained.

Export Potential in Horticulture

7977. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Exim Bank of India recently conducted a study to assess the export potential of the country in horticultural crops;

(b) if so, outcome of the study; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to remove the hurdles coming in way to increase the export of horticultural products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) Export-Import Bank of India has not conducted any study on the export potential of horticultural crops. However, it had brought out an Occasional Paper on "Floriculture : A Sector Study", in July, 1996.

(b) The Paper by the Export-Import Bank of India provides an analysis of future prospects of floriculture and contains recommendations relating to strategies for developing floriculture exports.

(c) The steps taken/being taken to boost export of horticulture/floriculture products include :

(i) Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting

material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers.

- (ii) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control and modernisation of processing units.
- (iii) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for eliminating pest incubation in the product especially mangoes, for gaining access to overseas markets.
- (iv) Grant of Air Freight Subsidy for exports of floriculture items and select fresh fruits and vegetables.
- (v) Arranging promotional campaigns, such as, buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.
- (vi) Setting-up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various international Airports for handling export of perishable items such as flowers, fresh fruits and vegetables.
- (vii) Assistance for development of data base and dissemination of market information.
- (viii) Providing assistance for setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, eliminating contamination and ensuring freedom from fungi and bacteria.

Modernisation of R.S.P.

7978. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have reviewed the programmes implemented for the modernization of Rourkela Steel Plant;
- (b) If so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) the amount spent on modernization of RSP as on date;
- (c) whether the performance of Steel Plant has improved as result of the modernization; and
- (e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) The Modernisation of Rourkela

Steel Plant (RSP) has been progressively completed by November, 1999. The performance of the plant as a whole and of the modernised units in particular is reviewed by the government periodically while reviewing the performance of SAIL.

(c) The amount spent on modernisation of RSP as on April 2000 is Rs. 4,469.18 crore.

(d) and (e) The aim of the modernisation was to reduce old and obsolete technology, overcome production bottlenecks, improve productivity, conserve energy and attain higher level of production. After modernisation the performance of RSP in terms of techno-economic parameters i.e. blast furnace productivity, coke rate and energy consumption as well as quality of products has shown significant improvement. Also the production through ingot route has been completely phased out and 100% production is being done through continuous casting route. In so far as the performance of the plant in quantitative terms is concerned, despite the modernised facilities having become available, the production of RSP had to be regulated due to sluggish market conditions and one Blast Furnace was shut down during 1999-2000.

[Translation]

Review of National SC/ST Commission

7979. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have ever reviewed the functioning of the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission in the last three years;
- (b) If so, the findings thereof and the number of the cases pending for the last three years in the above Commission; and
- (c) steps taken by the Government for effective functioning of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been set up under Article 338 of the Constitution. As per provision under clause 6 of Article 338, the Commission submits reports, which are processed by Government and are laid in the Parliament.

[English]

Production of Steel

7980. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the target fixed and achieved in steel production in the country during Eighth Five Year Plan periods;

(b) whether the production of steel has declined during the above period;

(c) If so, reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to increase production of steel in Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(e) If so, the steps, taken/proposed to be taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The actual crude steel production in 1994-95, the terminal year for original VIII Five Year Plan was 19.77 million tonnes as against the estimated production of 24.92 million tonnes assessed by the Working Group on Iron and Steel for the VIII Five Year Plan set up by Planning Commission.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) and (e) As per the projections made by the Working Group on Iron and Steel for the IX Five Year Plan, set up by Planning Commission, the production of finished steel will reach 38.01 million tonnes by 2001-02, the terminal year of IX Five Year Plan. To help the industry achieve target, Government has taken several steps to boost the demand for steel which inter-alia include :-

- Orienting product-mix to suit the market requirements and adjusting Production in tune with change in the market demand.
- Developing and nourishing long term customers relationship by entering into MOUs supply arrangement with the customers.
- A 'Steel Exporters Forum' has been set up to help steel exporters to overcome bottlenecks in exports.
- To boost the demand and consumption of steel, the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel (DCI&S) has launched a National Campaign for increasing the demand for steel especially in non-traditional sectors such as rural and agro based industrial sector.
- Rationalisation of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for steel Exports have been carried out to boost exports.
- An Empowered Committee has been set up to examine and assist specific Research and

Development Projects to improve technology for steel making & enhance quality of Indian Steel.

Joint Ventures in SSI Sector

7981. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish joint ventures with the British Government in the field of SSI Sector;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken in this direction; and

(d) the extent to which SSI in India is likely to be benefited as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) The Government of India and United Kingdom have agreed to strengthen the ongoing economic and commercial interaction through various measures including forging linkages between the small and medium enterprises of both countries. As a part of these efforts, a "Global Enterprise Initiative" has been launched to assist small and medium enterprises of India and the UK in developing partnerships. The cooperation between the SMEs of the two countries is expected to be beneficial in the areas of technology transfer & promotion of joint ventures etc.

[Translation]

ESI Scheme

7982. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industrial workers covered by the Employees State Insurance Scheme in the country particularly in Rajasthan alongwith the percentage increase in the number of employees during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of hospitals and dispensaries of ESI functioning in Rajasthan as on date alongwith the number of workers being benefited from these dispensaries and hospitals;

(c) the number of hospitals and dispensaries proposed to be opened during the year 2000, location-wise;

(d) whether the Government contemplate to modernise and upgrade the ESI dispensaries and hospitals in the country particularly in Rajasthan;

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

(f) whether the sufficient staff is provided in these dispensaries and hospitals; and

(g) the number of posts lying vacant in the above said hospitals and dispensaries and the time by which these would be filled, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) In March, 1999 there were 80.85 Lakh employees covered under the ESI Scheme as against 66.13 Lakh in March, 1996 marking an increase in coverage to the extent of 22.26%. The information about coverage of the ESI State-wise as on 31.3.99 is given in enclosed statement-I.

(b) There are at present 4 ESI hospitals and 63 dispensaries established for providing medical care and treatment to 2.92 lakh employees and their families in Rajasthan.

(c) There is no proposal to open a new ESI hospital/dispensary during the year 2000 in Rajasthan.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. In order to bring improvement in working of ESI hospitals/dispensaries, the ESI Corporation has recently formulated an Action Plan and forwarded the same to the State Governments for implementation in consultation with the ESIC. The Action Plan includes inter-alia upgradation/modernisation of medical facilities in ESI hospitals by providing them equipments of ultrasonography, pulse oximeter, auto analyzer, semi-auto analyzer, cardiac monitor, dental unit, resuscitation equipments etc. Under the Action Plan, the proposals for modernisation of ESI hospitals are required to be submitted by the State Governments/UT administrations. The ESI Corporation has already considered and approved provision of modern equipments in respect of 112 ESI hospitals in 14 States/Union Territories. As details of equipments provided by the ESIC hospital-wise are quite large, it is somewhat difficult to furnish individual details in this regard. The ESI Corporation has already sanctioned certain equipments for modernising three ESI hospitals and 61 dispensaries in Rajasthan.

(f) and (g) Statement-II showing vacancies in medical, para medical and other posts is enclosed. Except in Delhi and NOIDA the ESI hospitals/dispensaries are being run by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Accordingly the ESIC has requested the concerned State

Governments to fill the vacant posts. As action in this regard is required to be taken by the State Governments, it is difficult to indicate the time by which these posts would be filled.

Statement-I

Number of employees covered under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme as on 31.3.1999, State-wise

State/Area	No. of employees covered
Andhra Pradesh	4,74,100
Assam & Meghalaya	38,000
Bihar	1,70,850
Chandigarh	28,350
Delhi	5,43,250
Goa	70,800
Gujarat	5,48,100
Haryana	3,56,300
Himachal Pradesh	48,600
Jammu & Kashmir	17,450
Karnataka	6,27,400
Kerala & Mahe	3,78,950
Madhya Pradesh	2,36,000
Maharashtra	13,81,200
Orissa	1,29,050
Pondicherry	39,750
Punjab	4,00,200
Rajasthan	2,92,250
Tamil Nadu	10,52,850
Uttar Pradesh	5,14,750
West Bengal	7,37,000
All India	80,85,200

Statement-II

Number of posts lying vacant in various ESI Institutions, State/Region wise

S.No.	Name of State/Region	Posts Vacant		
		Medical	Para-Medical	Others
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	145	264	299
2.	Assam	10	22	2

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bihar	43	271	--
4.	Chandigarh Administration	4	17	12
5.	Delhi	299	662	376
6.	Goa	7	15	2
7.	Gujarat	90	352	407
8.	Haryana	26	15	80
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11	7	4
10.	Karnataka	195	464	566
11.	Kerala	117	164	77
12.	Madhya Pradesh	98	135	85
13.	Mumbai	75	191	407
14.	Nagpur	6	41	52
15.	Pune	1	16	34
16.	Meghalaya	--	5	2
17.	Orissa	37	68	63
18.	Pondicherry	10	8	1
19.	Punjab	19	93	171
20.	Rajasthan	36	29	17
21.	Tamil Nadu	33	182	223
22.	Uttar Pradesh	107	132	161
23.	West Bengal	394	395	167
24.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	8	--

[English]

Cauvery Water Dispute

7983. SHRI MANISHANKAR AIYAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 3921 dated April 19, 2000 and state :

(a) whether the flow measurement being made on a daily basis of the Central Water Commission's Hydrological Observation Site on the river Cauvery at Billigundulu on the

Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border, about 60 km. upstream of the Mettur reservoir, are in accordance with the data on inflows received at Mettur;

(b) If not, the steps being taken to reconcile differences in data; and

(c) the steps taken to resolve the differences between the State Governments of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in respect of differences in data as measured at Billigundulu and Mettur respectively, as reportedly expressed at the solitary meeting held hitherto of the Cauvery Monitoring Authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) The observed flows measured at CWC site at Billigundulu 60 km upstream of Mettur reservoir and inflows as reported by Government of Tamil Nadu at Mettur reservoir are not consistent with each other. Since the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in their interim order have directed Karnataka to release water from its reservoirs so as to ensure that 205 TMC of water is available in Mettur reservoir in a year from June to May, the measurements done at Mettur are used for monitoring purpose.

Agricultural Science Centres

7984. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of agricultural Science Centres are lagging behind in achieving their annual targets;

(b) if so, the details of such Centres, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of these Centres in each State particularly in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the Government have initiated any action plan for revitalising these centres; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have established 261 Agricultural Science Centres, commonly called Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK). Out of these, 16 KVKs are yet to take up all the activities due to its recent approval after change over of organization, delay in recruitment of staff, and of a few involving judicial process. The State-wise details of such KVKs are given in enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) A detailed review of the performance of KVKs was made by constituting nine Quinquennial Review Teams (QRTs) during 1993-94, including one for Goa, Maharashtra and Western Madhya Pradesh. The Committee made a number of recommendations on Identification of training needs, methodology of training and other technical programmes,

linkage, functioning of Local Management Committee, operation of Instructional farm, development of infrastructure, personnel and financial management. The recommendations of the Committee were implemented for improving the functioning of the KVKs.

(e) and (f) Issues related to recruitment of staff and expediting judicial process have been taken up. Provision of funds has been made for development of infrastructure and other facilities for taking up all the activities by the KVKs.

Statement

State-wise details of KVKs

State	No. of KVKs	District
Arunachal Pradesh	1	West Siang
Bihar	5	Darbhanga, Vaishali, Shekhpura, Muzzafarpur and Jahanabad
Jammu & Kashmir	1	Kathua
Karnataka	1	Kolar
Madhya Pradesh	2	Gwalior and Bastar
Maharashtra	1	Satara
Mizoram	1	Lunglei
Tripura	1	South Tripura
Uttar Pradesh	2	Pilibhit and Lucknow
West Bengal	1	Jaipalguri

Statement

Disbursement of Loans to various States/Union Territories by KVIC during the years 1996-97 to 1998-99

(Rupees in lakhs)

S. No.	State/UT	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
		Khadi	V.I.	Khadi	V.I.	Khadi	V.I.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	383.16	258.90	63.02	17.68	19.76	31.10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14.33	29.42	--	--	--	--
3.	Assam	61.43	4.68	19.43	0.37	0.79	2.00
4.	Bihar	144.81	56.34	30.17	0.14	53.83	7.02
5.	Goa	36.65	11.30	--	31.32	--	1.55

[Translation]

Assistance by KVIC

7985. SHRIRAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPYADAV: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the assistance provided to States by the Khadi Village and Industries Commission, State-wise, during the last three years;

(b) the number of persons benefited by loans in 1998-99, 1999-2000 and till date along with the details thereof; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :

(a) The assistance provided by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) State-wise is given in enclosed statement.

(b) 58.29 lakh persons were benefited during 1998-99 and about 60.89 lakh persons are estimated to be benefited during 1999-2000. For the current financial year, the KVIC has fixed a target of generating an additional employment of 3.50 lakh persons.

(c) Does not arise.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Gujarat	61.64	30.41	7.00	13.37	43.34	29.13
7.	Haryana	74.67	65.72	18.75	219.36	2.10	8.88
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11.97	31.03	--	--	6.52	4.33
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	35.97	4.51	0.38	--	6.61	0.52
10.	Karnataka	170.98	56.66	170.75	68.05	102.75	61.58
11.	Kerala	108.82	21.87	3.15	1.46	35.48	13.68
12.	Madhya Pradesh	153.26	49.27	1.21	48.88	8.18	12.11
13.	Maharashtra	87.68	220.24	10.84	48.68	7.62	41.96
14.	Manipur	7.42	2.84	--	--	--	0.34
15.	Meghalaya	6.75	36.04	--	--	--	0.86
16.	Mizoram	1.62	--	--	--	0.10	--
17.	Nagaland	16.78	2.73	--	2.00	--	--
18.	Orissa	116.46	9.52	18.95	3.87	6.10	8.34
19.	Punjab	72.00	6.10	--	2.50	11.45	1.21
20.	Rajasthan	218.24	18.79	28.59	26.21	19.70	23.60
21.	Sikkim	3.90	--	--	--	--	--
22.	Tamil Nadu	446.80	43.07	0.25	26.57	42.27	37.41
23.	Tripura	21.99	4.61	--	--	--	--
24.	Uttar Pradesh	492.82	241.38	61.81	135.90	332.88	191.10
25.	West Bengal	138.32	69.55	43.15	4.97	36.28	48.54
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	--	--	--	--	--	--
27.	Chandigarh	--	--	--	--	--	--
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	--	--	--	--	--	--
29.	NCT of Delhi	13.69	3.38	--	--	1.65	10.11
30.	Daman & Diu	--	--	--	--	--	--
31.	Pondicherry	2.06	--	--	--	--	1.29
32.	Lakshadweep	--	5.10	--	--	--	--
33.	Departmental	--	--	--	--	--	7.67
34.	Other Schemes	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total		2904.22	1283.46	477.45	651.33	737.41	544.33

*Disbursement of Grants to various States/Union Territories by KVIC
during the years 1996-97 to 1998-99*

(Rupees in lakhs)

S. No.	State/UT	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
		Khadi	V.I.	Khadi	V.I.	Khadi	V.I.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	273.95	685.78	174.29	737.29	275.35	340.75
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	--	125.41	0.87	--	--	--
3.	Assam	52.55	12.70	35.06	6.30	59.79	6.72
4.	Bihar	651.17	12.29	748.45	4.00	1196.53	33.96
5.	Goa	0.60	45.35	1.00	9.84	--	40.36
6.	Gujarat	922.70	519.17	1387.00	94.71	2554.96	268.56
7.	Haryana	19.40	292.58	592.79	52.25	652.94	185.23
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1.88	203.59	123.30	153.97	76.51	272.94
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	70.29	263.48	81.92	40.53	182.50	352.13
10.	Karnataka	255.57	853.33	438.63	561.35	1008.73	1228.32
11.	Kerala	147.03	1175.18	322.60	15.58	205.45	395.94
12.	Madhya Pradesh	100.60	720.64	367.27	319.06	178.49	1319.02
13.	Maharashtra	260.82	795.04	32.93	285.31	310.59	308.97
14.	Manipur	2.38	208.16	--	281.51	--	266.93
15.	Meghalaya	4.88	232.43	--	--	2.36	44.93
16.	Mizoram	1.13	1028.05	--	49.63	0.02	344.39
17.	Nagaland	28.32	733.46	7.18	90.00	5.37	396.94
18.	Orissa	45.25	396.94	30.99	60.50	172.53	87.02
19.	Punjab	281.01	391.05	619.41	124.79	345.73	605.12
20.	Rajasthan	860.03	636.87	105.26	314.15	1490.71	461.80
21.	Sikkim	--	--	--	--	--	--
22.	Tamil Nadu	757.63	737.73	1268.80	58.77	2690.76	414.10
23.	Tripura	0.50	90.31	0.02	--	0.50	--
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2141.50	1589.33	1947.68	77.71	4201.30	1454.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25.	West Bengal	227.47	1011.77	235.00	7.60	595.10	20.49
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	--	42.85	--	--	--	--
27.	Chandigarh	--	--	--	--	--	--
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	--	--	--	--	--	--
29.	NCT of Delhi	321.06	73.11	22.29	10.74	669.27	31.34
30.	Daman & Diu	--	--	--	--	--	--
31.	Pondicherry	--	7.60	--	--	--	26.23
32.	Lakshadweep	6.39	24.20	--	--	0.39	34.64
33.	Departmental	229.43	3654.50	217.35	21567.01	752.48	7707.43
34.	Other Schemes	--	4866.15	--	--	--	--
Total		7663.54	21224.05	8760.09	24922.60	17628.36	16648.26

[English]

Handicapped Persons in India

7986. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any reports on the population and living standards of physically handicapped persons in India;

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

(c) the number of institutions run by both Government and NGO's to impart education and training and works for the rehabilitation and welfare of physically handicapped, location-wise, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have any statistical data on the blind population in India;

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

(f) the number of blind schools or any other institutions in India which look after the education and training of blind persons in India, State-wise, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) conducted a National Sample Survey, 47th Round : July-December, 1991 to collect information on the number of persons with disabilities. For the purpose of

survey a person was considered as physically disabled if the person had one or more types of disabilities, namely, (i) visual, (ii) hearing, (iii) speech and (iv) loco-motor. Based on sample survey, about 1.9% of the total population in the country suffers from one or more physical disabilities. State-wise break up is given in enclosed statement-I. According to NSSO survey conducted on children with delayed development in the age group of 1-14 years, it was found that 3% of the general population suffers from delayed mental development. From the distribution of disabled persons over activity of statuses viz. employed, unemployed, and out of labour force, it was found that 29 and 25 per cent of the disabled persons are employed in rural and urban areas respectively.

(c) A number of programmes are being implemented to promote education and training of persons with disabilities :

(i) This Ministry is implementing a Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities. Voluntary organisations are being assisted for providing, inter-alia, education and vocational training to persons with disabilities. Statement-II indicating the number of non-Governmental Organisations assisted district-wise during 1999-2000 under the scheme is enclosed.

(ii) There are 17 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres, for persons with disabilities controlled and administered by the Ministry of Labour. They are located at - Agartala (Tripura), Ahmedabad

(Gujarat), Bangalore (Karnataka), Bhubaneswar (Orissa), Calcutta (West Bengal), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Guwahati (Assam), Hyderabad (A.P.), Jabalpur (M.P.), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Kanpur (U.P.), Ludhiana (Punjab), Mumbai (Maharashtra), New Delhi (Delhi), Patna (Bihar), Trivandrum (Kerala) and Vadodara (Gujarat). The Centre at Vadodara caters for the handicapped women exclusively.

- (iii) The Ministry of Human Resource Development is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Integrated Education for disabled children (IEDC) which provides educational opportunities for disabled children (both boys and girls) in the general school system to facilitate their retention and ultimate integration in the system. Under the scheme, assistance is given for various facilities for disabled children including books and stationery, uniforms, salary of resource teachers and helpers and training of teachers, etc. At present, the scheme is being operated in 28 States and UTs.

- (iv) The National Institutes working in the area of disability provide education and training in this respective category of disability.

(d) and (e) The State-wise India's blind population is given in enclosed statement-III.

(f) There are about 430 institutions run by both Government and NGOs working for Visually Handicapped in India. Details of location-wise and State-wise is available on pages 73 to 143 in the Directory of Institutions Working for the Disabled in India compiled by National Information Centre on Disability and Rehabilitation, New Delhi in 1995.

Statement-I

*Number of disabled persons per
100,000 persons by sex*

State/UT	Rural			Urban		
	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	2640	2354	2498	2092	1712	1903
Assam	1408	947	1200	1390	948	1186
Bihar	1973	1125	1573	1740	1071	1436
Gujarat	1786	1557	1676	1720	1566	1648
Haryana	2290	1665	1988	1603	1105	1374
Himachal Pradesh	3580	2157	2870	1268	995	1144
Karnataka	2368	1891	2131	1662	1307	1404

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Kerala	2280	1636	1945	1927	1587	1755
Madhya Pradesh	2281	1794	2051	1805	1113	1475
Maharashtra	2437	1927	2700	1787	1408	1610
Orissa	3191	2166	2306	2025	2077	2049
Punjab	3418	2384	2936	2025	1558	1807
Rajasthan	2141	1355	1757	1594	1168	1126
Tamil Nadu	2541	2201	2372	2075	1669	1874
Uttar Pradesh	2269	1441	1879	1779	1210	1519
West Bengal	2069	1484	1788	1690	1283	1505
All-India	2277	1694	1995	1774	1361	1579

Source : NSSO Report, 1991

Statement-II

*Number of NGOs assisted district-wise during 1999-2000
under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action
for Persons with Disability*

Name of State	District Name	Number of NGOs
1	2	3

Andhra Pradesh

Chittoor	6
Cuddapah	1
East Godavari	5
Guntur	5
Karimnagar	3
Khammam	3
Krishna	4
Kurnool	1
Mahaboobnagar	2
Medak	1
Nalgonda	1
Nellore	2
Nizamabad	2

1	2	3
	Prakasam	6
	Rangareddy	32
	Vishakhapatnam	6
	Vizianagaram	3
	Warangal	1
	West Godavari	2
Arunachal Pradesh		
	Itanagar	2
Assam		
	Guwahati	3
Bihar		
	Bhagalpur	1
	Monghyr	1
	Muzaffarpur	1
	Nalanda	1
	Patna	6
	Saharsa	1
Chandigarh		
	Chandigarh	2
Delhi		
	Delhi	31
Goa		
	North Goa	2
Gujarat		
	Amedabad	7
	Baroda	2
	Bhagal	1
	Bhavnagar	2
	Jamnagar	1
	Rajkot	1
	Surat	1
	Surendranagar	1

1	2	3
	Vododara	1
Haryana		
	Ambala	1
	Chandigarh	1
	Faridabad	2
	Gurgaon	3
	Hissar	1
	Rohtak	1
	Yamunanagar	1
Himachal Pradesh		
	Simla	1
Jammu & Kashmir		
	Jammu	2
Karnataka		
	Bangalore	17
	Belgaum	4
	Bellary	2
	Bidar	3
	Bijapur	1
	Chitradurga	6
	Dakshin Kannada	1
	Dharwad	11
	Gulbarga	1
	Hassan	1
	Kolar	3
	Mysore	4
	Raichur	2
	Uttar Kannada	2
Kerala		
	Allapuzha	1
	Cochin	1
	Emakulam	7

1	2	3
	Idukki	2
	Kannur	3
	Kollam	1
	Kottayam	8
	Kozhikode (Calicut)	4
	Palakkad	3
	Trichur	10
	Trivandrum	8
	Waynad	1
Madhya Pradesh		
	Bhopal	1
	Indore	3
	Jabalpur	1
	Korba	1
	Morena	1
	Ujjain	1
Maharashtra		
	Amravati	2
	Aurangabad	1
	Bhandara	1
	Bombay	14
	Gadchiroli	2
	Pune	5
	Virar	1
Manipur		
	Imphal	4
	Imphal (Zone-II)	1
	Thanga	1
	Thoubal	1
Meghalaya		
	Shillong	2
	Tura	1
	West Garo Hills	1
Mizoram		
	Aizawl	1

1	2	3
Orissa		
	Bhadrak	1
	Cuttack	1
	Dhenkanal	2
	Ganjam	2
	Keonjhar	1
	Khordha	9
	Nayagarh	2
	Puri	3
Pondicherry		
	Pondicherry	2
Punjab		
	Amritsar	1
	Chandigarh	2
	Faridkot	1
	Gurdaspur	1
	Hoshiarpur	1
	Jalandhar	2
	Ludhiana	1
	Patiala	1
Rajasthan		
	Alwar	1
	Bharatpur	1
	Bhilwara	1
	Ganganagar	1
	Jaipur	2
Tamil Nadu		
	Chennai	14
	Coimbatore	1
	Dharmapuri	3
	Madurai	5
	Perambalur	1
	Tanjavur	1
	Tirunelveli	2

1	2	3	1	2	3
	Trichy	6		Mathura	1
	Vellore	1		Meerut	2
Tripura				Mirzapur	1
	North Tripura	1		Moradabad	1
Uttar Pradesh				Pithoragarh	1
	Agra	2		Pratapgarh	1
	Aligarh	1		Rampur	1
	Allahabad	8		Saharanpur	1
	Almora	1		Sultanpur	1
	Ambedkar Nagar	1		Varanasi	7
	Bareilly	1	West Bengal		
	Bijnor	1		24 Parganas (North)	3
	Dehradun	2		24 Parganas (South)	1
	Deoria	3		Asansol	1
	Falzarabad	4		Birbhum	1
	Farrukhabad	1		Burdwan	3
	Ghaziabad	1		Calcutta	20
	Ghaziipur	1		Darjeeling	2
	Gonda	1		Durgapur	1
	Gorakhpur	1		Hooghly	5
	Haridwar	1		Howrah	1
	JP Nagar	1		Jalpaiguri	1
	Kanpur	1		Midnapore	2
	Kushinagar	2		Nadia	1
	Lucknow	16			

Statement-III

Number of persons with Visual Disability per 100,000 persons for each sex

State/UT	Rural				Urban			
	Male	Femal	Persons	estd. (00) persons with visual disability	Male	Female	Persons	estd. (00) persons with visual disability
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	668	946	806	3776	326	445	385	558
Assam	405	355	382	523	520	371	451	58

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bihar	333	349	341	2112	220	232	225	209
Gujarat	327	423	1373	1032	185	357	266	267
Haryana	538	710	621	842	335	399	364	143
Himachal Pradesh	661	809	629	429	332	319	326	14
Karnataka	494	632	562	1313	309	370	338	370
Kerala	400	435	418	830	293	480	388	172
Madhya Pradesh	424	646	529	2658	222	258	239	291
Maharashtra	478	620	549	2505	241	290	264	671
Orissa	733	908	820	2303	349	550	444	171
Punjab	526	682	599	742	301	353	325	173
Rajasthan	375	502	435	1277	212	298	253	205
Tamil Nadu	547	704	625	2328	332	423	377	741
Uttar Pradesh	490	549	518	5428	269	358	310	773
West Bengal	381	411	395	1821	280	371	321	480
All India	471	548	525	30753	263	346	302	5509

Source : NSSO Report, 1991

[Translation]

Floods in North India

7987. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified the areas affected by the additional rain water in the perennial rivers of the North India;

(b) if so, the names of such areas and the estimated loss of life and property during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for the harvesting of the rain water for the human consumption; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA REDDY) :

(a) and (b) The areas affected by floods are identified and reported by the respective State Governments. A list of the districts in the States of North India affected by floods during the past three years, as reported by respective State Revenue Authorities, is given in enclosed statement-I.

Statements II and III showing the loss of human life in number and damage to property, in crore of rupees, during the last three years are enclosed.

(c) and (d) Construction of Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) is permitted to be taken up under Sub-Mission Projects for providing safe drinking water to the rural population. The cost of these projects is shared between the Government of India and the State Government on 75:25 basis. With effect from 1.4.1998, the powers to sanction and implement projects under Sub-Mission activities have been delegated to the State Governments and up to 20% of the funds allocated by the Government of India to the States/Union Territories under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) can be utilised for such activities.

Statement-I

Districts in North India affected by floods year-1997

Bihar	Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Madhubani, Khagaria, Begusarai, Lakhisarai, Shekhpura, Saharasa, Supaul, Madhepura, Purnea, Katihar, Araria, Patna, Najanda, Bhojpur, Gaya, Jahanabad, Jamshedpur, Garba, Gopalganj, Sewan and Bhagalpur
Gujarat	Aehmdabad, Gandhinagar, Mehsana, Kheda, Sabarkantha, Junagarh,

	Jamnagar, Kachchh, Vadodara, Panchmahal, Baruch, Valsad, Dang, Banaskantha and Surat	Rajasthan	Alwar, Banswara, Bharatpur, Bikaner, Churu, Dausa, Jaipur, Jhalawar, Jhunjhunu, Karauh, Kota, Nagaur, S. Madhopur, Sikar, Tonk
H.P.	Kangra, Shimla, Mandi, Solan, Sirmour, Bilaspur, Kullu, Hamirpur, Una, Chamba, Kinnaur, Lahul & Spiti	Madhya Pradesh	Not reported by State
J&K	Srinagar, Budgam, Anantnag, Phulwana, Baramulla, Kupwara, Leh, Kargil, Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur, Doda, Rajouri and Poonch	Haryana	Not reported by State
		Uttar Pradesh	Not reported by State
		NCT of Delhi	Not reported by NCT of Delhi
<i>Districts in North India affected by floods year-1999</i>			
Madhya Pradesh	Rewa and Balaghat	Bihar	Muzaffarpur, West Champaran, East Champaran, Sitamarhi, Shaohar, Saran, Gopalganj, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Madhepura, Saharsa, Supaul, Madhubani, Purnea, Araria, Kishanganj, Katihar, Begusarai, Khagaria, Bhagalpur, Sahebganj, Pakur, Patna and Jehanabad
Rajasthan	Ajmer, Banswara, Barmer, Bikaner, Churu, Dholpur, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Jaipur, Jhalawar, Karouli, Nagaur, Pali and Sikar	Gujarat	Mehsana, Sabarkantha, Navsari, Anand, Khera, Jamnagar, Dahod, Rajkot, Valsad, Gandhinagar, Vadodara, Bharuch, Narmada, Surendranagar, Bhavnagar, Banaskantha and Amreli
Haryana	Not reported by the State		
Punjab	Not reported by the State		
Uttar Pradesh	Not reported by the State		

Districts in North India affected by Floods year-1998

Bihar	Muzaffarpur, Shivhar, Sitamarhi, Vaishali, East Champaran, West Champaran, Saran, Gopalganj, Sewan, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Samastipur, Mungher, Shekhpura, Lakhisarai, Khagaria, Begusarai, Saharsa, Supaul, Madhepura, Bhagalpur, Sahebganj, Banka, Purnea, Katihar, Araria, Kishanganj and Patna	U.P.	Khiri, Gorakhpur, Gonda, Sidharthnagar, Kashinagar, Sant Kabimagar, Bijnor, Chandoli, Behraich, Bareilly and Azamgarh			
		Rajasthan	Baran, Bhilwara, Bikaner, Bundi, Chittorgarh, Churu, Ganganagar, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jhalawar, Kota and Pali			
Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Amreli, Anand, Banaskantha, Bharuch, Bhavnagar, Dahod, Dangs, Gandhinagar, Jamnagar, Junagarh, Keda, Kachahh, Mehsana, Narmada, Nasari, Panchmahal, Patna Porbandar, Rajkot, Sabarkantha, Surat, Sundarnagar, Vadodara and Valsad	Punjab	Not reported by the State			
		Chandigarh	Not reported by the State			
Statement-II						
<i>State-wise statement of human lives lost due to floods in the States of North India during 1997-99</i>						
(In Nos.)						
H.P.	Kangra, Shimla, Mandi, Solan, Sirmaur, Bilaspur, Kullu, Hamirpur, Una, Chamba, Kinnaur, Lahul & Spiti	S. No.	State/UTs	1997	1998	1999
		1	2	3	4	5
Punjab	Patiala, Kapurthala, Amritsar, Faridkot, Bhatinda, Moga, Gurdaspur, Sangrur, Hoshiyarpur and Mansa	1.	Bihar	163	381	230
		2.	Gujarat	55	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Haryana	3	—	—
4.	Himachal Pradesh	229	71	—
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	80	—	—
6.	Madhya Pradesh	14	—	—
7.	Punjab	—	—	—
8.	Rajasthan	64	31	—
9.	Uttar Pradesh	102	1390	17
10.	Chandigarh	—	—	—
11.	Delhi	—	—	—
	Total	710	1873	247

Statement-III

Figures of damage to property due to floods in the States of North India during 1997-99

(Rs. in Crores)

S. No.	States/UTs	1997	1998	1999
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bihar	108.33	514.84	368.83
2.	Gujarat	10.99	0.00	0.00
3.	Haryana	6.15	0.00	0.00
4.	Himachal Pradesh	490.47	216.76	0.00
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	103.19	0.00	0.00
6.	Madhya Pradesh	1.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Rajasthan	24.86	21.46	0.00
9.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	744.99	753.06	368.83

[English]

Consumption and Demand of Urea and Fertilizers

7988. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the requirements of Urea in each State during 2000-2001;

(b) whether consumption and demand of urea are different State-to-State;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the parameter to assess the actual requirement of a particular State;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up a new system to assess the farmers requirement of urea in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to make available urea and other fertilizers including pesticides to each State as per their requirements; and

(g) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) to (c) Urea requirement of each State is assessed season-wise before each cropping season. Accordingly, urea requirement of each State and Union Territory administration has been assessed for Kharif-2000 season. The assessment is made in consultation with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, taking into account the previous consumption levels and other relevant factors which affect fertilizer consumption.

State-wise consumption of urea during 1998-99 and kharif, 1999, and assessed requirement for kharif, 2000 season is given in the statement enclosed.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under price, distribution and movement control and for which Government of India make allocation. Allocations are made taking into account the assessed requirement as also the stocks already available with each State so as to ensure availability as per the requirement of each State. No allocations are made in case of fertilizers other than urea which are decontrolled, and their availability is determined by the market forces. Similarly, in case of pesticides which are not under price, distribution and movement control, their availability is determined by the market forces.

Statement

State-wise consumption of urea during 1998-99, Kharif, 1999 and assessed requirement for Kharif, 2000

(in '000' tonnes)

S. No.	State/UT	Consumption of Urea		Assessed Requirement of Urea
		1998-99	Kharif, 1999	Kharif, 2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2,003.18	1,031.95	1,083.60
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.61	0.26	0.27
3.	Assam	91.97	54.19	90.00 **
4.	A & N Islands	0.42	0.40	0.50
5.	Bihar	1,287.75	687.00	700.00
6.	Chandigarh	0.59	0.25	0.25
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.19	0.90	0.95
8.	Daman & Diu	0.35	0.25	0.25
9.	Delhi	25.43	14.00	10.00
10.	Goa	4.32	2.14	3.00
11.	Gujarat	1,173.71	504.25	548.00
12.	Haryana	1,283.96	499.93	560.00
13.	Himachal Pradesh	48.82	26.54	32.00
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	96.70	39.24	55.00
15.	Karnataka	910.54	597.57	640.00
16.	Kerala	114.42	60.52	65.00

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Madhya Pradesh	1,307.50	558.85	680.00
19.	Maharashtra	1,750.46	1,137.46	1,180.00
20.	Manipur	32.42	24.56	25.00
21.	Meghalaya	5.53	2.86	3.00
22.	Mizoram	0.11	0.36	0.60
23.	Nagaland	0.54	0.50	0.50
24.	Orissa	340.62	299.80	360.00
25.	Pondicherry	19.25	8.03	9.00
26.	Punjab	2,101.84	961.53	1,000.00
27.	Rajasthan	1,007.69	452.72	475.00
28.	Sikkim	0.98	0.41	0.55
29.	Tamil Nadu	821.09	352.89	365.00
30.	Tea Board (NE)	47.37*	18.42*	0.00
31.	Tripura	15.14	5.81	13.00
32.	Uttar Pradesh	4,881.35	2,361.87	2,410.00
33.	West Bengal	1,020.58	451.39	470.00 **
All India		20,396.43	10,156.85	10,760.47

* Urea allocations made to Tea Board for consumption by tea plantations in Assam and West Bengal.

** Including requirement of Tea Board (North-East)

Suspension of Pak from Commonwealth

7989. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has been suspended from the Council of Commonwealth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth has hinted that Pakistan may face a possible ban on cricketing ties with the Commonwealth countries unless elections are held there for restoration of democracy within a definite time-frame;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

- (e) the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Pakistan was suspended from the Council of the Commonwealth, pending restoration of democracy in that country, on 18 October 1999 following the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) Meeting held in London on that day. The decision was confirmed by the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Durban from 12-15 November 1999. At the CMAG Meeting held on 2nd May 2000 in London, it was decided that Pakistan would continue to be suspended from the Councils of Commonwealth. It was also decided "to keep the situation in Pakistan under review and to recommend further measures if there was no speedy progress towards the restoration of democracy".

(c) Government are not aware of any reference by the Commonwealth Secretary General to any possible ban on Pakistan's cricketing ties with Commonwealth Countries.

- (d) and (e) Does not arise.

Introduction of Passport system between India and Nepal

7990. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce passport system between India and Nepal;

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

- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) At the third meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Working Group on Border Management held in Kathmandu from February 1-3, 2000, the two sides discussed the possibility of introducing a passport system, without the requirement of visa, for the purpose of identification of nationality of Indian and Nepalese citizens travelling by air between the two countries. Till such time that the modalities for the operationalisation of this system are firmed up, it was agreed to scrutinise and reduce the types of photo-identification documents that would be valid for air travel and notify each other of the revised list of such documents.

Captive Power Plants

7991. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the electricity produced by the captive

power plants of SAIL, particularly by Bokaro, Rourkela and Durgapur is the cheapest as compared to others;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that SAIL is going to sell its power plants to NTPC to get fund for its working; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) While electricity produced by the captive power plant-I of Durgapur Steel Plant is costlier than power purchased from Damodar Valley Corporation, the electricity produced by the other captive power plants at Bokaro, Rourkela and Durgapur is cheaper than power purchased from their respective utility grids.

(c) and (d) SAIL is not selling its captive power plants to NTPC. However, the captive power plants PP-I and PP-II at Bokaro, PP-II of Durgapur and PP-II of Rourkela alongwith some related facilities are to be restructured by forming a separate Power Company registered as SAIL Power Supply Company Limited (SPSCL). SAIL is in dialogue with NTPC for their participation as the joint venture partner in SPSCL.

Finance generated in this transaction would help SAIL cope with present financial difficulties.

[Translation]

Traditional Fishermen

7992. SHRI SHIV RAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of regulations pertaining to finishing in international sea as per agreement signed with WTO; and

(b) the steps taken to safeguard the interests of traditional fishermen by providing them modern equipments in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No specific regulations or Agreement has been signed with WTO on fishing in International Waters. However, in accordance with the provisions of United Nations Convention on the Law Of the Sea, (UNCLOS) India has declared a 200 nautical miles Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) by enacting The Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and other Maritime Zones Act of 1976.

This enactment secures exclusive rights to exploit living and non-living resources comprising 2.02 million Sq. km. area within the EEZ. Besides, the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation

of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981, provides for regulation of fishing by foreign fishing vessels within the EEZ of the country.

(b) The Government have inter-alia taken the following steps to safeguard the interests of traditional fishermen:

- (i) Encouraging enactment of Marine Fishing Regulation Acts by maritime States for regulation of fishing and thereby providing exclusive rights to traditional fishermen within the territorial waters.
- (ii) Assisting maritime States through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to procure patrol boats to monitor regulatory measures within the territorial waters.
- (iii) Assisting the Coast Guard through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in their anti-poaching activities.
- (iv) Provision of subsidy for procurement of engines @ Rs. 10,000/- for out-board motor and Rs. 12,000/- for in-board motor in order to extend the range of operation of traditional fishermen.
- (v) Implementation of National Welfare Fishermen Scheme having the components of Saving-cum-Relief, Group accident insurance and housing for fishermen.

Central Secretariat Service

7993. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission for bringing improvements in service conditions of the Central Secretariat Service and Central Secretariat Clerical Service;

(b) the number of recommendations out of them approved by the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The major recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission relating to improvement in service conditions of the Central Secretariat Service/Central Secretariat Clerical Service and decisions/actions taken thereon are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Paragraph No. of the report (Volume 1) of the Fifth Central Pay Commission	Recommendation made	Decision/Action taken by the Government
1	2	3

Central Secretariat Service (CSS)

45.23 (j)	CSS cadre may be centralised and computerised so that the existing disparities in the promotion prospects of CSS officers in different cadres are removed and the seniority of those who move out because of non-availability of vacancies in their own cadre to other cadres is also protected.	Not accepted
45.23 (n)	CSS officers should be made eligible for the training programmes organised by the Training Division of Deptt. of Personnel & Training for various services and officers appointed to the Central Secretariat.	CSS officers are also eligible for a number of training programmes organised by Training Division of this Department for various services.

1	2	3
45.23 (t)	A comprehensive transfer policy may be framed for transfer of CSS officers from one Ministry to another. Such transfers should, however, not be linked with promotion as the compulsory shift at the time of promotion further delays the already delayed promotion.	Accepted by the Government and necessary orders issued.
45.23 (v)	Disparity in regard to years of service after which direct recruits and promotee Assistants can appear in the Limited Departmental Competitive Examination may be removed.	Accepted/relevant Orders Issued.
45.23 (x)	Existing practice of fixation of pay at two incremental stages higher than the minimum pay of scale on promotion of Assistants and Stenographers Grade 'C' to the grade of Section Officers/Private Secretaries may continue.	Accepted/relevant Orders Issued.
45.25 (i)	Due to acute stagnation in CSS a review of existing provisions in terms of which Central Secretariat Stenographers Service officers are allowed lateral entry into CSS is overdue.	Not accepted.
45.25 (iii) and 45.27	25% of the sanctioned posts of Section Officers (SOs) may be converted to the posts of Desk Officers and placed in the newly created pay scale of Rs. 2500-4000/-. SOs in CSS be eligible for second financial upgradation in the scale of Rs. 2500-4000 under Assured Career Progression on completion of five years service in SOs' grade.	Not accepted.
Central Secretariat Clerical Service (CSCS)		
45.56 (c)	Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE) for promotion to the grade of Assistants may be introduced and Upper Division Clerks (UDCs) with three years regular service may be allowed to compete for promotion to the grade of Assistants. Recruitment to the grade be made 50% by direct recruitment, 25% by LDCE and 25% by promotion of UDCs.	The matter has been discussed in the Departmental Council. The staff side is not in favour of introduction of LDCE by reduction of seniority quota from 50% to 25%. Their demand was to reduce the Direct Recruitment quota which has not been accepted as it would dilute the quality of service.

*[English]***Appointment of SC/ST**

7994. SHRI BUTA SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 'SC/ST Parliamentarians' in the representations submitted to the Prime Minister on December 17, 1996, September 1, 1997 and July 23, 1998 have demanded appointment/posting of persons belonging

to the SCs/STs in posts such as Chief Executives, Functional Directors, Part Time Chairman and Official/Non-Official Members of the Board of Management of PSUs and Enterprises under Government of India;

(b) If so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the total number of persons appointed/posted to the above referred posts in various Public Sector Undertakings falling under the Ministry of Steel and Mining during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) number of persons belonging to SCs/STs among them and their percentage as compared to the total number of posts referred to above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) The Memoranda submitted by the Parliamentary Forum for SCs/STs urged the Government of India for taking comprehensive measures for development of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, inter-alia, requesting for posting of suitable persons belonging to the SCs/STs for posts of importance like Governors, Ambassadors, Members of Planning Commission, Secretaries to the Government of India, Members of the UPSC, PESB, Directors of PSUs etc.

The policy as enunciated in the resolution No. 27(21)EO/86(ACC) dated 3.3.1987 constituting the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) (the body which makes recommendation for appointment to board level posts in PSUs) is to appoint through a fair and objective selection procedure, outstanding professional managers to Level-I (Chief Executives) and Level-II (Directors) posts and posts at any other level as may be decided by the Government from time to time. Caste is not one of the criteria for selecting persons for appointments to the board level posts of PSUs. Therefore, information on the number of persons belonging to the SCs/STs among those appointed to board level posts in the PSUs falling under the Ministry of Steel or the Department of Mines or under any other Ministry/Department is neither available nor maintained.

[Translation]

Schemes for Development of Agriculture

7995. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased

to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme to reintroduce extension services to improve farming in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government contemplate to set-up District Agriculture Training Centres for the farmers and provide assistance and support by giving funds through a special programme for the activities related to the extension work;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) and (b) Agricultural extension being a State subject the Central Government supplements the States efforts. Steps taken by the Central Government to strengthen extension services in Uttar Pradesh include the following :

- Supporting training and capacity building programmes for senior extension functionaries of the State Government in the areas of agriculture technology and extension methodology.
- Promoting farm information programmes which include organisation of exhibitions, kisan melas, all India fruit and vegetable shows and dissemination of information through print media.
- Strengthening extension services by way of training, result demonstrations, study tours, etc. to farm women groups under women in Agriculture Scheme.
- Improving research-extension-farmer linkages, promoting farmer-scientists interactions and farmers study tours to Agriculture Universities, Research Institutes and other places of excellence.
- Involving selected Non-Governmental Organisations in technology dissemination.
- Providing training and demonstration support to the farmers through 30 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the State. Besides, 8 Zonal Agricultural Research Stations are proposed to be strengthened to take up the functions of KVKs in as many districts.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) Krishi Vigyan Kendras, State Agricultural Universities and training institutes under the State Government are already imparting training to the farmers.

[English]

Co-operative Development Programme

7996. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA :

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPUYADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have requested to the Union Government to implement intensive cooperative development programme in every district of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also urged to the Union Government that the investment on computerisation have to be made in the cooperative sector with the help of National Information Centre;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Unemployment

7997. SHRIDALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of unemployed youths registered with the Employment Exchanges in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of unemployed youths registered with the Employment Exchanges in the State of Madhya Pradesh belonging to SC/ST particularly in the remote areas of Adivasi tribals and other backward classes;

(c) whether Government have taken any step to introduce any new labour oriented industrial scheme in the country in order to create jobs for the unemployed youths; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The number of job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, who were on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges in the country as on 29.02.2000 was 403.95 lakh which includes 25.84 lakh in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The number of SC, ST and OBC job seekers registered with Employment Exchanges in Madhya Pradesh as on 31.12.1998 (latest available) was of the order of 3.39, 2.65 & 2.52 lakh respectively. Information for remote areas is not maintained separately.

(c) and (d) The primary objective of the Ninth Plan is to generate greater productive employment in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are more labour intensive in regions characterised by higher rate of unemployment and under employment. A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Ahluwalia, Member, Planning Commission has been set up to look into the employment generation taking place and suggest measures to generate at least one hundred million jobs in a period of 10 years (Ten million in each year).

[Translation]

Delhi Scheduled Caste Financial and Development Corporation

7998. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 4998 on April 26, 2000 and state :

(a) the number of applications received for grant of loan to purchase of photo-copier machine;

(b) the details of each application rejected on the ground of excess income from the prescribed limit as laid down for grant of said loan;

(c) the income declared by the applicant duly verified by the SDMs in each case;

(d) the income assessed by the authority of DSCFDC in each case and the basis of their assessment;

(e) the number of complaints received by DSCFDC in this regard; and

(f) the action taken thereon so far and proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Aimati Dam

7999. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has given its verdict recently on the disputed Almati Dam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to ensure implementation of the verdict of Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in respect of Petition filed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India under Article 131 of the Constitution against the Government of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Union Government of India in the matter of violation of Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal Award by the States of Karnataka and Maharashtra, it has been inter-alia observed that "there is no bar for raising the height of the Dam at Almati upto 519.6 metre subject to getting clearance from appropriate authority of the Central Government and any other statutory authority required under law". Accordingly, clearance of the Project is linked with compliance of observations of various Central Appraising Agencies by the Government of Karnataka.

Godavari Action Plan

8000. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Water Commission has prepared any action plan for the better utilisation of water of Godavari river in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the action plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Irrigation being a State subject, the irrigation projects are planned, executed and implemented by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their priorities.

Visit of Pak Team

8001. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a convention of the Pakistan-India People's Forum for Peace and Democracy was held at Bangalore recently;

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

(c) the outcome thereof;

(d) whether any Pak team visited India recently;

(e) if so, the details thereof including the purpose thereof;

(f) the persons, organisations with whom it held talks; and

(g) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (g) Yes, Sir. The Fifth Joint Convention of the Pakistan-India People's Forum for Peace and Democracy (PIPPFD) was held at Bangalore from 6-8 April, 2000. This Forum is a private initiative and its members comprise of citizens of the two countries including former civil servants, politicians and retired officers of the Armed Forces. The deliberations of the Forum are aimed at improving relations between the two countries.

A 62-member Pakistani women's delegation visited India from 2-9 May, 2000, under the aegis of an exchange-of-visit programme organized by the "Women's Initiative for Peace in South Asia" (WIPSA). During their stay in India, members of the delegation met the Minister for External Affairs, the Minister of State for External Affairs, the Minister of State for Women and Child Development and the Chief Minister of Delhi, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. The visit provided an opportunity for the Pakistani delegates to interact with prominent Indians, which included former Prime Minister Shri I.K. Gujral. The delegates also interacted with members of other NGOs such as the Indian Women's Press Corps and the Pakistan India People's Forum for Peace and Democracy. In addition to their stay at New Delhi, the Pakistani delegates visited the cities of Agra, Sikandra, Fatehpur Sikri and Jaipur.

Government fully supports all endeavours to enhance people-to-people contacts between the two countries.

Visit of PM's Principal Secretary to Israel

8002. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister's Principal Secretary visited Israel in September 1999;

(b) if so, whether he had discussions with the Prime Minister of Israel; and

(c) if so, the nature of talks and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Shri Brajesh Mishra visited Israel from 2-4 September 1999, at the invitation of the Israel Government. During his stay in Israel, Shri Mishra called on the Prime Minister Mr. Ehud Barak. His visit was part of the ongoing diplomatic dialogue between India and Israel.

Expansion of PMRY

8003. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been decided to give relaxation in the age limit and educational qualifications to the beneficiaries under the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana;

(b) whether any other category is proposed to be included under this Yojana;

(c) whether the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Ex-servicemen, women and disabled have been included under this scheme;

(d) whether the Government have expanded the scope of the PMRY to cover some more sectors such as horticulture, piggyery, fishery etc. under group financing with subsidy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the progress made in the implementation of expanded programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana has been expanded in scope to cover all economically viable activity including agriculture and allied activities but excluding direct agricultural operations. The expanded programme has been under implementation since June, 1998 in the North Eastern States and with effect from 01.04.1999, in the entire country. The scheme has been progressing satisfactorily.

[Translation]

Space Research Programme

8004. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the I.M.F., World Bank and other foreign loans are adversely affecting the space research programme; and

(b) if so, the measures adopted by the Government to deal with this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Development Plan for Minorities

8005. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAI SI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons of minority communities benefited under Multi Sectoral Development Plan for minorities and National Minorities Development Finance Corporation in Andhra Pradesh during the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plan so far;

(b) the total amount sanctioned and released during above plan period so far;

(c) the target fixed by the Government to cover the minorities under these schemes during the Ninth Five Year Plan period State-wise and particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken

by the Government for the effective implementation of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Preparation of Multi-sectoral Development Plan for Minority Concentration Districts has been taken up for the development of the minorities in 41 districts of the Country, which include Hyderabad and Kurnool districts of Andhra Pradesh. Under the Scheme, assistance for preparation of the Project Report is provided by the Central Government. The State Government is supposed to implement the Plan by dovetailing assistance available under various ongoing schemes. The project report for Kurnool district has been prepared and the State Government has been requested to take necessary steps to implement the same. Project Report for Hyderabad district is yet to be prepared by the State Government. The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation was set up in September 1994. 2080 beneficiaries were assisted under the Schemes of the Corporation during the 8th Plan Period & 3696 beneficiaries (upto 31st March 2000) during the 9th Plan Period in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) During 8th Plan Period, Rs. 135.15 lacs was disbursed against sanctioned amount of Rs. 151.13 lacs. During the 9th Plan, Rs. 1078.52 lacs was sanctioned by 31.3.2000 and this amount has been disbursed.

(c) Scheme of N.M.D.F.C. is implemented through the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs). Andhra Pradesh Minorities Finance Corporation has been operating as SCA in Andhra Pradesh. Based on the requirement and performance, action plan for each year is prepared by NMFDC in consultation with SCA. NMFDC has plan to extend Rs. 589 lakhs for covering approximately 2200 beneficiaries during 2000-2001 in Andhra Pradesh.

(d) Following steps have been taken for effective implementation of the schemes of National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation :-

- (i) Assisting the State Channelising Agencies for improving performance as well as recovery.
- (ii) Grant in aid for computerisation of the operations of the SCAs for effective monitoring & supervision.
- (iii) Selecting more than one channelising agency for increasing the coverage.
- (iv) Delegation to the State Channelising Agency to finance need based schemes with unit cost upto Rs. 50,000 at their level, which will reduce time taken.

- (v) Introduction of micro-financing scheme through credit-worthy NGOs for covering a larger number of beneficiaries.
- (vi) Providing assistance to craft-persons for display and sale of their products.
- (vii) Provision of grant for design development and skill upgradation as also for vocational training of beneficiaries wherever necessary.

[Translation]

Voluntary Retirement Service

8006. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees/officers in each subsidiary of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. particularly in the Bokaro Steel Plant who have taken voluntary retirement under the V.R.S. as on date;

(b) the details of the retirement and other benefits provided to such officers and employees who have taken voluntary retirement under the V.R.S. alongwith the existing rules in this regard;

(c) the number of cases disposed off relating to payment of the outstanding due to such employees and officers along with the number of cases pending in this regard as on date;

(d) whether the management Bokaro Steel Plant propose to expedite payment of pensionary benefits to these retired employees and officers on priority basis; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[English]

Development of Seed Varieties

8007. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Agriculture Research Institute has developed new seed varieties for cash crops during last year and current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States where the new seeds were sown/likely to be sown; and

(d) the yield achieved therefrom under each cash crop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir. Amongst the cash crops, the Indian Agricultural Research Institute conducts research on cotton and no cotton variety has been developed during the last year and in the current year.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Construction of Embankments

8008. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Orissa to construct high level embankments along the entire coast of State to check heavy tide;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether special funds are being provided by the Centre for the construction of the embankments; and

(d) if so, the proposed amount to be spent and the time limit for the completion of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A proposal amounting to Rs. 436.29 crore has been received from the State Government of Orissa which includes construction of 75.80 km. of embankments at the cost of Rs. 18.33 crore in Ganjam (20 km.) and Puri (55.80 km.) Districts.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Paddy Processing Research Centre

8009. SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Paddy Processing Research Centre has been set up at Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the date on which it was set up along with the research undertaken at the Centre;

(c) the research works are proposed to be taken in this Centre during remaining period of Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) the Annual Plan requirement for this Centre and the assistance are likely to be provided during the above period;

(e) whether there is any proposal to upgrade this Centre during the Plan period; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Paddy Processing Research Centre which was established in 1972 at Thanjavur and shifted in its own building to Thanjavur in 1987. The research undertaken at the Centre mainly on prevention of post harvest losses, preservation of high moisture paddy, parboiling drying and milling of paddy & utilization of by products.

(c) The research work proposed to be undertaken up in this centre are :-

(i) Development of techniques for safe storage of under milled, raw and parboiled rice.

(ii) Nutritional fortification of rice & rice products.

(iii) Processing of rice bran for edible uses like protein isolates.

(iv) Utilisation of husk ash for productive purposes.

(v) Development of process for extending the life of paddy straw thatches.

(d) The Annual Plan requirement is about Rs. 1.00 crore and the assistance likely to be provided during Ninth Five Year Plan is about Rs. 5.00 crores which includes Rs. 2.50 crores for expanding the activities of the centre.

(e) and (f) The expansion Plan of the Centre was approved in December, 1997. The centre has already been upgraded by providing additional funds and manpower to expand the activities in the area of Human Resource Development, training, research and transfer of Technology etc.

Revision of SC/ST List

8010. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has conveyed its concurrence to the proposal amendment of the SC/ST list of Gujarat for accommodating the Project Affected Persons (PAPs) of the Sardar Sarovar Project of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra being resettled in Gujarat at their option as per the provision of the Award of Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal;

(b) whether the proposal has been pending since 1995;

(c) whether the Chief Minister has requested the Prime Minister to amend the SC/ST list of Gujarat through an ordinance, if necessary, to resolve the long pending issue;

(d) if so, the action been taken in this regard; and

(e) the time by which the said matter is likely to be resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Necessary action is being taken as per approved modalities.

[Translation]

International Convention on Terrorism

8011. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has proposed an International Convention on Terrorism to be organised by UNO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an Indian official team visited Washington in mid April, 2000 to finalise an Indian draft on this convention in concurrence with the US;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether France and other countries have supported India's proposal; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India has proposed the adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. The 54th General Assembly of the UN has given mandate to initiate discussions on India's draft convention from September 2000 onwards. The Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism proposed by India is aimed at over-

coming shortcomings in existing international conventions on terrorism which only address specific acts of terrorism or terrorist acts committed with specific weapons. The Indian draft covers terrorist acts by any means.

(c) and (d) India and the United States have established an Indo-US Joint Working Group of Legal Experts on terrorism. An Indian delegation from the Ministry of External Affairs visited Washington and held discussions on 12th and 13th April, 2000 with the concerned US officials on India's draft proposal, which have brought out similarity of approach of the two countries.

(e) and (f) India has approached France and other G-8 countries for their support for the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. India has also taken up this matter with other countries during bilateral discussions. The Final Document of the XIth NAM Ministerial Meeting held at Cartagena on April 8 and 9, 2000 has called upon all states to support the initiative for a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Revision of SC/ST List

8012. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring any comprehensive Bill to settle all the cases pertaining to addition and deletion of the names of SC/ST's in the scheduled list;

(b) if so, when and if not, reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any suggestions and requests from the hon'ble Members and other social organisations in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken or likely to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (e) All requests/proposals pertaining to addition, deletion and modification in the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are being processed as per the approved modalities. This is a continuing process. Bill, in respect of cases which fulfill the required criteria as laid down, will be processed for consideration.

Expansion of Cottage Industries

8013. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there are possibilities for further expansion of cottage industries in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the schemes for promotion, development and expansion of these industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government provides financial assistance in the form of grant and loan to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for the development of Khadi and Village Industries. Under the Khadi programme, financial assistance is being provided to the implementing agencies in the form of 'rebate' and Interest Subsidy. For the development of village industries, Margin Money Scheme is being implemented. The Government has also launched a National Programme for Rural Industrialisation under which rural clusters are established every year. The KVIC has achieved total production to the level of Rs. 5112.37 crores during 1998-99 which can be increased manifold.

[English]

Bidi Workers

8014. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of bidi workers and other workers in the tendu leaf sector, separately, State-wise;
- (b) the extent to which the Government are protecting the employment structure in these sectors;
- (c) whether frequent meeting with trade unions have been held to sort out their problems; and
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to ensure that there is speedy response to matters concerning employment in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) There are about 44 lakh

bidi workers in the country. A statement indicating State-wise number of bidi workers is attached. No census of tendu leaf collectors in the country has been carried out so far.

(b) to (d) The apprehensions of bidi workers' organisations with regard to employment scenario in bidi sector, in the context of Government's policies, are taken up with the concerned authorities for taking appropriate decisions, from time to time.

The Central Advisory Committee on Bidi Workers Welfare Fund, which is a tripartite committee comprising of representatives from Government, employers and employees, meets periodically to discuss issues affecting interests of bidi workers.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the State	Total No. of Bidi Workers Estimated at Present
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6,25,000
2.	Assam	7,725
3.	Bihar	3,91,500
4.	Gujarat	50,000
5.	Karnataka	3,60,876
6.	Kerala	1,36,416
7.	Madhya Pradesh	7,50,000
8.	Maharashtra	2,56,000
9.	Orissa	1,60,000
10.	Rajasthan	1,00,000
11.	Tripura	5,000
12.	Tamil Nadu	6,21,000
13.	Uttar Pradesh	4,50,000
14.	West Bengal	4,87,000
Total		44,00,517

Leakage of Water

8015. SHRI RASHID ALVI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether marshlands have been created around Rajasthan Canal due to leakage of water from the canal; and
- (b) the remedial steps taken by the Government to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) No such marshland has been reported, Sir.

(b) Does not arise, Sir.

POWs

8016. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some officials of his Ministry visited an Indian national who was released recently from Pakistani jail after over 25 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the succour proposed to be provided to him;

(c) the number of POWs released from Pakistan jails so far; and

(d) the number of POWs reported dead so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Government officials are in contact with Shri Roop Lal Saharia, an Indian national, who was repatriated on 14.4.2000 after being held for more than 25 years in Pakistani custody.

(c) and (d) During the 1971 war, 532 Indian soldiers were taken prisoners of war by Pakistan. All these soldiers were repatriated to India. Subsequently Government was informed about 54 missing Indian defence personnel whose cases were taken up with the Government of Pakistan. Pakistan has consistently maintained that there are no Indian POWs in its custody.

Since Pakistan does not acknowledge the presence of Indian POWs in its custody, Government have no available information about their welfare.

Post Based Roster

8017. SHRI BUTA SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the DOPT has introduced "Post Based Roster" in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters" for implementing reserving system with effect from July 2, 1997;

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) whether while introducing "Post Based Rosters" in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters" the process of identifying excesses/shortage, if any, in Class I, II, III and IV category of services under the Ministry of Steel and Mining and all the Autonomous/Statutory Organisations, attached/Sub-ordinate offices and Public Sector Undertakings was undertaken as prescribed under para (5) of the DOPT O.M. No. 36012/96-Estt. (Res.) dated July 2, 1997; and

(d) if so, the details of excess/shortages found in all the above category of services as on July 2, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The earlier Vacancy Based Rosters were replaced by the Post Based Rosters with effect from 2.7.1997 by the Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India vide their O.M. No. 36012/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 2nd July, 1997 to implement the Supreme Court Judgement in the case of R.K. Sabharwal Vs. State of Punjab read with the Judgement in the case of J.C. Malik Vs. Union of India.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Steel has only one attached office viz. Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel (DCI&S) at Calcutta with 4 Regional Offices. There is no Statutory or autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Steel. Post Based Rosters were introduced in the Ministry of Steel as well as the Office of DCI&S and excess/shortages were identified in Class I, II, III, IV Category of services. The details are as given below :

Steel Secretariat

Class	Scheduled (SC)		Scheduled Tribe (ST)		Other Backward Class (OBC)	
	Excess	Shortage	Excess	Shortage	Excess	Shortage
Class I	2	--	--	--	--	--
Class II	5	--	4	--	--	5
Class III	5	--	3	--	--	7

Office of Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel

Class	Scheduled (SC)		Scheduled Tribe (ST)		Other Backward Class (OBC)	
	Excess	Shortage	Excess	Shortage	Excess	Shortage
Class I	2	--	2	--	--	--
Class II	3	--	5	--	--	--
Class III	7	--	5	2*	--	--
Class IV	--	2	--	--	--	--

* Shortfall submitted/compensated by SC

Information in respect of PSUs under the Ministry of Steel and Department of Mines, its Attached/Subordinate Offices and Statutory Bodies and PSUs under the Department of Mines is being collected and will be laid down on the Table of the House.

Linking of Rivers

8018. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have appointed any committee or an Expert team to make a study of the possibilities of interlinkage of major rivers of the country to form the nucleus of the National water grid;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) If not, whether the Government undertake to explore the possibilities of interlinking major rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) and Central Water Commission had in 1980 formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development, which envisages inter linkages between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilisation of water resources. The Government has established National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in July 1982 to carry out the water balance and other studies of National Perspective Plan and to prepare feasibility report of the links.

[Translation]

National Commission for SC/ST

8019. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will

the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the pump operators working in the village Majore, Panchayat Gudha Churani, Tehsil Thanagazi, district Alwar in Rajasthan under the drinking water scheme are not being paid their salaries because they belong to the Scheduled Castes;

(b) the details of the requests received by the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the said subject and the action taken thereon;

(c) the details of the laws enacted by the Union Government and the Rajasthan Government against any discrimination on caste basis;

(d) whether the Union Government is likely to take some special steps to eliminate discrimination on caste basis;

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

(f) whether the Union Government are aware that the caste discrimination is still practiced in every sphere of life in Rajasthan even today?

(g) whether the Government have conducted or proposed to conduct any survey in this regard; and

(h) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The information is being collected from the Government of Rajasthan and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has reported that no such complaint has been received either in the Headquarter or the State Office at Jaipur in the matter.

(c) to (e) In furtherance of Article 17 of the Constitution by which untouchability was abolished and its practice in any form forbidden, the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 was enacted in order to enforce the Constitutional provision. Further to check and deter crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 was brought into force w.e.f. 30th January, 1990 and Rules notified there under lay down procedures for implementation of that Act, including provision of relief and rehabilitation to the affected persons/dependents.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Implementation of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, Central assistance is provided to the State Governments on 50:50 basis (100 to UTs) for the measures undertaken/proposed by them for effective implementation of both the Acts.

Ministry of Home Affairs have also requested the Chief Secretaries of States/UTs to accord high priority to the framing, implementation and monitoring of the policies/schemes under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and to have appropriate mechanism for this purpose.

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

Inclusion of Dhobi Caste in SC List

8020. SHRIDALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States in which Dhobi Caste is fully recognized as Scheduled Caste alongwith the norms for any caste to be included in the list of the Scheduled Castes and the name of the recommending authority;

(b) whether the Madhya Pradesh State Legislative Assembly had passed a Non-Governmental resolution on April 3, 1998 to include Dhobi Caste in the list of Scheduled Caste in the entire State alongwith the recommendations of the Mahajan Commission (Madhya Pradesh State Backward Class Commission), the Mandal Commission, and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department of Madhya Pradesh alongwith the details and basis thereof;

(c) whether any committee had recommended in the year 1967 to exclude the Dhobi Caste from the list of Scheduled Castes in Bhopal, Seohar and Raisain districts of Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the basis thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Dhobi community has been specified as Scheduled Caste in relation to following States :- Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh (in Bhopal, Raisen and Sehore district), Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. As per provision contained in Article 341 of the Constitution of India, lists of Scheduled castes have been notified. The criteria for specification of any community in the list of Scheduled Castes are as under :-

Scheduled Castes :-

Extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of the traditional Practice of untouchability.

As per approved modalities any proposal for inclusion of community in the list of Scheduled Caste is recommended by the State/Union Territory Government concerned. Thereafter the proposal is referred to Registrar General of India and the National Commission of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for their views. After obtaining necessary concurrence, the proposal is considered by the Government and then placed in form of a bill in the Parliament for consideration.

(b) Yes, Sir. Madhya Pradesh State Legislative Assembly has passed a Non-Governmental Resolution on April 3, 1998 to include Rajak (Dhobi) caste in the list of Scheduled Castes of Madhya Pradesh and the recommendation was forwarded by State Government on 30.04.1998.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Advisory Committee on the Revision of the Lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes had recommended for exclusion of Dhobi community from the List of Scheduled Castes of Madhya Pradesh (Scheduled in Raisen and Sehore Districts) where they do not suffer from untouchability.

[English]

Seizure of Consignment by Uzbek Authorities

8021. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Uzbek custom authorities recently seized a Pakistan bound consignment of highly radio-active materials on its border with Kazakhstan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) whether India was informed about it; and
 (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 30th March 2000, Uzbek Customs authorities seized a truck registered in Iran and in transit from Kazakhstan to Pakistan viz Uzbek territory. The truck was declared as carrying 23.2 tonnes of stainless steel scrap as per a contract between a Kazakh firm and a Pakistani company based in Quetta. The documents with the driver of the truck also included a certificate to the effect that the consignment did not contain radio-active material. However, the truck was discovered to contain ten lead containers with highly radioactive material. The Uzbek authorities have instituted criminal proceedings and begun an inquiry into the case.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. India was informed about the incident through diplomatic channels.

Working Group on Bio-Fertilizers

8022. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have a plan to promote the use of bio-fertilisers in the country;
 (b) whether a working group has been set up on bio-fertilisers by the Government;
 (c) if so, the details thereof along with the composition, aim and objectives; and
 (d) the time by which the Group is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir. To Produce, distribute and promote the use of Bio-fertilisers in the country, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in Government of India is implementing a continuing Central Sector Scheme on Development and Use of Biofertilisers during the 9th Plan. Under the scheme, one national and six regional Biofertiliser Development Centres have been established in the country. These centres are engaged in the collection, preservation and distribution of efficient strains of biofertilisers for the production and use by the farmers. These centres are also organising training and demonstrations on the use of biofertilisers. So far as many as 71 bio-fertiliser production units have been approved in different States under the scheme. The total production capacity of 10410 tonnes/annum of biofertilisers has been set up in the country with the Government support.

- (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) In view of (b) above, questions do not arise.

Regularisation of Casual Labour

8023. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) the rules and time schedule fixed by the Government for regularisation of casual labours serving in various Public Sector Undertakings;
 (b) the total number of casual labours serving in 'National Thermal Power Corporation' (NTPC) at present and regularised during the last five years;
 (c) the reasons for not regularising the services of casual labours who have completed the stipulated period of their services in the above Undertaking; and
 (d) the number of such labours and the time by which those casual labours are likely to be regularised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) As per extant orders, a casual labourer engaged for doing work of purely casual nature in Central Government Public Sector Undertakings who has completed 180 days of continuous service in the same establishment or under the same employer, is eligible for employment on regular basis subject to fulfilment of conditions laid down by the establishment concerned.

- (b) In National Thermal Power Corporation no casual workers are working on continuous basis.
 (c) Casual Workers in National Thermal Power Corporation are engaged for purely temporary work for short duration and hence the question of their regularisation does not arise.

(d) As on date 7 persons have been engaged on daily rated basis for doing purely temporary nature of work and they will cease to be on the rolls of National Thermal Power Corporation as soon as their existing period expires.

Salandi Dam Project

8024. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the construction of Salandi Dam in Keonjhar district of Orissa was launched with the assistance of World Bank;
 (b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) whether the completion of this dam has been delayed;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the time by which the dam is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (e) The Salandi Irrigation Project, (Charampa Branch Canal) has been taken up under the World Bank Aided Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 31.40 Million (revised Rs. 64.32 Million) for renovation and modernisation of 28.52 Km. of main canal and branches, 102.84 Kms. length of distributaries and minors and 454 Nos. of structures. The cumulative expenditure of this sub-project upto December 1999 is Rs. 51.05 Million. This is programmed for completion by June 2000.

Promotion of FPI

8025. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether India's position at international level in the field of food processing is the lowest;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government are taking any action to bring about policy changes in the field of food processing and thereby improving country's ranking at the international level;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government was not able to utilize the amount allocated during the last three years; and
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (d) Department of Food Processing Industries have not received any information indicating that India's position in international level in the field of food processing is the lowest. For the development of processed food sector, the steps taken by the Government includes the following :-

- (i) Provision of soft loan and grant-in-aid for the development of processed food sector;

- (ii) Inclusion of food processing industries in the list of priority sectors for bank lending;
- (iii) Exemption of most of the processed food items from the purview of licensing under Industries (Development & Regulation) Act;
- (iv) Automatic approval for foreign equity upto 100% for most of the processed food items except alcohol and beer and those reserved for small scale sector subject to certain conditions.

(e) and (f) The plan funds allocated and utilized for the schemes of the Department of Food Processing Industries during the last three years are as follows :

(Amt. Rs. in Crores)

Year	B.E.	R.E.	Actual
97-98	44.10	40.00	22.87
98-99	44.10	30.00	30.00
99-00	47.00	40.00	37.78

Low demand-low volume of production-high per unit cost and again low demand are the main constraints faced by the Processed Food Sector. On account of high risk and low margin, not many entrepreneurs venture to enter although potential of this sector is reported to be immense.

Rice Blast Disease

8026. SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether rice blast disease is the major factor for declining trend in the rice production in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken to contain rice blast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Question does not arise.
- (c) The following remedial measures have been/are being taken for the control of rice blast disease :-
- (i) Grow recommended resistant/tolerant varieties;
- (ii) Avoid growing of susceptible varieties;

(iii) Seed treatment before sowing with Thiram/Captan;

(iv) Balanced use of nitrogenous fertilizers and avoiding excess usage;

(v) Periodical monitoring of the disease incidence;

(vi) Need based use of fungicides like Mancozeb (1.125-1.5 kg a.i. in 750 lt. of water), Edifenphos (250-300 ml in 750-1000 lt. water), Tricyclozole (225-300 a.i. per 100 lt. of water).

Gas/Oil Pipeline between Iran and India

8027. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has given permission for the laying of gas/oil pipeline between Iran and India via that country;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the cost of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Following the signing of an MOU between India and Iran in November 1993, it was agreed that a pre-feasibility study on transmission of Iranian natural gas to India through a pipeline would be prepared by an Internationally renowned and reputed engineering consultancy firm. Accordingly, the contract for the feasibility study was awarded by the Joint Working Group set up for this purpose to M/s. PLE of Germany in 1995. The pipeline feasibility route comprised of an onland section within the territory of Iran and an offshore section outside the territorial waters of Pakistan to India. Despite repeated attempts by this company the Government of Pakistan did not grant permission for survey through Pakistan's EEZ. In these circumstances, the contract for the feasibility study had to be terminated.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Extradition Treaty with Russia

8028. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the date from which extradition treaty with Russia is likely to be come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : Extradition Treaty signed with Russia on 21-12-98 shall come into force from the date of exchange of Instruments of Ratification. While India has ratified the Treaty, the Russian side is in advanced stage of completing the process of ratification.

[English]

Diseases in Coconut Plantations

8029. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the Agricultural Research Organisations dealing with the development of coconut plantation;

(b) whether the research has been under taken to identify disease in coconut plantations;

(c) If so, the details thereof;

(d) If not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether an assessment is likely to be done on the utility of such organisations dealing with research in coconut plantations; and

(f) if so, the time by which such a survey of these organisations is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod, Kerala Agricultural University, Trissur and Centres under All India Coordinated Research Project on Palms located at Ambajipeta (AP), Aliyamagar and Veppakulam (TN), Arsikere (Karnataka), Jagdalpur (MP), Kahikuchi (Assam), Konark (Orissa), Mandouri (W.B) and Ratnagiri (Maharashtra) are engaged in research and development of coconut plantation.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Major diseases of coconut has already been identified. The effective control measures are available for all the major diseases like Bud rot, Stem bleeding, Ganoderma wilt, Leaf rot and Crown Choking. For coconut root (wilt) disease in Kerala, effective management practices have been formulated for ameliorating the ill effects of the disease and for improving productivity. Disease tolerant palms have been identified for further use in development of disease tolerant lines.

(d) does not arise.

(e) and (f) There is an in built mechanism for review through Quinquennial Review Team at every 5 yearly interval

for assessing the performance of research institutes of ICAR and Centres under All India Coordinated Research Projects.

Arrest of Indian National in USA

8030. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian national working at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi was arrested in the United States on January 15, 2000 on the charges of demanding and accepting bribe to process an asylum application submitted by an Indian woman;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Indian national, Rakesh Kumar Kashyap who worked at the US Embassy in New Delhi was arrested in the US on charges of extortion in processing applications from visa seekers in India. Shri Kashyap has reportedly admitted to the charges and was sentenced by the Federal Court on 28th April, 2000 to three and a half months in prison.

(c) Embassy of India, Washington has been in touch with the State Department and Department of Justice regarding this case, and possible deportation of Shri Kashyap to India.

Customs Duty of Agricultural Products

8031. SHRISUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently declared Impex policy to the farms, Government have imposed rather increased the customs duty on various farm products including rice and grapes and other fruits; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) Government have recently increased the rates of basic customs duty on certain foodgrains and fruits. The names of the items and the rates of duty fixed are given below:

S. No.	Items	Basic Customs Duty
1	2	3
1.	Wheat	50%
2.	Spelt Wheat	50%
3.	Maize (Corn) Seed	50%
4.	Rice in husk	80%
5.	Husked (Brown) Rice	80%

1	2	3
6.	Semi-Milled or Wholly Milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed	70%
7.	Broken rice	80%
8.	Grain Sorghum	50%
9.	Millet	50%
10.	Grapes, fresh	35%
11.	Apples	50%

Backlog of Vacancies

8032. SHRI BUTA SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee has recommended to fill the Backlog vacancies reserved for the SCs/STs;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon since 1993 by the Ministry of Steel and Mining in respect of Backlog of vacancies concerning this Ministry and result thereof;

(c) if not, reasons for the same;

(d) the number of vacancies reserved for SC/STs which remained unfilled as on January 1, 1993 in Class I, II, III and IV category under the Ministry of Steel and Mining and its autonomous/statutory/attached offices and action taken to fill these vacancies; and

(e) the details of backlog of vacancies reserved for the SC/STs in Class I, II, III and IV categories as on August 29, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Ministry of Steel is making continuous efforts to fill all vacancies reserved for SCs and STs. In the attached office of Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel, Calcutta, there is no backlog of vacancies for reservation for SCs/STs. Information in respect of Ministry of Steel is as under :

Unfilled vacancies as on 1.1.1993		
Class	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe
Class I	---	---
Class II	---	2
Class III	2	1
Class IV	---	---

Backlog of vacancies as on 29.8.1997

Class	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe
Class I	---	---
Class II	---	1
Class III	1	---
Class IV	---	---

The Ministry of Steel does not have any autonomous/statutory offices under it.

Information in respect of Department of Mines and its autonomous/statutory/attached offices is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Kasturba Gandhi Education Scheme

8033. SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features of the Kasturba Gandhi Education Scheme;

(b) the progress made under the scheme so far;

(c) whether the scheme is likely to be implemented in all the districts of the country; and

(d) if so, the funds earmarked therefor, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalaya Scheme is yet to be finalised.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Import Duty on Fertilizers

8034. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any import duty is levied on fertilizers like urea, Di-Ammonium Phosphate and muriate of Potash; and

(b) if so, the rate at which it is levied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) Import duty is levied on Urea, Di-ammonium phosphate and Muriate of Potash at the following rates :-

Fertilizers	Effective rate of import duty
Urea, for use as manure	5.5%
Di-ammonium Phosphate	5%
Muriate of Potash	5.5%

[English]

Child Labour in Bangle Industry

8035. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Despite ban, children still labour in Bangle Units in Firozabad of U.P.;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the poor conditions in these industries;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to eliminate the child labour in the bangle units in Firozabad of U.P.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) As per the information received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, 4656 children have been identified to be working in Bangle units in Ferozabad district of Uttar Pradesh.

Manufacturing of glassware, including bangles, has been included in the Schedule to the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 which lists occupations and process in which employment of children below the age of 14 years is prohibited. In addition, the State Government has conducted three surveys to identify working children; besides officers from the Labour Department, officers from the Education and Revenue departments have also been entrusted with powers of inspection; children identified during inspection/surveys are being admitted to the primary schools and special schools/rehabilitation centres being run under the National Child Labour Project, Ferozabad; prosecution have been launched against offending employers and orders for recovery of Rs. 20,000/- per child have been issued; families of working children have been linked with employment generation schemes and other development and welfare schemes being implemented at the district level.

Assistance to Handicapped Persons

8036. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are extending financial assistance to handicapped persons through a Corporation;

(b) If so, the number of applications received and cleared by the Government in 1999-2000;

(c) whether any effort has been made to ensure that proper care is taken at the State-level to process applications properly and expeditiously; and

(d) If so, the details of the guidelines issued to State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of applications received by the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) during 1999-2000 was 1408 and the number of applications sanctioned was 982.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Detailed guidelines have been issued by NHFDC to State Governments/State Channelising Agencies for processing and forwarding the loan applications. The loan applications are submitted by the beneficiary on the prescribed format of NHFDC to the State Channelising Agency with all the relevant details. The application after scrutiny is forwarded by the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) to NHFDC for sanction of loan. Different SCAs have different mechanisms for processing the application depending on their district/field level infrastructure and the specific instructions issued by the respective State Government.

[Translation]

Unemployment in SSI

8037. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

DR. BALI RAM :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale industries closed down in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar resulting large scale unemployment, State-wise; and

(b) the remedial measures taken by the Government and the success achieved by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

US Stand on Hijacking

8038. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the U.S. President has given a clean chit to Pakistan with regard to the hijacking of Indian Airlines flight IC-814;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up this matter with US; and

(d) If so, the response of U.S. Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) The US President stated on 25th January 2000, in response to a question at a press briefing, that the US does not have evidence that the Pakistani Government was in any way involved in the hijacking.

(c) Government has conveyed to a number of friendly countries, including the US, its assessment regarding the identity of individuals and organisations involved in the hijacking. The matter was also discussed with the US side during the talks held in London on January 18-19 as part of the ongoing dialogue with the US on security matters and during the first meeting of the recently constituted Indo-US Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism on February 7-8 in Washington D.C.

(d) India and the US have agreed to work jointly to ensure that the perpetrators of the hijacking of IC-814 are brought to justice. The US has also acknowledged, including in the recently released report of the State Department on Patterns of Global Terrorism, that official Pakistani agencies have links with terrorist groups that were reportedly involved in the hijacking of IC-814.

Impact of IT on SAPTA and SAFTA

8039. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the role of IT on SAPTA and SAFTA;

(b) whether IT is likely to bring about changes in the functioning of SAPTA and SAFTA in the coming days; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Information Technology (IT)'s Impact on the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) and the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) is potentially two-fold –

(i) there is potential for IT exports from India to the South Asian region, both because India has

acquired a leading role in the world as a major and reliable supplier of branded, quality software products and services, making the IT sector our fastest growing foreign exchange earner, and because India is seeking greater market access for all its products under SAPTA and bilateral frameworks, and

- (ii) Increasing use of the Internet and E-commerce will catalyse and facilitate growth in trade at national, bilateral, regional and global levels, and therefore also under SAPTA and SAFTA, when the latter is established.

(b) and (c) A SAARC Seminar on E-Commerce is scheduled to be held in October 2000 in Nepal. This Seminar is expected to focus on Information Technology as an enabling tool for trade facilitation in SAARC and thus contribute to intra-regional trade expansion.

Globalisation and Migration Pressures

8040. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact globalisation will increase migration pressures as brought out by International Labour Organisation (ILO) in a book written by Peter Stalker;

(b) if so, whether the Government has studied the effects in our country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to correct the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) The book entitled "Workers without Frontiers – Impact of Globalisation on International Migration" by Peter Stalker released by the ILO recently reveals that far from reducing international migration flows – by moving products instead of people – globalisation will give rise to increased migration pressures in the years ahead. The Book also argues that flows of goods and capitals between rich countries will not be large enough to offset the needs for employment in poorer countries. Instead the social disruption caused by economic restructuring is likely to shake more people loose from their communities and encourage them to look abroad for work. It further reveals that countries like India might become much more integrated into the global economy. This could still leave a vast number of Indian people marginalised but with sufficient resources to travel overseas in search of work.

(c) Review of policies and programmes on international migration is a continuous process in the Government with a view to minimising social costs.

[Translation]

Bokaro Steel Plant

8041. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bokaro Steel Plant procured equipments from various small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years;

(c) the details of equipments/items used by the Bokaro Steel Plant manufactured by local small scale industries and other small scale industries during the last three years and the current year alongwith the cost price thereof, separately; and

(d) the reasons for purchasing of these items from small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) purchases spares, equipments and consumables from small scale industries. Details of various items ordered to small scale industries under Bokaro industrial Area Development Authority during the last three years and the current year is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) In order to help the development of SSI units, items which are manufactured by small scale industries and for which they compete in respect of quality and price with other industries are procured from them.

Statement

Major Category-wise summary of orders placed on BIADA

(Orders value Rs. in crores)

Category	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001 (Till April 2000)
1	2	3	4	5
Mechanical Spares	12.21	10.71	7.86	0.55
Electrical Spares	0.30	0.63	0.50	0.03
** Tools, Tackles & Consumables	10.72	9.93	10.95	0.25

1	2	3	4	5
Foundry Chemicals	0.78	0.66	1.01	0.00
Ingot Mould & Bottom plates	8.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sub Total - 1	32.02	21.94	20.32	0.83
Refractories	0.32	0.38	0.70	0.00
Valves	0.03	0.14	0.04	0.00
Capital items	0.09	0.40	0.00	0.00
Raw Materials	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00
Non Ferrous Metals	0.13	0.06	0.00	0.00
Others	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.00
Sub Total - 2	0.62	1.02	0.85	0.00

** Fire fighting wire rope, salt, acid packing & packing materials included.

[English]

Schemes of FPI

8042. SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Central Schemes in operation under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries;

(b) whether the industry had proposed to limit the schemes to three only;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the other Schemes formulated by the Ministry for setting up of Food Processing Industries in any part of the country including tribal areas and the benefits likely to accrue therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (d) Although 48 Plan Schemes were initially formulated by the Department of Food Processing Industries for implementation during the Ninth Plan, consequent upon the discussion in the Planning Commission, some of the schemes were clubbed regrouped and 26 Schemes were implemented during 1997-98. As a result of certain changes subsequently, during 2000-01, 21 Schemes are being implemented.

The thrust areas of the Plan assistance are :

- (i) Establishment of post harvest infrastructure particularly cold chain facilities.
- (ii) Industrial Estates/Parks.
- (iii) Setting up/expansion/modernization of food processing industries.
- (iv) Research & Development.
- (v) Human Resource Development.

The benefits accruing from the Schemes will include generation of employment opportunities, reduction in post-harvest wastages, increase in income etc. The Schemes are for the development of processed food sector through out the country. However, increased quantum of assistance under the Plan Scheme is envisaged for "difficult areas" which include Integrated Tribal Development Project Areas.

Milk Products

8043. SHRI RASHID ALVI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the findings of National Round Table Report on the white challenge;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that there are serious doubts today and as reflected in the L.K. Jha Committee Report of 1984 about the veracity of the claims engineered by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB);

(c) whether the Government propose to adopt reliable methods of estimating milk production in the country; and

(d) whether despite such claims, milk products are being imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) L.K. Jha Committee in 1984, has raised the issue of methodology of collection of milk production figures. However, it is stated that NDDB does not generate estimate on milk production in India and therefore the veracity of claims engineered by NDDB does not arise.

(c) The statistics on milk production generated and published by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India on the basis of National Sample Survey for estimating major livestock products (i.e. milk, egg, meat, wool) conducted in all States/UTs.

(d) Under the present Exim Policy Imports and Exports of Milk Products are allowed. While there have been some imports of milk products, there are some exports as well.

Study on Indian Farmers

8044. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a millennium study on the state of Indian farmers;

(b) if so, the main objectives of launching the study;

(c) whether the Government propose to corporatisation of some areas of the agricultural sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) As part of an ongoing Plan Scheme titled "Planning & Management of Indian Agriculture" a proposal is under consideration to conduct a Study on the state of Indian farmers. The Study aims to take stock of status of Indian farmers at the beginning of new millennium and to assess the impact of policies and programmes undertaken during last 50 years of development planning on their conditions.

(c) and (d) There is no bar on corporations participating in agricultural activities, provided they do not violate the provisions of any of the existing Central or State laws governing these activities.

Target of Foodgrain Production

8045. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation are in likely to achieve the target of foodgrain production during the Ninth Five Year Plan due to non-allocation of funds as demanded by them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has refused to increase the allocation of funds to agricultural sector for the year 1999-2000; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) Actual realization of target of 234 million tonnes, set for the end year of the Ninth Five Year Plan, i.e. 2001-2002, depends on a large number of factors like agro-climatic factors, farm size, timely use of quality inputs, development

and adoption of package of improved practices, besides level of investment. The Government on its part are taking a number of steps to increase production and productivity of foodgrains in the country. The Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in rice/wheat/coarse cereals based cropping system area, National Pulses Development Project etc. Under these programmes/projects, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management and use of improved farm implements. Research is also being continuously undertaken to develop improved technologies so as to enhance the productivity and production of foodgrains in India. Field demonstrations on farmers' holding including training of farmers and farm labourers is being organised for effective transfer of technology.

(c) and (d) Planning Commission could not provide an increase in allocation to Department of Agriculture and Cooperation beyond Rs. 1950 crores during 2000-2001 due to overall budgetary constraints and other priority requirements.

Informal Labour Sector

8046. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the situation of informal labour sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : The Government have enacted a number of labour laws to improve the conditions of labourers including those in informal sector. Some of these laws are the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment) and Conditions of Service Act, 1979, the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Service) Act, 1996 and the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 etc. Workers engaged in iron ore, manganese ore, chrome ore, limestone, dolomite and mica mines, cine industry and beedi industry are also covered by the various welfare programmes undertaken under the concerned welfare funds. State Governments have also launched insurance and social security schemes covering a large number of workers engaged in specific activities like handloom weavers, rickshaw pullers etc. Improvement in quality of employment and conditions of work of workers in the unorganised/informal sector has been continues to be a matter of prime concern for the Government.

The Government are also implementing a number of schemes like Jawahar Rozgar Yojna (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) etc. for the welfare and improvement

of the conditions of rural unorganised informal labourers in the country. A New Programme known as "Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojna" (SGSY), has been launched from April, 1999 by amalgamating existing schemes viz. IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRRA etc. This is a holistic programme covering all aspect of self employment such as organisation of the poor into self help groups, training, credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing.

[Translation]

Poly Clinic Centres

8047. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the agriculture poly-clinic centres are functioning in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;

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

(c) whether the Central assistance has been provided to these centres during the last three years;

(d) whether any vigilance committee has been set up to monitor the proper use of the said assistance; and

(e) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In Maharashtra, however, 56 Agropolyclinics-cum-Farmers Training Centres are being run by the State Government.

(c) to (e) No, Sir.

[English]

Manisana Wage Board

8048. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the Manisana Wage Board is likely to submit its report to the Government;

(b) the reasons for inordinate delay in submitting its report;

(c) the period by which the tenure of the said wage board has been extended; and

(d) the time by which the Government are likely to get the recommendations of the Manisana Wage Board implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) The Government constituted Manisana Wage Board for Journalists and Non-Journalist Newspaper and News-agency employees on 2.9.1994 for fixing and revising the rates of wages. No time frame was fixed for submission of the report. The tenure of Wage Board has been extended from time to time, the last being upto 31.3.2000. As the work of Wage Board could not be completed by the extended date, the Wage Board has sought some more time to finalise the report. The Government would make all efforts to implement within the shortest possible period, the recommendations of the Wage Board once the report is received.

[Translation]

Bokaro Steel Plant

8049. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding irregularities being committed by the Bokaro Steel Plant, an ancillary unit of "SAIL" in purchasing of uniform and shoes;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct an inquiry by a High Level Committee in this regard; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Recognition to Trade Unions

8050. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering amendment to the Trade Union Act, 1926 in order to keep out unions claiming recognition on bogus membership rosters and inflated claims;

(b) whether this exercise would help depoliticising the union towards stabilizing industrial relations and resultant increase in productivity based on work ethics and social accountability;

(c) If so, the details thereof;

(d) whether under Sections 25 (O) & (N) necessitating the State's consent in closing down units with more than 100 workers on payroll, will be done away by this amendment; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 2000 has been introduced in Rajya Sabha on 28.4.2000.

(d) and (e) Various amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 are proposed based on the requirements of the social partners and in consonance with economic reforms. The amendment proposals are processed at various stages before being approved by the competent authority.

Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapons Free and Non-Violent World

8051. SHRI MANISHANKAR AIYAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken cognizance of the Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free and Non-Violent World Order submitted by the Government of India to the United Nations Second Special Session on Disarmament in 1988;

(b) If so, whether the present Government subscribes to the Action Plan;

(c) If not, whether the Government have prepared any alternative plan for the time-bound elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction;

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) whether in discussions with US authorities and other nuclear weapon powers, the Government have sought to link the matter of the comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (and other measures of disarmament-cum-non-proliferation, such as the proposed Fissile Materials Cut-Off Treaty) with the question of the time bound elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction; and

(f) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) In bilateral discussions with the US and other nuclear weapon powers, Government have explored ways and means to advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation consistent with India's security interests while emphasising India's undiluted commitment to global nuclear disarmament.

Seminar on Good Governance

8052. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the views expressed by participants in seminar organised in the memory of Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant in Delhi recently;

(b) If so, the main views expressing by the participants;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon;

(d) the steps are being taken by the Government to provide good governance to the country;

(e) whether the recommendations made by the welfare committees have not been implemented; and

(f) If so, the details of recommendations and steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (f) The Union Minister of Urban Development in a function organised by the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi on 25 March 2000 in the memory of Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant, spoke *inter alia*, about challenges of providing good governance. He stated that there were several factors responsible for the overall poor performance of the institutions of governance including inefficiency, corruption and malpractices. He also talked about the lack of commitment, casualness, and the absence of inspiring ideology and work culture on the part of the civil servants.

Government of India has taken measures to improve the quality of governance from time to time. Some of the measures taken recently are as follows :

The Government has taken measures to bring greater transparency and accountability in its functioning. Thus several government organisations with considerable public interface have introduced Citizens' Charters indicating broadly the

quality of service, the public would be entitled to, within a specified time frame. Information and Facilitation Counters have been set up by 45 Ministries/Departments/Central Government Organisations to provide information on procedures and the schemes of the concerned organisation as well as to access information pertaining to the status of individual cases.

The Annual Action Plan prepared by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions envisages three-pronged strategy for containment of corruption in public life. It was initially launched in 1985-86 and is being continued on an annual basis. The broad features of the Action Plan are as follows :

- i) Preventive Vigilance;
- ii) Surveillance and detection; and
- iii) Deterrent punitive action.

Under these three major areas, the Action Plan seeks to cover as many aspects of the vigilance set-up as possible. The Government has been giving due importance and priority to the areas of Preventive Vigilance, with a view to minimising the areas of discretion—especially at lower levels. The Government has also taken several steps in the recent past to strengthen the institution of Central Vigilance Commission and that of the Chief Vigilance Officers, so that the vigilance machinery could be made more effective. Some of the important steps taken recently to combat corruption are following;

- i) The Central Vigilance Commission has been vested powers vide para 3(v) of the Department of Personnel and Training Resolution No. 371/20/99-AVD.III dated 4th April, 1999 to exercise superintendence over the vigilance administration. The Commission has issued several instructions to reduce the scope of corruption, such as, creating a culture of honesty, greater transparency in administration, electronics clearance system, computerization of banks, sensitising the public etc. The Central Vigilance Commission has also issued Special Chapters on vigilance management in public sector banks and public sector undertakings.
- ii) The Central Vigilance Commission Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 20.12.1999 to confer statutory status upon the Central Vigilance Commission and to incorporate the other directions of the Supreme Court in *Vineet Narain vs Union of India*.
- iii) Some of the major steps taken to insulate the

CBI from extraneous influences and to improve its functioning are :

- Director, CBI has given a minimum tenure of 2 years.
- A CBI Selection Board has been constituted to make recommendations for the appointment of Director, CBI and for reduction/extension in tenure/pre-mature repatriation of officers of rank of SP and above in CBI.
- 183 posts, including technical posts, have been sanctioned for augmenting the Special Crime Division and Economic Offences Wing of the CBI.

The Government has also taken up simplification of laws, rules and procedures to improve the efficiency of organisations. Towards this end, over 40 Departments had undertaken, through expert Task Forces or by internal exercises, a detailed review of laws, regulations and procedures administered by them. The Government had, in addition, set up a Commission on Review of Administrative Laws on 8 May, 1998 to make recommendations for repeal/amendment of laws, regulations, procedures, legislative processes etc. The Commission submitted its report on 30 September, 1998. The important recommendations of the Commission include recommendation for repeal of almost 50% of Central Laws (1382 out of 2500 Laws), expeditious amendments to a critical list of 109 identified Acts, documentation of administrative laws (rules, regulations, executive instructions) by all the Ministries/Departments, harmonisation of statutes and laws with reference to the perspective of domestic and foreign investors, trade and industry, consumers, exporters and importers, and development of a viable alternative disputes resolution machinery. The Government had constituted a Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Personnel) for monitoring the follow-up action on implementation of the recommendations contained in the report. Most of the Ministries/Departments have initiated action to bring about suitable amendments/modifications in and repeal of the Acts and Laws being administered by them with a view to improve service delivery and transparency in the functioning of Government.

The recommendations made by various reform Committees and Commissions set up the Government are given due consideration. Action is taken to implement those recommendations which are accepted by the Government.

Steel Production

8053. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether production of steel has increased at IISCO;

(b) if so, the details of production achieved against the targets set during 1999-2000;

(c) whether the Government propose to re-line the blast furnace at IISCO;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) other security measures taken to maintain safety in blast furnace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) The saleable steel production at Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. (IISCO) has been as under

Unit '000T

1998-99	1999-2000	
	Actual	Actual
		Target
285	242	250

(c) to (e) One out of the two operating blast furnaces is due for relining in the year 2001-02. Preparatory steps have been initiated after administrative approval for relining. As per advice of experts, action has also been initiated to charge Titanium bearing burden for giving protective coating to the hearth.

[Translation]

Alleged Poor Quality of Lime Stone

8054. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the objectives behind the setting up of raw material division in subsidiary unit of SAIL;

(b) the extent to which the raw material division has achieved its objectives;

(c) whether the inferior quality of lime stone has been procured by SAIL's auxiliary unit Bokaro Steel Plant;

(d) if so, the details of chemical analysis of the lime stone produced by Raw Material Division and the lime stone directly purchased from Private mine owners by Bokaro Steel Plant during the last three years;

(e) whether any substandard raw material has been supplied during the said period; and

(f) if so, the action proposed to be taken against those found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The Raw Materials Division of SAIL was formed with the following salient objectives :

- Efficient functioning of the Captive Mines.
- Optimising the utilisation of Raw Materials through proper networking of Captive Mines and Steel Plants.
- Despatch of quality raw materials as per requirement of Steel Plants.
- Perspective Planning in the area of Raw Materials.
- Development of new sources to meet the future requirement of Steel Plants.

(b) The formation of Raw Materials Division (RMD) has, inter-alia, yielded the following benefits :

- Growth in Iron Ore production
- Improved capacity utilization of Iron Ore Mines
- Meeting of demand of Iron Ore of Steel Plants without procurement from outside.
- Improvement in average Iron content in the fines supplies to BSL and Lumps to DSP, RSP & IISCO.
- Centralised maintenance facilities for Heavy Earth Moving Machinery established, thereby, reducing cash out go & delay in repairs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Water Scarcity

8055. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to identify the water scarcity States/regions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the per capita water available in each State/region;

(c) whether the Government have also identified regions where life normally remains disturbed during heavy rains/floods;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective steps taken by the Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) Availability of water in rivers is assessed River basin-wise. As per assessment of water resource potential made by Central Water Commission in 1993 the average annual availability of water in major River basin in the country and the per capita availability for projected population for 2000 A.D. is given in enclosed statement-I. As per the criteria adopted by some International agencies, any situation of water availability of less than 1000 cubic metres per capita per year is considered as a scarcity condition. According to this criterion, the scarcity situations exists in eight of the River basins namely : Cauvery, Sabarmati, Pennar, Mahi, Tapi, East flowing rivers between Mahanadi and Godawari, East flowing rivers between Pennar and Kanyakumari, and West flowing rivers of Kutch and Saurashtra including Luni.

(c) to (e) Rashtriya Barh Ayog (1980) assessed the area liable to floods as 40 million ha. in India. State-wise breakup of area liable to floods is given in enclosed statement-II.

The long term and short term measures to control floods are executed by the States as per priorities fixed by the States out of their own plan fund allocated by the Planning Commission. Central Government as per existing procedure provides technical advice and conducts appraisal of schemes when referred by the States for their clearance. Government of India has set up the Ganga Flood Control Commission in 1972 for preparing comprehensive master plans for floods management in Ganga basin. The master plans prepared by Ganga Flood Control Commission have been sent to the concerned Ganga basin States for their implementation. Similarly, Government of India has set up Brahmaputra Board in 1980 for preparing the master plans for the Brahmaputra, the Barak and their tributaries. The Master Plan prepared by Brahmaputra Board have been sent to all the basin States for their implementation. All these master plans contain the recommendations for both short term and long term measures of flood control. The recommendations of the two Committees on Flood Management, headed by Secretary, Water Resources, one for the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa and the other for North eastern States constituted in 1987 were sent to the concerned States along with the conclusions of the Empowered Committee. Besides this, in September, 1996 Central Government have constituted five Task Forces and the reports of these Task Forces have

been sent to the respective State Governments for taking up necessary follow up action.

In addition to the above, Central Water Commission operates 157 flood forecasting stations throughout the country for providing timely forecasting services to the States. Flood forecasting services help in mitigating the loss of life and property due to floods.

Statement-I

Basin-wise Water Resources Potential of India and Per Capita Water Availability

S. No.	River Basin	Average Annual Surface Water Availability (BCM)	Per Capita Water Availability (Cubic meter) 2000
1	2	3	4
1	Indus	73.31	1482
2	Ganga	525.02	1239
3	Brahmaputra	585.6	14057
4	Godavari	110.54	1734
5	Krishna	78.12	1088
6	Cauvery	21.36	619
7	Subernrekha	12.37	1118
8	Brahmani Baltarni	28.48	2463
9	Mahanadi	66.88	2131
10	Pennar	6.32	550
11	Mahi	11.02	888
12	Sabarmati	3.81	307
13	Narmada	45.04	2628
14	Tapi	14.88	853
West Flowing Rivers between			
15	Tapi to Tadri	87.41	2870
16	Tadri to Kanyakumari (Kutch and Saurashtra Incl.)	113.51	2950
17	Luni	15.1	579

1	2	3	4
East Flowing Rivers			
18	Mahanadi to Godavari	22.52	808
19	Pennar to Kanyakumari	16.46	311
20	Area on Inland Draining in Rajasthan		
21	Minor Rivers draining into Bangladesh and Myanmar	31	12500
Total		1869.35	

Statement-II*Area liable to floods in the country*

(Area in lakh ha.)

Sl. No.	State	Area liable to floods
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	13.9
2	Assam	31.5
3	Bihar	42.6
4	Gujarat	13.9
5	Haryana	23.5
6	Himachal Pradesh	2.3
7	Jammu & Kashmir	0.8
8	Karnataka	0.2
9	Kerala	0.7
10	Madhya Pradesh	2.6
11	Maharashtra	2.3
12	Manipur	0.8
13	Meghalaya	0.2
14	Orissa	14.0
15	Punjab	37.0
16	Rajasthan	32.6
17	Tamil Nadu	4.5
18	Tripura	3.3

1	2	3
19	Uttar Pradesh	73.36
20	West Bengal	26.5
21	Delhi	0.5
22	Pondicherry	0.1
Total		335.16

(Say 34 Million ha.)

Flood prone area as per data from States for period 1953-78	34 Million ha.
Area Protected till then (1978)	10 Million ha.
Total	44 Million ha.
Area flooded due to failure of protection works might have been added in the reported flooded area (assumed) (-ve)	4 Million ha.
Total Flood Prone Area in the Country	40 Million ha.

(As per Rashtriya Barah Ayog Report 1980)

Central Secretariat Service Rule, 1962

8056. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not defining the Provisions of Central Secretariat Services Rule, 1962 (Original Rule) through any Office Orders/Memorandum;

(b) whether the Government propose to review the practice of defining of CSS Rules by way of Office orders and Memorandum; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) It is well settled in Law that administrative instructions, i.e. Office Orders/Memorandum can be issued only to fill gaps in the existing statutory rules and not to supplant them. Office Orders/Memoranda can also not be issued in contradiction of the Provisions of the rules. The CSS Rules, 1962 allows this Ministry to issue instructions in residual matters not specifically covered by the rules and to relax the provisions of the rules in certain circumstances in consultation with UPSC.

In view of this, the question of reviewing the practice is not contemplated.

[English]

Durgapur Steel Plant

8057. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain sections of Durgapur Steel Plant have proposed for better utilisation of in-house facilities of SAIL for improving economic conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to use hot metal from Durgapur Steel Plant in nearby Alloy Steel and Produce Stainless Steel slabs there and use the same for Salem Steel Plant;

(d) if so, the benefits likely to accrue therefrom; and

(e) the efforts being made to reduce the cost of production and also improve the quality of steel products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Suggestions have been received from Hindustan Steel Employees Union and Hindustan Steel Workers Union of Durgapur Steel Plant for better utilisation of in-house facilities for improving the economic condition of the plant. The main suggestions inter-alia are :-

- Immediate improvement in production and operating efficiency in Bolani Ore Processing Plant.
- Procurement of coke and gas from Durgapur Projects Limited pending revival of coke oven, convert CCP Billets to 12/14 mm rod through sick Re-Rolling Mills paying conversion cost till new Wire Rod Mill materialises.
- Conduct business surveys to sell wheels, axles and sleepers in international market.
- Suggestions for making investments in various equipments/machines.
- Introduction of new units in the plant like coal injection plant, wire rod mill etc.
- Settlement of issues relating to personnel matters of workers.

(c) and (d) Hot metal from Durgapur Steel Plant is being used regularly at Alloy Steel Plant. However, hot metal alone can not be directly used for making stainless steel slabs for Salem Steel Plant. The benefits that accrue from use of hot metal from Durgapur Steel Plant to Alloy Steel Plant is as a substitute for scrap and savings in power cost.

(e) Continuous efforts are being made to improve process parameters for better quality of steel products and cost reduction.

Allotment Fertilizer Dealership

8058. SHRI BUTA SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reserved 25% of fertilizer dealership to the SCs/STs;

(b) if so, the total number of fertilizer dealership awarded by all the Public, Co-operative and Joint Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of the Ministry of Steel and Ministry of Mines and Minerals; and

(c) total number of dealerships awarded to the persons belonging to the SCs/STs as on January 1, 2000 and percentage thereof as compared to the total dealerships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) There is a provision of reservation of 25% of fertilizer dealerships to SCs and STs in respect of the Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of Ministry of Chemical & Fertilizers, Department of Fertilizers. However, as far as the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the administrative control of Ministry of Steel are concerned, there is no such reservation for SCs and STs.

(c) In the absence of any reservation for SCs and STs in the award of dealership for fertilizer in the PSUs under the Ministry of Steel, such information is not maintained. Information in respect of PSUs under the administrative control of Ministry of Mines & Minerals is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rehabilitation of Workers

8059. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the arrangements made by the Government for the rehabilitation of the workers of the factories lying closed;

(b) the steps the Government propose to take for the rehabilitation of the workers of the Cement Factory which was the biggest cement factory in Asia and was being run by Jaipur Udhog Ltd. at Sawai Madhopur and was previously owned by Government;

(c) the date since when it has been lying closed and the details of the efforts made for the welfare of the workers working therein; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Union Government to provide employment of these workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Channel of Promotion

8060. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a person holding an isolated post should be given some channel of promotion, as per Hon'ble Supreme Court judgement;

(b) whether this principal and rules of Department of Personnel and Training is applicable for all isolated posts; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The Government is already alive to the problems faced by persons holding isolated posts. Instructions have been issued prescribing guidelines relating to encadrement of isolated posts in Group-A in various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India. A number of measures have been suggested for reducing the number of isolated posts by inducting such posts into existing cadres as per the relevant instructions. Once a post is encadred, the promotional channel available for the cadre would be automatically extended to such encadred posts.

Government has also introduced the Assured Career Progression Scheme for the Central Government Civilian employees. The scheme *inter-alia* provides that if an employee has not been offered vacancy based promotion even after rendering prescribed years of regular service, he shall be considered for financial upgradations under the scheme subject to norms, conditions etc. prescribed for the purpose. The benefit of the scheme is also available to the employees holding isolated posts in Group-'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D'.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra

8061. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made on the role of Krishi Vigyan Kendras;

(b) If so, the result of such an assessment;

(c) whether additional funding are likely to be made available for Krishi Vigyan Kendra;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner Government propose to strengthen such organisations which are earmarked for farmers benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A detailed review of the role and functioning of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) was made by constituting nine Quinquennial Review Teams (QRT) during 1993-94.

The Committee made a number of recommendations on identification of training needs and other technical programmes, linkage, functioning of Local Management Committee, operation of instructional farm, development of infrastructure, personnel and financial management. The recommendations of the Committee were implemented for further improving the functioning of the KVKs.

(c) and (d) There has been increased funding from Rs. 43.34 crores during 1997-98 to Rs. 49.23 crores during 1999-2000 for implementation of the KVK activities. During the current financial year an amount of Rs. 57.73 crores have been allotted.

(e) The KVK was designed as an institutional mechanism, for providing skilled training to the farmers. The present activities of the KVK include technology assessment through on-farm testing in order to identify the location specificity of agricultural technology and front-line demonstrations to establish the production potential on the farmers fields, and its dissemination through training of farmers and in-service personnel.

12.01 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, in today's List of Business, due to an oversight the footnote remark in respect of Discussion under Rule 193 that "to be taken up at 4 P.M. or as soon as the preceding items of business are disposed of whichever is earlier" has been indicated against item No. 25 instead of item No. 24 which is a part-discussed item.

Eight Members representing all sides of the House have already participated in the discussion under Rule 193 on the statement made by the Minister of External Affairs regarding hijacking of Indian Airlines Plane IC-814 which commenced on 10th May, 2000. Shri Raashid Aml is to conclude his speech.

Accordingly, the discussion regarding hijacking of Indian Airlines Plane will be taken up at 4 P.M. and after its conclusion, the discussion regarding Sankhya Vahini Project may start.

I hope the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : We shall now take up the Papers to be Laid on the Table.

12.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2018/2000]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2019/2000]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Science Museums, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Science Museums, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council of Science Museums, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2020/2000]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda, Patna, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda, Patna, for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda, Patna, for the year 1998-99.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2021/2000]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida for the year 1998-99 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida for the year 1998-99.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2022/2000]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : Sir, on behalf of my senior colleague Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited, and the Ministry of Mines and Minerals, Department of Coal, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2023/2000]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Supplementary Memorandum of Action taken on the Report of the Justice S.C. Jain Commission of Inquiry into the fire incident at HPCL Visakh Refinery (Hindi and English versions.)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2024/2000]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, for the year 1998-99, together with the Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, for the year 1998-99.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2025/2000]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) A Copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Kerala Land Development Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Kerala Land Development Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1995-96, alongwith the Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2026/2000]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited, Faridabad, for the year 1998-99.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited, Faridabad, for the year 1998-99, alongwith the Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2027/2000]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) A copy of the Airports Authority of India (General Management, Entry for Ground Handling Services) Regulations, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. SEC 9.2.3 in Gazette of India dated the 1st February, 2000 under section 43 of the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994 together with an explanatory note.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2028/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Dilip Ray I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, and the Ministry of Steel, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2029/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding modification of the Award given by the Board of Arbitration (BOA) Under the Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration for the Central Government Employees (JCM) along with Annexure-I and II under clause 21 of the Scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2030/2000]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-
 - (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1998-99.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller General thereon.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2031/2000]

- (4) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Uranium Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2032/2000]

- (5) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Electronics Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2033/2000]

- (6) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Indian Rare Earths Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2034/2000]

- (7) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2035/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980 :-
 - (i) The Andhra Bank (Employees) Pension (Amendment) Regulation, 1998 published in Notification No. 866/3/P/Min./848 in Gazette of India dated the 3rd April, 1999.
 - (ii) The Oriental Bank of Commerce (Employees) Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. 3923 in Gazette of India dated the 17th April, 1999.
 - (iii) The Oriental Bank of Commerce (Officers) Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. 3924 in Gazette of India dated the 17th April, 1999.
 - (iv) The UCO Bank (Officers) Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. O.S.R./1/99 in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 1999.
 - (v) The Vijaya Bank (Officers) Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. PER/EST/2282/99 in Gazette of India dated the 5th June, 1999.

- (vi) The Allahabad Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. HO/LEGAL/949 in Gazette of India dated the 25th December, 1999.
 - (vii) The United Bank of India (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. 1/99 in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1999.
 - (viii) The Central Bank of India (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. CO/PRS/Pension/99-2K3945 in Gazette of India dated the 16th October, 1999.
 - (ix) The UCO Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. OSR/2/99 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd October, 1999.
 - (x) The Andhra Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. 666/3/Al/529 in Gazette of India dated the 8th November, 1999.
 - (xi) The Canara Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. PWPM/3435/78/SKR in Gazette of India dated the 13th November, 1999.
 - (xii) The Canara Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. PWPM/3435/78/SKR in Gazette of India dated the 13th November, 1999.
 - (xiii) The Oriental Bank of Commerce (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. 3925 in Gazette of India dated the 13th November, 1999.
 - (xiv) The Bank of Baroda (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. H.O.:OSR and IR:A/12/9/2902 in Gazette of India dated the 24th January, 2000.
 - (xv) The Bank of Baroda (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. HO.:PEN:92 in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2000.
 - (xvi) The UCO Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. PEN/1/99 in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 2000.
 - (xvii) The Vijaya Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. PER:PENS:71:2000 in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 2000.
 - (xviii) The Dena Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. IR/Amend-1/99 in Gazette of India dated the 5th February, 2000.
 - (xix) The Dena Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. IR/Amend/2.99 in Gazette of India dated the 5th February, 2000.
 - (xx) The Allahabad Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. Admn/5/3822 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd March, 2000.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 2036/2000]
- (2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 371(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 2000 appointing in the 1st June, 2000 as the date on which the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 to come into force, issued under Section 1 of the said Act.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 2037/2000]
- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 48 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 :-
 - (i) The Foreign Exchange Management (Encashment of Draft, Cheque, Instrument and payment of Interest) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 379(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2000.
 - (ii) The Foreign Exchange (Authentication of Documents) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 380 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2000.
 - (iii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transactions) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 381 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2000.

- (iv) The Foreign Exchange Management (Adjudication Proceedings and Appeal) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 382 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2000.

- (v) The Foreign Exchange (Com-pounding Proceedings) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 383 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2038/2000]

- (4) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 372 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd May, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding from payment of Inland Air Travel Tax in respect of Journeys performed on all the routes connecting places within North-East, under section 49 of the Finance Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2039/2000]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Acharyakul, Paunar, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Acharyakul, Paunar, for the year 1998-99.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2040/2000]

- (7) A copy of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151(1) of the Constitution:-

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (Civil) (No. 2 of 2000) — Transaction Audit Observations for the year ended the March, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2041/2000]

- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (Civil) (No. 4 of 2000) - Autonomous Bodies for the year ended the March, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2042/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table —

A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 :-

- (i) S.O. 434 (E) published in Gazette of India, dated the 4th May, 2000 notifying the Nachiketa Papers Limited, Patiala, as a mill producing newsprint.

- (ii) S.O. 435 (E) published in Gazette of India, dated the 4th May, 2000 notifying the Nelsun Paper Mill Limited, Tanjore, as a mill producing newsprint.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2043/2000]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Inspection Council and Export Inspection Agencies (Volume-I and II) for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export Inspection Council and Export Inspection Agencies (Volume-I and II) for the year 1998-99.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2044/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPAN) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Textiles Corporation Limited and its subsidiary corporations, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Textiles Corporation Limited and its subsidiary corporations, New Delhi for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2045/2000]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2046/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme, Coal Mines Family Pension Scheme (Ceased), Coal Mines Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme and Coal Mines Pension Scheme, Dhanbad, for the year 1998-99 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme, Coal Mines Family Pension Scheme (Ceased), Coal Mines Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme and Coal Mines Pension Scheme, Dhanbad, for the year 1998-99.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2047/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2048/2000]

12.05 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :-

1. "I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Tuesday, the 9th May, 2000 adopted the following motion in regard to the Committee on Offices of Profit :

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do elect two members of the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit and resolves that the House do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, two members from among the members of the House to the said Joint Committee to fill the vacancies caused by the retirement of Shri Onkar Singh Lakhawat and Shri Sanjay Nirupam from the Membership of the Rajya Sabha."

I am to further inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, the following members of the Rajya Sabha have been duly elected to the said Committee :-

1. Shri Sangh Priya Gautam
2. Shri Sanjay Nirupam."
2. "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th May, 2000, passed in accordance with the provisions of article 368 of the Constitution of India, without any amendment, the Constitution (Eighty-ninth Amendment) Bill, 2000, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th May, 2000."

12.06 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Action Taken Statements

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR) : Sir, I

beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture :-

- (1) Statement on further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the First Action Taken Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in the First Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (1996-97)' of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation).
- (2) Statement on further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Second Action Taken Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (1997-98)' of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation).
- (3) Statement on further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirteenth Action Taken Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in the Seventh Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (1998-99)' of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation).
- (4) Statement on further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifteenth Action Taken Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in the Second Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (1996-97)' of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).
- (5) Statement on further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Action Taken Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (1996-97) (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (1997-98)' of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).
- (6) Statement on further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourteenth Action Taken Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in the Eighth Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (1998-99)' of the Ministry of Agriculture

(Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

- (7) Statement on further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Second Action Taken Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in the Nineteenth Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (1999-2000)' of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).
- (8) Statement on further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Seventeenth Action Taken Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in the Third Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (1996-97)' of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying).
- (9) Statement on further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-fifth Action Taken Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-third Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (1995-96)' of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- (10) Statement on further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourteenth Action Taken Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (1996-97)' of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- (11) Statement on further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixth Action Taken Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in the Thirteenth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (1997-98)' of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- (12) Statement on further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Seventeenth Action Taken Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (1998-99)' of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- (13) Statement on further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the

Sixteenth Action Taken Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in the Fourth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (1996-97)' of the Ministry of Water Resources.

- (14) Statement on further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Action Taken Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (1997-98)' of the Ministry of Water Resources.
- (15) Statement on further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixteenth Action Taken Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (1998-99)' of the Ministry of Water Resources.

12.08 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

(i) Problems being faced by Ex-Servicemen

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Defence to the problems being faced by Ex-Servicemen and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto. ...*(Interruptions)*

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Sir, there is no Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : Sir, I am here in the House. Shri George Fernandes is coming. He is on his way from Rajya Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is a very serious matter. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Defence to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"The problems being faced by Ex-Servicemen and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : Sir, I am sorry for any inconvenience that has been caused to Members. I had Question Hour in the other House. As soon as the Question Hour got over, I have walked straight into this House.

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, about 55,000 Defence service personnel retire or are released from service every year. There are about 15 lakh ex-Servicemen in the country today.

2. The Central and the State Governments are jointly responsible for the resettlement and welfare of ex-Servicemen and have undertaken a number of schemes and programmes in this regard.

3. There has been substantial enhancement in the pension of Service personnel consequent upon the implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission. The Pension of all ex-Servicemen who had retired before 1.1.1996 has been revised and pension of those who retire after 1.1.1996 raised. As a result of such revision of pensions the Defence Pension Budget for the year 2000-2001 has gone up to Rs. 12,000 crore from Rs. 4,948 crore in 1997-98.

4. In order to provide re-employment opportunities to ex-Servicemen in civilian Departments, the Central Government have provided 10 per cent reservation in Group 'C' and 20 per cent in Group 'D' vacancies for them. In Defence Security Corps, 100 per cent vacancies are reserved for ex-Servicemen. In Paramilitary Forces, 10 per cent vacancies of Assistant Commandants are reserved for ex-Servicemen. In order to facilitate their re-employment certain relaxation in educational qualifications and in prescribed maximum age limits for recruitment have been provided.

5. The Central Public Sector Undertakings and Nationalised Banks provide 14.5 per cent reservation in Group 'C' posts and 24.5 per cent reservation in Group 'D' posts. Most of the State Governments, except the States of Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, and Meghalaya and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar, have provided reservation for ex-Servicemen in State Government jobs.

6. It has not been possible to provide re-employment to all eligible ex-Servicemen in the Government sector because of shrinking job opportunities, and also because many ex-Servicemen do not want to take up job away from their native villages to towns. In order to help them undertake self employment ventures they are given training in various trades and vocations, which are useful in civilian life, before their release from Services. There are schemes in collaboration

with Small Industries Development Bank of India, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and Khadi and Village Industries Commission, for providing financial assistance to set up small and village industries.

7. Ex-Servicemen are encouraged to float security agencies and transport companies. The Director General Resettlement sponsors ex-Servicemen security agencies to provide security services to various public sector undertakings. Coal India and its subsidiaries give transport contracts to transport companies floated by ex-Servicemen.

8. The Central Government have a number of welfare programmes for ex-Servicemen, war widows and their children. Some of the important programmes are as follows :

(i) Educational Concessions :

- (a) Thirty-five war memorial hostels have been constructed in the various Regimental Centres to provide accommodation to wards of war bereaved and of disabled personnel to pursue their studies. The children staying in these hostels are given education grant.
- (b) Twenty-five seats in medical colleges and one seat in Dental College and two seats in each of IITs are reserved for the wards of service personnel killed or disabled in action or due to causes attributable to service.
- (c) Twenty-five per cent seats in Sainik Schools are reserved for the children of serving and retired Service personnel.

(ii) Travel Facilities :

- (a) The Indian Airlines gives 50 per cent concession in airfare in domestic flights to recipients of gallantry awards of Param Vir Chakra, Mahavir Chakra, Ashok Chakra and Kirti Chakra and to the war widows of post Independence era.
- (b) The Railways give two free passes of 1st Class and 2nd AC to the recipients of the Chakra series of awards. War widows are given 75 per cent concession in rail fare for travel in II Class.

(iii) Medical facilities :

Ex-Servicemen are allowed free out patient treatment in military hospitals. To augment medical facilities for ex-Servicemen and their families 24 Medical Investigation rooms and 12 dental centres have been opened exclusively for them.

Ex-Servicemen are eligible for reimbursement of 60 percent of medical expenses under the Medical Insurance Scheme for treatment of specified serious diseases. Those not covered under the Medical Insurance Scheme are reimbursed medical expenses on treatment of specified serious diseases to the extent of 60 per cent in case of Commissioned Officers and 80 per cent in case of Other Ranks.

(iv) Canteen Facilities :

The ex-Servicemen and war widows can avail canteen facilities from the nearest CSD/Unit canteens.

9. Most of the problems of ex-Servicemen relate to matters within the purview of the State Governments. Rajya Sainik Boards at the State level and Zila Sainik Boards at the district level have been opened to help ex-Servicemen, war widows and members of their families in solving their problems. The State Governments are requested from time to time to look into the problems of ex-Servicemen.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to say that the hon. Minister of Defence has not addressed the very serious issues being faced by the ex-Servicemen in this country. The ex-Servicemen have been suffering from a great deal of injustice with regard to their pay, pension, non-effective benefits and other facilities.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chinnithala, the hon. Minister has made the Statement. You can only seek clarifications.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Yes, Sir. Shri V.P. Singh the then Prime Minister of India, had agreed for 'one rank one pension' scheme for the ex-Servicemen. The Fifth Pay Commission also had recommended for 'one rank one pension' for the ex-Servicemen. The hon. President of India also in his speech mentioned about this 'one rank one pension' scheme. The hon. Minister of Defence, Shri George Fernandes on April 13, 1999 at Anandpur Sahib declared that this 'one rank one pension' scheme will be implemented by this Government very soon.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why and what is the delay for implementing this 'one rank one pension' scheme for the ex-Servicemen which is affecting thousands of ex-Servicemen in the country.

Sir, the Disability Pension Scheme is also one of the very serious issues. In spite of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission, the Disability Pension Scheme has not been implemented.

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

Extension of Kargil-type facilities and grants to the affected defence personnel, who were involved in wars from 1948 to 1971, is also a very genuine demand. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this Government would accede to this demand or not.

Sir, one shocking incident has been reported in the newspaper that in the name of Kargil Fund, a considerable amount from the National Defence Fund has been transferred to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. If this news is true, then it is really shocking. I would like to get a clarification from the hon. Minister about this. People had contributed generously for the Defence Fund and it is not proper to divert any amount from that Fund for any other purpose.

Sir, lastly, there are two other issues. One is the medical facilities. The Ex-Servicemen are facing a lot of problems in getting proper medical facilities in the military hospitals. They are not getting priority for treatment. The serving Defence personnel are getting priority for treatment. It is the need of the hour to enhance the facilities for the ex-Servicemen in the military hospitals and see that they get medical attention on a priority basis in these hospitals. Reimbursement of claims also is a major issue for the ex-Servicemen.

Sir, lastly, the Singh Deo Committee which had been appointed earlier and had submitted its report in 1984 had recommended for the establishment of a National Commission for ex-Servicemen. Shri Jaswant Singh, the hon. Minister for External Affairs, was a Member of this Committee. It has been well accepted that there is very much a need for the establishment of a National Commission for the ex-Servicemen. I would like to have the response of the hon. Minister of Defence on these matters.

Lastly, the problem of unemployment of ex-Servicemen can be sorted out through creation of more units of Territorial Army in different parts of the country. Such units can be entrusted with the task of ecological development and other related activities. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is prepared to create more units of Territorial Army to provide employment to ex-Servicemen in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (AMROHA) : Ex-Servicemen are facing a lot of problems in this country. The reply given by the hon. Minister is not very satisfactory. It was expected that a lot of problems being faced by ex-Servicemen would be resolved after his assuming the charge as Minister but most of the problems are still unresolved. In his reply the hon. Minister has stated that approximately 30 to 60 thousand of the personnel from military organisations retire every year. I would like to know as to what is the percentage of the personnel belonging

to CPO's i.e. BSF and CRPF out of those total retiring military personnel? How many personnel from these organisations have retired? Is it a fact that 1979 onwards the shortage of service officers has risen to 55 per cent. They are more interested in seeking premature retirement. If it is true then why is it so? Is it true the number of such officers is increasing day by day? Recently the entire country was asked to contribute monetarily and cooperate with the Government in dealing with the Kargil crisis but it came to be noticed that the people preferred to send their money directly to the Army Welfare Association instead of National Defence Fund and Prime Minister Relief Fund. Doesn't it prove that the people are losing their faith in the Prime Minister Relief Fund and National Defence Fund? How much information does the hon. Minister have about it and to what extent it is true?

Sir, most of the retired army personnel join the security service in Public sector, private sector, banks, corporation or even become personal security officer of someone who needs them. They do their job at some body's gate by holding gun in their hands which is extremely humiliating for them. Those who defend their country by bravely guarding the borders of the country and who are always ready to sacrifice their lives for their country, become security guards at such places after retirement. Hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the ex-Servicemen are encouraged to undertake the business of this nature and to recruit the other ex-Servicemen therein. I am of the view that these organisations earn Rs. 200 to 300 crore every year. They harass the ex-Servicemen and extract undue money from them. It has also been alleged that the fake certificates are prepared and those who are not ex-Servicemen, are employed as security guards/officers by issuing the certificates of ex-Servicemen to them. I would like to know whether the Government are contemplating to set up a liaison office of its own where the process of such recruitment may take place.

There are approximately 33 ordnance factories in the country where people are working in very large numbers. A big budget has been provided for these factories. Ex-Servicemen should be absorbed in these factories. Earlier there used to be certain reservations for ex-Servicemen in Civil services and provincial services but bureaucracy cleverly dispensed away with it. Now there is no reservation for the ex-Servicemen in the Civil services and provincial services. They should be given reservation in these services. The state government should be directed to do so. Only Rajasthan has done something. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Alvi, the rule position is very clear. You can only seek a clarification during Calling Attention.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me finish what I want to say.

MR. SPEAKER : How can I give you so much time?

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, these members who belong to BJP do not allow us to speak. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask it they want to say that.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : First of all, you must go through the rules.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not saying anything irrelevant during the Calling Attention. I am raising an issue. Besides, I would like to say that he also said something about Medical facilities to the Ex-Servicemen. A committee in this regard was constituted under the Chairmanship of Lt. General N. Foldi. How many recommendations of that Committee are being implemented? He stated about the medical treatment that

[English]

between the serving class and the Ex-Servicemen, there should be no discrimination.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rashid Alvi, please conclude.

[Translation]

It is Calling Attention Motion. How can you make a speech.

[English]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : I am just concluding, Sir.

[Translation]

The Ex-Servicemen should be given medical treatment at par with the serving class. BJP wants to take undue advantage of it. During the Kargil war they had officially stated that it will prove beneficial in the coming days. They are not interested in benefiting them but are interested in driving political mileage during the elections.

[English]

SHRI J.S. BRAR (FARIDKOT) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important matter on which we have called the attention of the Government. The statement has been given by the hon. Minister. Here, I would like to give some very concrete suggestions because I come from a State from where a prominent role has been played by the Ex-Servicemen in the country's integrity and this nation's pride.

Firstly, I would like to ask the hon. Defence Minister in this regard that in pre-Independence era, the Defence personnel

were getting much higher rates of pension ranging from 70 to 100 per cent of their pay as compared to their Civil Servants including ICS at that time who got pensions ranging between 40 to 50 per cent of their pay. Is it not the irony of fate that those jawans and those officers who sacrifice for this nation are being discriminated against?

Secondly, I would also like to inform him, although the hon. Minister knows about it, that the death-cum-retirement gratuity sanctioned for the civil employees was introduced in 1950 whereas the Defence personnel got their benefit only in 1970. So, I think, this should also be looked into because this is a very big discriminating factor.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would only make only one or two points and conclude. I would not waste the time of the House. This being an important matter, the JCOs and officers have been abused under the false plea of civilian control over the Defence Services. The civilian control really means 'political control' and not that of a bureaucratic control. So, this has been forced upon the Defence personnel. So, I think, the hon. Defence Minister should also look into this matter.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important point which I would like to highlight before the august House that our country's jawan, our Defence personnel handle and use very sophisticated weapons at borders. Now, they handle Agni Missile. But my hon. friend and a very seasoned parliamentarian is also suggesting that a jawan is rated below a *chaprasi* of the Government of India. I would quote the figures in this regard. A *chaprasi* of the Government of India gets a pension of Rs. 2,100 to Rs. 2,200 whereas a jawan gets the basic minimum pension of only Rs. 1,275. This is a big discrimination and I would request that the hon. Minister should look into this matter.

Now, I would say a few words about their family pension. As a result of the facts stated in the statement, the widow of a jawan gets only 20 to 24 per cent of the pension as compared to his civil counterpart who gets 30 per cent family pension. Why is this discrimination against the widows of the jawans and the Ex-Servicemen who have sacrificed for the nation?

I would like to repeat the last point which my dear friend and my colleague Shri Ramesh Chennithala has made by adding one line to it. The Government has been rightly so generous on the jawans who fought the Kargil War, which had brought pride to the entire nation and the entire nation was one on that. There was no difference of any political party or any issue as far as the Kargil martyrs are concerned. My request is that those who suffered similarly during the Wars of 1947, 1962, 1965 and 1971, should also be given the same benefits as those being given for martyrs of Kargil War.

I would like to request the hon. Defence Minister to consider and reply these five points in conclusion.

[Shri J.S. Brar]

You announced one rank one pension at the historic place of Anandpur Sahib where 303rd centenary celebration of Khalsa was being celebrated and before Granth Sahib you announced that one rank one pension will be given, but still you have not implemented that. You must implement that to satisfy 50 lakh of ex-servicemen who are there in the country. All the assurances of enhancement of family pension, proper medical care, increase in disability pension, provision of alternative jobs and, lastly, setting up of a Finance Development Corporation for ex-servicemen should be fulfilled.

With these words, I thank you very much.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prakash Jaiswal.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we cannot wait so long. You had assured me that you will give me a chance immediately after the Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER : This follows a procedure, I will call you after the Calling Attention.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (GARHWAL) : Yadav Sahib you have served as the Minister of Defence. You should give sometime to us also. At least you should not do like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (KANPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, many hon. Members have said that the reply given by hon. Minister of Defence regarding the problems being faced by the Ex-servicemen is not satisfactory. Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards two or three points. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : What kind of discussion are you allowing in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the medical facilities which the Ex-servicemen get, is only available in the army hospital. You are aware that army hospitals are situated in only those cities which have cantonment boards. The army hospitals are not available everywhere. In such a situation, Ex-servicemen has to go two hundred, four hundred or five hundred kilometres to get the treatment because he lives in his native place after the retirement. Through you, I demand from the Minister of Defence that at least ex-servicemen should be allowed to get treatment in civil hospitals. If they are allowed to do so, an ex-servicemen whether he lives in a district, village or town, can get the treatment at a civil hospital there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second question is this that there is a provision of Rs. 461 crore in this budget for Railway ex-servicemen whereas for Ex-servicemen of Army there is a provision of Rs. 100 crore in this budget while it was Rs. 120

crore during the previous budget. What welfare of the Ex-servicemen can be done with such a meagre amount and what kind of provision can be made for their welfare. Hence, it is my submission through you that the hon. Minister of Defence should increase this amount to double. Lastly, I would submit to you that ex-servicemen should get reservation in jobs even in Parliament's services.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow me to speak for a minute, I would make submission in very brief. I would like to express my gratitude to the hon. MPs for presenting our point of view even without being affiliated to the army. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri. Now the hon. Minister will reply.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : The real thing is that as to what the State Governments are doing in this matter? ...*(Interruptions)* While it is entirely a responsibility of the State Governments and nobody is speaking about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Defence as to whether he would like to set up these hospitals even in Delhi or not. Two things are important regarding the pension of the army soldiers — firstly the conditions of 33 years should be done away with. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : You have served as the Minister of Defence for so many years. What did you keep on doing for so many years. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is wasting the time of the House. ...*(Interruptions)* All the debate is over the issue of State Governments. ...*(Interruptions)* All this will be done by the State Governments.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Now, the leaders

*Not Recorded.

of your party has raised this issue that you can not speak. When they raise his voice against us, we also will not allow them to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : They should say that all this will be done by the State Governments ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : He has raised this question. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You please listen, you convey it to the State Governments. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : If you allow him now, then you allow this practice in every Call Attention, I do not mind. ...*(Interruptions)* I deny that. I am only saying that if you allow this sort of an intervention, you must allow it in every case. ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : I am very much upset that you are trying to teach me the rules. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, you have to regulate the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO) : All this which is happening, should not go on record.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have already said that this will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the name is not to be given. There

*Not Recorded.

is a certain procedure for Calling Attention.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Procedure and rules apply to all. ...*(Interruptions)*

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER) : Sir, give a chance to me also to speak. I have served the army for 27 years and am well acquainted with their problems. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : I am grateful to the Members who have brought this Calling Attention Motion. I am grateful to them because it is owing to them only that I have got an opportunity to speak in the House on the issue of the problem being faced by the Ex-servicemen and the solutions thereof and besides it has also become evident that the House has full sympathy with the ex-servicemen. We strongly need their support. These problems have been lying pending for quite a long time and they have not come to the fore during last two or three years. When these problems could not be solved for the last fifty years, hence it is evident that there is a need for more effort and sympathy to resolve these problems now.

Firstly, I will say something about one rank one position. I have been pressing for this demand of one rank one pension for quite a long time even before becoming the Minister of Defence and I have demanded it both inside and outside the House but due to several reasons many previous governments have not conceded our demand. To bring about pensionary reforms, I have taken such a step that the pension of those army personnels who have retired earlier than 1st January, 1996 have been brought almost at par with those who have retired after 1st January, 1996.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are some discrepancies and we have been trying to do away with these anomalies. We have prepared some proposals and soon we are going to put them before the cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my friend and hon. Member Shri Ramesh Chennithala has stated about the diversion of funds from the Kargil Relief Fund to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. In one way he has levelled a charge against us. Another hon. Member said that the people did not send their money to the Defence Fund of the Government or Prime Minister's Relief Fund as they do not have any faith in them and instead they have sent their contributions directly to the Army Welfare Special Fund. Whatever money was received in the name of Kargil war fund, it was deposited with two organisations. Being the Minister of Defence, I used to appeal the people to contribute monetarily for the Kargil war fund and when it was asked from me as to whether it be given to the National Defence Fund which is the own welfare fund of the army then I generally used to suggest that it should be given to Army

[Shri George Fernandes]

Central Welfare Fund. I myself sent that entire money to the Army Central Welfare Fund which was mobilised by the people, some organisations and newspapers and handed over to me directly. Despite all this, the sum of money deposited in the National Defence Fund was Rs. 472 crores and 56 lakhs. Rs. 262 crores have been deposited under Army Central Welfare Fund. No funds have been given to any other scheme from National Defence Fund. If it is, it would have been given to Army Central Welfare Fund. Through this Fund assistance is provided to Ex-Servicemen. Hence, the funds have been given to only Army Central Welfare Fund out of which not a single penny has been given to any other fund. Therefore, any apprehension in the mind of hon'ble members that people are no longer having faith in National Defence Fund is incorrect. Hon'ble Prime Minister is the Chairman of that fund and that fund has not been diverted to Prime Minister's Relief Fund. I request the hon'ble Members to remove all such apprehensions from their mind.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, before responding to suggestions given here, I would like to highlight the efforts being made to solve the problems which are prevailing in our country for quite a long time. Hon'ble member has stated that before independence, it was a practice to give pension to retired army personnels and now they have deprived of this facility. At present, I am having no information of the matter regarding the pre independence period. However, as the hon'ble member has stated so, we will look into the matter and House will be informed. We will also send information to the hon'ble member.

Before 1947, a relief of Rs. 1000/- was used to be given from National Defence Fund to the wounded army personnel who had to leave the service and to the families of the deceased in the war. This grant was not given on per month or per year basis rather it was a one time grant. J.C.Os were given Rs. 300 and other soldiers whom we love most were given Rs. 200/-

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (DELHI-SADAR) : Was the grant given to them in the case of receiving serious injuries or getting killed in the war. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SIS RAM OLA (JHUNJHUNU) : Hon'ble Minister should tell us from which fund it was being given. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I have stated that the information regarding the funds given to army personnels in pre independence era will be collected and presented before the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRISIS RAMOLA : I want to say that the assistance was given from amalgamated funds. A pension of Rs. 100 and scholarship to his child was used to be given. The figures you have presented in the House are incorrect. ...*(Interruptions)* I can challenge that the figures are incorrect.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I can rectify my mistake if a member points out. As per the information. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : It is incorrect. ...*(Interruptions)* Wrong figures are being presented in the House. ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)* How you can distort the facts. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : We speak here on the basis of information. If a Member wants to refute on the basis of facts, he can do so. We need not to place wrong statements in the House and also need not to defend any wrong statement.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : You did not tell us whether the grants was given either when they wounded or when killed during war.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : For both the personnels who have been disabled or who have been killed during war. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI : I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister that in which year it was happened.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : It was happened after 1962 war. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : During the war of 1962 or before that in Rajasthan. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please ask him to sit down. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : Two thousand rupees were used to be given for 25 Beeghas of land in Rajasthan. ...*(Interruptions)* What is the value of such an amount? ...*(Interruptions)* Wrong statements are being made. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : A suggestion has been given here that the retired army personnels and officers should be recruited in territorial army. Territorial army has a fixed strength. If the parliament enacts any law to increase the strength of territorial army and allocates funds for this purpose, then it can be done. We will definitely do that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL) : May I interrupt for a second? The authorised strength of the Territorial Army is three lakh. It has never been subscribed to more than 50,000 in the last 50 years.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Therefore, I have stated that after getting retired from the army, they should join Territorial army and if the issue of providing funds in this regard is solved then what Hon'ble Member Shri K.P. Singh Deo has stated here will also be fulfilled. The territorial army become more stronger if the funds required for it will also be made. You have stated that at present territorial army is not having full strength. So many reasons are there for it. One of them is that several Government institutions do not sanction the leave which is required for the staff to join the territorial army and if the leave is sanctioned, their salaries are being stopped. It involves in many problems...(Interruptions)

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : Hon'ble Minister of Defence may please state the number of Territorial Ecological army present in our country. ...(Interruptions) What is the problem? I am asking a very important question. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I would like to remove the worry of Hon'ble Member while saying that situation has been completely changed today. The basic question is how we will look after the soldiers who have been saved in Kargil war. Ex-gratia payment of Rs. 10 lakh has been arranged for the army personnels died in Kargil war. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : When this arrangement was implemented?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : This arrangement has been implemented since Kargil war.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Whether the arrangement of Rs. 10 lakh was made after Kargil war?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Yes.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Hon'ble Defence Minister, please rectify your statement. Rs. 10 lakh were proposed by us. Rs. 7½ lakhs were already approved for the martyrs. Only 2½ lakhs were increased during your regime. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGARH, J.P.) : Please speak after getting full information. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh, please sit down.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will not tolerate the unnecessary interruptions. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete the reply.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We have not come

here to be insulted. ...(Interruptions) Just now Shri Somnath ji was asked to sit down. What do you think....(Interruptions) Who are they... (Interruptions) They will run the House, alright, but whether they will surpass us. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : His behaviour is the most objectionable behaviour. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We are discussing a very important subject. This is not the way to obstruct the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : At the time of war he left the service, and now talking to us in such a manner. ...(Interruptions) He is among the persons who flee from battlefield. Just now Shri Somnath Chatterjee was also interrupted unnecessarily. ...(Interruptions) Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the House will be run by you or by a member. ...(Interruptions) Instead of saying the hon'ble member who is interrupting unnecessarily, you are asking us to sit down. It is not proper.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to you.

[Translation]

Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Only the false statements are being given here. ...(Interruptions) By creating uproar in the House, you can not hide the truth. ...(Interruptions) You interrupt us unnecessarily. ...(Interruptions) Just now Shri Somnathji was interrupted. Mr. Speaker, Sir, he interrupts all the members. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have to stand with us. ...(Interruptions) Ask the hon'ble member to apologise.

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Why should I sit, I will not sit today. ...(Interruptions) You please run the House. What is this? They are trying to suppress us because they have majority in the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, you can continue now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, these days, any remark can be made about another Member on the floor of the House. ...(Interruptions) Sir, you will have to be very strict. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is happening from both sides.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Shri Mulayam Singh, what I have said, I am only repeating the rules which you always teach me. I am reminding you the same. I have not told you anything wrong on indecent. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : The House can not run like this.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is happening from both sides. What is this?

[Translation]

Both sides are behaving in the same manner.

[English]

Nobody is following the rules.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : I would like to ask Shri Khanduriji that why he is fighting in the House, he was required to fight on the border. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, along with Rs. 10 lakhs, martyrs of the war will be provided. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : War is going on in the House.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : And the wounded army personnel who are no longer be able to join the service. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI : I want to know whether the 10 lakh rupees were given just before the Parliament election. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nobody bothers about the rules.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Arrangements have been made to give Rs. five lakh to the next of kin of the deceased for buying a plot or a house, irrespective of the fact that whether they have a house or not. Persons who were injured, were given compensation as per the percentage of invalidity certified by the doctors viz, if the invalidity was 50 percent, they would get Rs. 3 lacs as ex-gratia, if it was more than 50 percent and upto 75 percent, Rs 4.5 lacs and if it was more than 75 percent then they would get Rs. 6 lacs. Moreover, arrangements for the education of two children were also made. If there is one child in the family, then education for one, and if there are more than one, i.e. two children in the family then arrangements for education of two children were made. Besides this, a provision had also been made to deposit Rs. 1 lac for each child separately and to give the interest of this sum to them. When they would grow upto the age of 17-18 years and complete their studies, the said deposit would be handed-over to them for their marriage or investment in some other work.

13.00 hrs.

Previously we had specified a limit that the amount given as compensation by the state or any other government to any family member of the martyrs would not exceed Rs. 10 lacs, i.e. compensation collectively from the Central Government, State Government or any other institution would not exceed Rs. 10 lac. Now we have removed that limit. The State Governments and many other institution, newspapers or Voluntary Organisations have extended their hand towards helping the family members of martyrs of this country. We wish that this money may be given to them and this is the reason that we have removed the limits of this compensation.

Sir, we have come across another problem. Generally, the persons who join the army, write their 'will' that in case they die their pension may be given to the person mentioned in their will. Ordinarily, this 'will' is made in favour of one's family Members and wife-children etc. and if he is unmarried then in favour of the parents. But this time, when this amount of compensation was going to be sent to their family Members, we received requests from the deceased parents that no one was there to take care of them. They had only one son, who looked after his family and also parents, but there was nobody to look after them now. So in such a situation we made arrangements to give them Rs. one thousand per month but we have felt that this amount is not enough and then now we are making a proposal before the National Defence Fund. The meeting of National Defence Fund was to be held in the preceding two days, but it was postponed due to the business of the House. We are making provisions for giving Rs. two

thousand per month to the parents of the martyrs. Presently we are giving Rs. one thousand but soon we would make it Rs. two thousand.

Alongwith this, family of each martyr will be given a petrol pump or gas agency and the Petroleum Ministry has given its contribution for this. The petroleum Ministry has shouldered the responsibility of buying land for this purpose. This amount is in lacs. The rates of lands in small towns and big towns is very high and the Government is providing this from its own side. ...*(Interruptions)* Besides this DDA flats in Delhi are being constructed separately to be provided in Delhi. So, whatever problem you had from the previous practice and condition, is not prevalent now. We have over come those problems. We have also made provision to give a special amount from this Fund to the persons who have not been given anything since a long time, i.e. from 1947 till 2000. This money shall go to them as and when approval is given by the National Defence Fund. We have decided that persons who are alive and who, alongwith their family members have been waiting in an expectation for the last 40-50 years that they would also get something, would not only be given something but level best efforts would be made to solve their problems also. The National Defence Fund will be giving its decision very soon. I have not mentioned about the amount which they will receive as a matter of right, viz, Gratuity, Insurance etc. because that is their right and even if we would have not been there, they would have got it. I have mentioned all the decisions made by the Government before you.

Sir, hon'ble members have strongly raised the point of medical facility in this regard. It is correct that the army hospitals give preference to those persons who are in service presently, which is logical also. There can be no discussion on this because preference in the hospitals opened for the army, would obviously be given to those who are presently in service. This is essential especially in those hospitals which are located in Northern India, Punjab and Chandigarh as cases of casualties take place every now and then and it is not possible to discharge the persons the very same day. There is paucity of space in the hospitals, but even then, arrangements for the treatment of ex-servicemen in these hospitals are also there. ...*(Interruptions)*

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER) : Sir, nobody attends there. ...*(Interruptions)* Why do you leave the ex-servicemen on the mercy of hospitals, why don't you give them allowance? ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, there is a military hospital at Jodhpur in Rajasthan. People come to that hospital from long distance of two hundred kilometres and nobody in the hospital attends to them. ...*(Interruptions)* Please make some announcement in this regard today. ...*(Interruptions)* This is their fundamental right. ...*(Interruptions)* When all the employees of Central Government get such allowance then why not the ex-servicemen get it. Why do you leave them at the mercy of military hospital. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, it is a fact,

please approve it and make some announcement here today in this connection. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You are right. There are many rights and entitlements of these people, which we are unable to fulfil. The first and foremost right is 'right to live' and one should get employment in order to live, but presently names of four crore sixteen lacs of educated people are registered in the employment exchanges, throughout the country. All these problems are there and they are prevalent since a long time. ...*(Interruptions)* After all funds are required for such herculean task and these funds are to be provided by this Parliament only. If they give me money tomorrow itself and say that each village should have a hospital, then we shall accomplish the work in six months, which would have otherwise been completed in one year. ...*(Interruptions)*

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : You give them some allowance. ...*(Interruptions)* Why do you make them dependent on the military hospital. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : We also want all the things, which you are talking about. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, today is the last day of the Session and we have one more Calling Attention Motion to take up.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter regarding medical treatment is a serious Question. The people living in cities get opportunities to go to big hospitals. I am talking about the army personnel. ...*(Interruptions)* There are lacs of soldiers and army personnel living in villages. Officers, are normally very less in number. As we have told there are 15 lacs of ex-Servicemen and hospitals have not been provided for them at every place. We are aware that they have to go sometimes a hundred kilometres to get medical treatment. The only solution is that hospitals should be provided in all the districts of the country. But we also have districts that are very big. Even there they may have to travel long distance. Another proposal is that hospital should be opened at places where there is concentration of ex-Servicemen. We are prepared for all such things.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : You can allow them in the existing hospitals. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you speaking in between? This is wrong.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (KOKRAJHAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask what steps are being taken to help those lacs of soldiers, who had sacrificed their lives for the country before the Kargil operation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Muthiary, please sit down.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : It seems as if we had forcefully prevented these people from making hospitals ...*(Interruptions)* We had not prevented them from making hospitals.

(English)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : Mr. Minister, it is very unfortunate that you have been saying this. ...*(Interruptions)* I never expected it from you.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I am not. But the way I am being obstructed, the way the questions are thrown at me is suggested that I am not doing what should have been done. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : He was only suggesting that it should have been done. Do not take a political line.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I have accepted it. I am not looking at it politically at all. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not looking at anything politically. I am only making the point that the way the issue is posed, it is as if that all these things should have been done and I am not doing them. But there is no money. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : It is not like that. ...*(Interruptions)*

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : We have never said like that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : If Parliament sanctions the money, then we will build all these hospitals.

(Translation)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, one more point was raised that there is a massive difference between the family pension of the services and that of the civilians. There is no difference as such. Both of them get thirty percent, I have failed to understand the point. It was an injustice to compare the salary of soldiers, with that a peon. Salary of an army soldier is more than that of a peon. Some Hon'ble Members have raised the point that pension to widow of Civilian is 30 percent whereas pension to widow of an Army Personnel is 20-25 percent and pay of a peon is more than the pay of a soldier. These facts are not correct. If the hon. Member has any information in this regard please send it to me. We will certainly acknowledge and send a reply to you separately.

Regarding re-employment of Ex-Servicemen it was

suggested that retired soldiers should be recruited in the ordnance factory. I may tell you that there are 39 ordnance factories instead of 33 which employ one lac fifty thousand persons. Whatever wastage may be there, but the average age is 50 years. If we start recruiting persons of 40 years of age, then we shall face some problems in the ordnance factory. It is, therefore necessary to find out other solutions for employment.

It has also been said that the security agencies themselves earn in thousands but give a meagre amount to the soldiers who are employed there after retirement. But a majority of these security agencies are run by the retired army officers only. We wish that these security agencies should employ the demobilized soldiers there. We are making efforts in this direction. If any wrong is done by any agency, then we shall definitely investigate into that and would also help in setting it right. I feel that I have answered to all the important points that were raised here without mentioning the names of hon. Members who raised it.

(English)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, have you completed your reply?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Yes.

(Translation)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had said that immediately after the question hour I will be given a chance to speak, but you did not give me time to speak. Hon'ble Minister's speech became lengthier than the budget speech itself ...*(Interruptions)* You are ignoring my question.

MR. SPEAKER : There is one more Calling Attention Motion, We have to finish off with that also.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Defence Minister has not clarified as to whether the ceiling of Rs. 10 lac has been removed after the Kargil war or the amount has been increased from the already increased amount? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He has already given the reply to this.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : A provision for Rs. seven lac fifty thousand existed before the Kargil war. It has been increased to Rs. 10 lac. ...*(Interruptions)* Your proposal was for Rs. seven lac fifty thousand. It was not approved previously. I gave the approval after assuming office ...*(Interruptions)* Your proposal was ...*(Interruptions)*

13.16 hrs.

*(Interruptions)***(II) Reported loss to small investors due to sudden crashing down of points in Stock Market***[English]**[English]*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Finance to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"The situation arising out of reported loss to small investors due to sudden crashing down of points in Stock market and sanction of loans by banks against shares and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, price fluctuations on stock markets are influenced by multiple factors, which include expectations of investors regarding the performance of the corporate sector and the economy in general, about economic policies of the Government, developments in international capital markets, etc. During the last two months, the BSE Sensex has been generally on a downtrend but it cannot be said to have crashed. The SENSEX peaked on 11th February, 2000 at 5933.26 and closed at 4230.13 on 16th May, 2000. ...*(Interruptions)* The reported losses due to such fluctuations are, however, notional since the SENSEX was generally on the rise for several months before February, 2000. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the morning, I had raised a question regarding Uttaranchal. You had said that permission for raising this question shall be given after the question hour....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand. We have two Calling Attentions. This is the second one.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Except the statement of the Minister, nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)***[Translation]*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Sir, a conspiracy for dividing and disintegrating the country is being hatched. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : There is one more Calling Attention. We shall take it after this. Do you know the procedure or not. What are you doing?

*Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : There is Calling Attention. Please go to your seat. What is this?

(Interruptions)

13.18 hrs.

At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)***[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : Please raise this after the Calling Attention, you do not know the procedure.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is Calling Attention.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do you know the procedure or not?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What are you talking? This is not the procedure.

*(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you can continue.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, SEBI has taken various measures to ensure safety of the market and to curb excessive volatility. SEBI has put in place risk containment measures comprising capital adequacy, margining system, exposure controls and price bands. SEBI has been interacting with the stock exchanges regularly and the exchanges have been alerted to keep a close watch over the market and take appropriate action when required. The Exchanges have informed SEBI that they have initiated various actions including imposition of higher margins and curbing of excessive concentration by brokers. SEBI has cautioned investors, through Press releases, to exercise caution while transacting in securities.

*Not Recorded.

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

A study conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in respect of 35 banks accounting for more than 70 per cent of the total bank finance against shares revealed that the total advances against shares by these banks amounted to Rs. 5,611 crore at the end of December, 1999. This includes advances against collateral of shares and for Initial Public Offerings (IPOs). The total guarantees issued by the banks including the guarantees against pledge of shares furnished by banks to various stock exchanges in lieu of margins aggregated, as on 31st December, 1999, to Rs. 2,385 crore. RBI has already issued guidelines in respect of advances against shares/units/debentures and PSU bonds to individuals, stock brokers and corporates. The RBI's guidelines are given in its master circular issued on 28th August, 1998. The guidelines for financing to individuals against security of shares cover the purpose, amount, margins to be maintained and lending policy, while sanctioning these loans. The maximum limit prescribed for advances against shares to individuals is Rs. 10 lakh (Rs. 20 lakh in case of loans against the demat shares). The minimum margins to be taken have also been prescribed (25% in respect of demat shares and 50% in respect of shares in physical form). The specific lending policy in this regard was to be formulated by individual banks with the approval of their Boards keeping in view the general guidelines issued by RBI. The banks were, *inter-alia*, also advised to take suitable precautions to ensure that such lending was not used for speculative purposes. As a prudential measure, banks were also required to consider restricting such advances within an aggregate limit. A review meeting undertaken by RBI in February, 2000 with bankers revealed that banks had put in place risk containment measures such as prescription of limits on the value of shares to determine credit limits, market-to-market of share portfolios on a regular basis, monitoring of exposure to scrips which exhibits price volatility etc.

While RBI and SEBI have been in constant touch with each other, in order to further streamline the operating guidelines for bank financing on equities, a technical committee is being constituted comprising officers from RBI and SEBI. The committee will review the status and make suitable recommendations with regard to banks' role in capital markets after appropriate consultations with banks and market participants. The committee will consider, among other issues, the desirability of having appropriate ceilings for advances against shares as well as issues relating to prudent levels of margins on advances against shares and IPOs.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask some clarifications from the hon. Finance Minister.

First of all, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether he thinks that the price fluctuations, particularly in information technology scrips, are proper and whether any manipulative techniques have been adopted by

some companies or some operators. What are the precautions that the Finance Minister proposes to take to protect the interest of small investors?

Sir, I have got the proof that 90 per cent finance to IPOs is done by the banks for primary applications. So, I would like to know what action that the Finance Minister is going to take in this regard. I would also like to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether he thinks that this is a fabricated *tezi* and whether there are any chance of making some corrections. At the same time, there are so many software companies, which have come into the market. They are Non-Banking Financial Companies. They have chanted their names and they have come into the market as dotcom companies now. I would like to know what action the Finance Minister is going to take against such companies.

I would also like to bring to the attention of the House that Shri Harshad Mehta had manipulated the Stock Market in 1992. In 1998, once again, a price rigging scandal of scrips of companies like BPL, Videocon, etc., had brought *tezi* in the market. In February, 1999, the Bombay Stock Exchange Index was 3,399. In October, 1999, it had gone up to 4,000 and it had further gone up to 6,510 in February, 2000 and on 15th May, 2000, it was 4,000. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Akhilesh Singh, you do not know the procedure. This is not a public meeting. Please go to your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Sir, there is so much of volatility in the market. So, I would request the hon. Minister that he should issue some guidelines to SEBI and RBI in this regard. I am sure that the Finance Minister, who has taken many steps to protect the interests of small investors, would take appropriate action in this matter also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI (AHMEDNAGAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I have got an opportunity to throw light on this very important matter. Today small investors want to earn enough money by investing their hard earned money in share market. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have come in the House for the first time, will I not be heard? There are many finance companies which have earlier collected money and after changing their names they have entered into share market. People invested their hard earned money in shares and the price of the share which was Rs. 80 reached to two thousand rupees in a short period and then again plunged to two hundred rupees. Middle class investors have to incur a lot of financial loss due to this kind of fluctuations. It has been said that all the companies have got

90% loan from the banks and whatever ups and downs take place in the banks affect the prices of shares as well. So, my point is that as to what is being done by SEBI in this regard. Does it have any control over this. Is there any limit fixed that price of a particular share should not go beyond or fall below that limit. Everyday, new companies are formed and general public is robbed. What is the role of SEBI in it?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already said in my statement that the market fluctuates and there are several reasons behind it. However, it has been observed that the stock markets all over the world have witnessed extreme fluctuation during the last month and India is not an exception to that. However, the fluctuation here has been much less in comparison to what has taken place in other markets of the world. I have satisfied myself that whatever money is being given by the banks, can not be compared to 1992 and therefore the fluctuation taking place in the market is not because of the loans given by the banks. In my opinion, it is wrong to compare the present situation with 1992. Today, we have a very strong regulator, that is the SEBI and it is the responsibility of the SEBI to monitor the market continuously on a daily basis. This is the duty of the SEBI and it is doing its duty efficiently and that is why the market is absolutely safe due to margin requirement in this regard. Fluctuation will occur in the market but there is no danger to the market from it. The small investors may get less profits but their capital is fully secured. So there is no need for us to be specially worried about this.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.28 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty Minutes past Fourteen of the clock

14.35 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Thirty five minutes past Fourteen of the clock

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH in the Chair)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. ... (Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.) : Mr. Chairman, Sir..... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Proceedings of the House have not yet started first. Let me start the

proceedings of the House. Thereafter, I shall give time to all of you. Then you speak. Please be seated.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record. Please be seated. Nothing is going on record. Please maintain silence please be seated.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the proceedings of the House begin. Today is the last day of this session. Hon'ble Members have different priorities and several hon. Members have given notices. So everybody would like to speak and they may be in hurry because they have to go to their respective constituencies. If all the hon. Members, will speak at the same time, it will not be possible. So, my request is that one by one, hon. Members should express their views in brief, then every hon'ble Member will get time to speak. Since Kunwar Akhilesh Singh is very much eager to speak, I request him to express his views.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the National Democratic Alliance Government is conspiring to disintegrate the nation by dividing the states in a wrong way. Today a conspiracy is going on to the carve out Uttarakhand out of Uttar Pradesh and in the process deceive the people of Uttar Pradesh. Today, on the last day of the House, the Government wants to introduce the Bill in the House. A conspiracy is going on to include Udhampur district, where the majority of population is sikh, into Uttarakhand. Similarly, there is a move to include Haridwar district into Uttarakhand inspite of unanimously passed proposal of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly and its demand for the inclusion of Haridwar into Uttar Pradesh. Till today the Government has not decided as to where will be the capital of Uttarakhand. The Government, however, wants to introduce Uttarakhand Bill in the House to gain political mileage in the name of Uttarakhand. Through you, we want to say that it is a conspiracy to disintegrate the nation by forming smaller states. So, no such proposal should be introduced in the House without taking the House into confidence.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (GARHWAL) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also want to present my views in this regard. Please allow me to present my views.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (BALLIA, U.P.) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell that in the agenda of today, there is no reference about introduction of any such Bill as the hon. Member is stating and it is against tradition to give any supplementary agenda at the eleventh hour on the last day. So, this Bill can not be introduced today. I request you that you should also make it clear to the Government that it should not give any supplementary agenda to introduce such Bill on last day, at the eleventh hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no such thing in the agenda. But since the Hon'ble Member wants to speak, so he is speaking.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per the list of Business, there is no Bill to be introduced. There is no provision for bringing any Bill for introduction today. In the list of Business, no mention is made about the introduction of any Bill. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon. Speaker has the right to give permission for introduction of Bill by giving relaxation in the rules and it has happened earlier also. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, the only confusion that is created is about a letter written by Shri L.K. Advani to the President of the Presidential sanction of the Bill. That is the confusion. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be seated.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (PURNEA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, atleast it can be told to the House whether notice about this has been given.

MR. CHAIRMAN : As per the list, till now that is not for the introduction in the House nor the House has been informed about it till now.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : There is only a communication from the President to Shri L.K. Advani regarding the Bill. That is also not circulated.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon'ble Chandra Shekhar ji has raised a very important question. ... (Interruptions) Please listen to me. Even school teacher do not scold as much as you do. Please listen to me first. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA) : I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that you direct the Government to clarify as to whether it has any intention to bring forward a supplementary

Agenda because as of now we are not in possession of any such notice. I think when Members have raised it at this level, I think the Government should come forward with the clarification.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Chandrashekhar ji, has raised very important question. I would like to submit that the Government should pay serious attention to the issue raised by him. Today it is being rumoured that this Bill is being included in the supplementary agenda. I have given the notice, I do not bother whether they are there or not. Therefore, I would like to present my point of view before you. I would like to say, creation of new states due to political reasons is not good. The proposal regarding division of the state of Bihar, is being presented, due to political reasons. The former Chief Minister of Bihar used to say that the state of Jharkhand will be created on his dead bodies. But today the resolution has been passed because of him only. Both ruling and opposition parties are talking about creation of separate state due to political reasons. I would like to say till the feelings of the peoples of state are ascertained, whether they are in favour of division of state or not, the Bill in this regard should not be introduced in the House. If you are putting claim for a separate state, then what special package do you have for North and Central Bihar? In the special package the time period for the implementation of the package by Central Government should also be fixed. If it is not done, then I would like to say that the feeling of the people should be respected and this Bill should not be introduced in the House.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wanted to raise another very important issue of national importance. I had a talk with the hon. Minister for Water Resources. He was to be here. Probably, he is held up. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was referring to the serious situation that has arisen in West Bengal primarily, and also in Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh, that is, the soil erosion that is taking place. Over 32,000 hectares of land have, over the years, been washed away and has become untraceable. The serious situation is in the Districts of Malda where from Shri A.B.A. Ghani Khan Choudhury comes, and Nadia, Murshidabad and Hoogli.

Sir, the Planning Commission realising the importance of it has appointed an Expert Committee, called Keskar Committee which suggested some immediate short and long-term measures. Unfortunately, hardly they are being implemented. Task Forces are appointed Visiting Teams are being sent. They are coming back. Only *ad hoc* measures are being taken.

Earlier, the Chief Minister had met the hon. Prime Minister and mentioned it in the National Development Council. Again

yesterday he met him, A delegation of Left Front Committee Members from the State and also some Members of Parliament met the hon. Minister, Dr. C.P. Thakur. I must say he took a very fair attitude but his hands are tied. Unless the Planning Commission approves of it and the Ministry of Finance allocates the money, he cannot do anything. Therefore, this is a very serious matter. Tremendous suffering is being experienced now. Villages after villages are being washed away. Sir, what has happened is that the difference between Padma and Bhagirath, the two branches of Ganga, is 15 kilometres. Now it has become 1.4 kilometres. This is the difference. At this rate the erosion takes place, within a year of two, they become one river. The apprehension, which is rightly justified, is that either Bhagirath will be dried up or there will be tremendous flood and other things and the whole State will be in serious predicament.

We find in today's newspapers that the Chief Minister had gone and met the hon. Prime Minister and an assurance of some Rs. 30 crore grant has been given. That is what the newspapers reported. I could not meet the Chief Minister. But that is a pittance and at least what has been said outside, that commitment should be made inside the House so that we know what is the real commitment.

We also urge upon the Government to take action. The hon. Minister agrees that we also do not take it as a partisan matter. Such an important matter of the country should be taken up most seriously; adequate financial provision should be made and it should be taken up with the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission should be asked to take up the matter and give their views as early as possible. I am told that some clarification has been asked for by the Planning Commission. I understand that the Ministry is supplying that. But the matter should not be delayed and the work should start before the monsoon which is coming soon.

Therefore, I appeal to the Government to take up this matter very seriously. I am sure the Prime Minister's Office will make a statement and this work would be taken up without any further loss of time. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (MURSHIDABAD) : Actually, I am a Member of the affected area of West Bengal, i.e. Murshidabad. For the last five decades nearly 1.5 lakh people have been evicted from that particular district and 35,000 hectares of land has been eroded in eight districts of West Bengal. It is a national problem.

I urge upon the Government to come forward with a proper allocation. With these words, I associate myself with the other hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will give opportunity to everybody. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, after Hardoi and Firozabad, another sad incident took place in Kanpur district of Uttar Pradesh where two dalit women were brutally beaten and paraded naked in the streets. On the night of 10th May, a girl named Sharmila Singh, was beaten by her family member and she left her home. That Dalit family committed the sin of giving shelter to that girl. The infuriated some influential people who beat the whole family and paraded naked the mother-in-law and daughter-in-law. Earlier also I had made a humble submission in the House and I would like to reiterate that all these incidents take place due to the connivance of the Government. Since, this Government has assumed office at the centre. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have raised the matter.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : I am concluding in a minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is a State subject.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : This matter is related to the atrocities committed against the Dalits. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have raised the matter in the House. Please taken your seat.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : The Central Government should give directions to the State Government to take necessary action in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (IDDUKKI) : Mr. Chairman, the Golden Quadrilateral Highway which is being developed by the Ministry of Surface Transport to link the four corners of this country, has excluded the Western Coast bordering the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa and Maharashtra.

This is a highway, which runs to 6,000 kilometres involving a cost of Rs. 58,000 crore. A part of it is being financed by the cess on diesel and petrol. These excluded States are also contributing towards this money. It is unfortunate that a major portion of this country, almost the entire Western Coast has been excluded from this major highway that is being developed by the Government. Advantage-wise, this highway from Kanyakumari to Mumbai will provide connection to several important major and minor ports.

It will provide service to all the largest tourist centres of this country. It will also contribute to the accelerated development of all the States. The leaders of all the political parties and all the MPs from this State had met the hon. Prime

Minister twice. The hon. Prime Minister had assured to consider this point. But nothing has been done. The hon. Minister of Surface Transport is sitting here. I met the hon. Minister also. The hon. Minister said that he would consider it. ...*(Interruptions)* It is very unfortunate. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me complete. Please give me half a minute. This is a very important issue. This is an issue involving four States. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have raised the issue, now please take your seat.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : What is this? We are not being allowed to talk in the House. ...*(Interruptions)* What is the point. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (CONTAI) : Sir, I am raising a very important issue of the construction of the Tehri dam. Environmentalists have been protesting against this dam. Even there is a strong geographical evidence that this type of dam is on the seismic belt. It is a earthquake-prone-area. I don not know whether the Government has taken notice of all the scientific opinions or not.

So, I would request the Government to give a second look at the whole thing. Unless corrective steps are taken, we may have a situation where the flood waters may rush into this House some day and occupy a lot of Delhi. The similar things have happened in Italy where a similar dam was planned with disastrous consequences. So, I would request the Government to take a second look at the feasibility of the Tehri dam.

[Translation]

SHRI MANJAY LAL (SAMASTIPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, even after 52 years of independence, the issue regarding pension of the thousand of people who took part in the freedom movement is pending with the Union Government. Among them, many people have died, and many of them are facing starvation. They come here and go from one table to another forgetting their work done. Therefore, I request the Government that matters related to their pension should be disposed off in the set time period without any further delay. And it should be advertised in the newspapers that disposal will be done upto a certain date and after that no claim will be entertained. We are here because of those freedom fighters only. I am also a freedom fighter therefore I think it is my duty to raise this matter in the House.

[English]

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (CALICUT) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise an important matter regarding the

establishment of a Bench of the Kerala High Court in Calicut.

Calicut is the central point of Northern part of Kerala which includes six districts. Before the formation of Kerala State, this area was in the erstwhile Madras State. Since then this request is pending.

I am very happy that the hon. Minister of State for Law, Justice and Company Affairs is sitting here. He knows the facts very well. Most of the writ petition before the hon. High Court of Kerala are from this area. So, if a new Bench is constituted in Calicut, it will be beneficial to half of the Kerala State.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I take this opportunity to being in a very serious issue regarding the colr workers of Kerala.

Colr industry is traditionally an age-old industry, which has a centuries-old tradition. Now, there is a Colr Workers' Welfare Fund Scheme in Kerala. The Central Government was giving contribution to the Welfare Fund so that the pension scheme could be implemented. The Central Government was kind enough to give grants towards that Scheme also. It was continuing as such, but now, by an order of the Union Government, they have withdrawn contributions to that Scheme. It has resulted in a very serious crisis towards the industry as far as the industry is concerned.

More than that recently by an initiative taken by the Ministry of Textiles, the Minimum Export Price is also withdrawn. So, the colr industry, as a whole, is facing a very serious crisis.

I request the Central Government to restore the *status quo* and continue with the concessions that were granted to the colr workers. It is only just and proper that such a course should be followed by the Central Government which was there in existence for years. This is an anti-workers decision and should be withdrawn.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR) : Sir, I have a small question. Trucks pass through the Jaipur city. The hon'ble Minister is present here. The State Government and Union Government had formulated a plan to construct Ring Road outside the Jaipur city. The movement of trucks in 'Kachhi Basti' of Jawahar Nagar causes many accidents. I would like to request that Ring Road should be constructed on the periphery of the city, so that trucks could easily pass through that road without causing accidents.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI) : Mr. Chairperson, I would like to raise a very important matter concerning my constituency and the entire State of Kerala. Calicut airport is one of the very

important airports of the country from where more than 35 overseas flights and more than 32 flights between Calicut, Mumbai and Chennai take place every week. Every passenger flying from there to the Gulf countries has to pay Rs. 500 extra without any reason. It was to be paid only to complete the development of the airport, but even after it has been completed, they are charging it as user fee. As a matter of fact, there was no user fee required to be paid earlier. It is a useless fee.

In the matter of appointments also which they are making, they are ignoring the reservation for the Backward Classes, the Minorities and also the local people. Therefore, I urge the Government to take it as a very important matter and do the needful in order to do justice to the poor people.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise the issue related to atrocities committed against the farmers in Delhi. The Master Plan for the city of Delhi has been formulated. The area near the bank of Yamuna has been declared green belt under Master Plan, no construction work would be carried out over there. The Supreme Court had also given a judgement on 16 November, 1998. It has been clearly stated in it that no construction could be carried out on the submersible on the banks of Yamuna. Near about 50 farmers were cultivating that land for the last 30 years, as it was given to them. These small farmers used to earn their livelihood through Jheel Khurenji of Milk Producers Cooperative Society and Delhi Peasants Society. On 23rd April, the DDA and the leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party forcibly took possession of that land with the help of a posse of policemen and ruined the standing crops.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (CHANDNI CHOWK) : This is wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : These people sold the 30 acre land to Voncha Swami Sansthan at very low rate of Rs. 27 crore. I would like to request that allotment of this land should be annulled and it should be restored to those farmers only. They should be deprived of their livelihood, and the damage caused to their crops should be compensated. These people want to benefit rich and influential. Injustice should not be done to the farmers.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : I would like to say something in regard to declaring Bilaspur-Mandla state highway in Madhya Pradesh as a national highway. The Bilaspur Mandla road is in a dilapidated state. The State Government is incapable of undertaking work in this regard. The plan has been formulated in regard to declaring it as a national highway. The State Government is at default in this case. The accident of ten take place over there and rains cause hindrance in the movement. In these conditions, I

would like to request the Union Government to connect Bilaspur-Mandla road via Mungell. The sanction has already been given for the Raipur Bilaspur Road and Jabalpur Road. The length of Bilaspur-Mandla Road is 200 Km. Therefore this should be declared as National highway.

15.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a matter of great concern for the plight of the employees of Burn Standard like Raniganj, Gailbarani and Durgapur units that the notice regarding suspension of operation had been issued on 1st April, 2000 and specially that the Durgapur unit's work will remain suspended. In this situation, the local management of Durgapur unit has allowed 38 employees out of 76 employees to remain in service though there is no work. These 38 employees will not get their salaries, provident fund etc. I want to know as to why this discrimination is going on. It is a matter of very much injustice to the employees. Is it the way of the local management to do it? ...*(Interruptions)* It should be discussed with the employees' unions also and the local management should not decide for itself. ...*(Interruptions)* I urge upon the hon. Minister of Heavy Industries to look into the matter so that the local management may not do like this. I request that the Government should come out with a direction and to follow the law of the land.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : We should also be given opportunity.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will not give opportunity in between to anyone. A list is with me.

[English]

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN (KRISHNAGIRI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of this august House and the Government of India to a matter of grave importance affecting thousands of people in my constituency, Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu. Just three days ago, on 14.5.2000, when I was in my constituency, I visited the Krishnagiri dam on the river Pennai as well as Kelavarapalli dam in Hosur. The water in the dam was greenish and smelling foul. It was very disturbing. On enquiry, I have come to know the reasons for it. ...*(Interruptions)* The river Pennaiyar originates from the South-Eastern side of the Chennakesava hills and the North-Western side of the Nandidurg hills in Karnataka. It flows for a distance of about 85 kilometres within Karnataka, to the north of Bangalore and then enters Tamil Nadu at a distance of 4 kilometres to the west of Pagalur.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI V. VETRISILVAN : The vital point to be noted here is that during its course, along wide Bangalore, the water of Pennaiyaru gets polluted tremendously. All the drainage water, polluted and contaminated water and untreated effluent water of the city of Bangalore is let into the Ulsoor Lake and the Orattur Lake. The water from these lakes get into Kelavarpalli dam in Hosur as well as into Pennaiyaru river. When there is no rain, only dirty water falls into the river. This is how the water of the river is polluted terribly and that is why the water in Krishnagiri dam is greenish with bad odour emanating from it. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, as all of us know, the pollution of dam water is a very big health hazard. It spoils the crop also. Thousands of people in the areas served by the dam are getting affected slowly but surely.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI V. VETRISILVAN : Sir, I will conclude in half-a-minute. I urge upon the Government of India, through you, to take steps and to make the Government of Karnataka to take measures so that the river Pennaiyaru may be freed from pollution and the health of thousands of people in my constituency in Tamil Nadu and the crops in the dam area may be saved. I urge upon you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Except Shri Nikhil Kumar Choudhary opportunity will not be given to anyone.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY (KATIHAR) : Sir, I want to draw attention of House, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Prime Minister due to whose shortsightedness extension of this oil Refinery was done and would like to say, about Baruni Oil Refinery's management, its activities and its main problems. New appointments which are being made in Baruni Oil Refinery, local educated trained unemployed youth as well as uneducated youth should be selected so that conventions are not violated.

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (BANASKANTHA) : Sir, in June 1999 in my Parliamentary Constituency, Banaskantha of Gujarat crops were sown, insured and premium was paid. After three months, GIC returned the premium saying no sowing no insurance but it is not true. When rain came after the month of June with intervals, farmers sowed crops with the hope that it may rain now. But it did not rain in August due to which fields dried for want of water. According to the policy laid down by NABARD, whatever crop was sown by the farmers between April and September, the insurance amount should be given to them. When GIC returned the premium, the farmers and the representative held talks at high level after which a

*Not Recorded.

Central team visited the affected areas on 18 January, 2000 and they found that the farmers were right. They found that farmers had sowed the crops. GIC thought that the farmers had not sown any crop at the time of famine. The farmers are in trouble due to this as this time also there is no rain and there is famine like situation. The banks are giving notices to them for taking back their money. Their fields are drying for want of water.

In these conditions, I would like to request through the House to the concerned Minister to direct the concerned officers for making payment of the insurance amount at the earliest keeping in view the miserable condition of farmers.

SHRI HARIBHAI SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Energy, Enron Power Project is going on in Maharashtra to supply electricity to agriculture, industry and at other places. But Power Corporation is not supplying Gas to this project. Therefore half capacity of this project is not being used. It is very necessary to provide Gas to them. They get coal to very poor quality, therefore it is necessary to supply them coal of good quality. Maharashtra Government has sent a proposal for extension of power projects of Parli, Baljnath, Bhusawal and Nasik for approval of the Union Government. I request that release of funds are necessary for that.

[English]

DR. JAYANT RONGPI (AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT-ASSAM) : Mr. Chairman Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government. We welcome that the Government of India is bringing Bills relating to reorganisation of three States—Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. Now, the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs has declared that the proposed Bills shall be brought today. ...*(Interruptions)* I want to know whether the Government is bringing these Bills or not.

At the same time, we want to express our protest against the Government's discriminatory policy towards the North-East. The Government has decided that the hill areas of U.P. should be formed into Uttarakhand and the tribal areas of Bihar are proposed to be made Jharkhand, but what about the district of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar hills in Assam? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Notice has also not been given and if many hon'ble Members would rise and speak like this then how the House will function. ...*(Interruptions)* Special cases are not taken like this. Please take your seat.

[English]

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (COIMBATORE) : Sir, since this is the last day of the Session, all the Members should be accommodated.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All Members are accommodated.

...(Interruptions)

DR. JAYANT RONGPI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government has taken a very discriminatory approach towards the North-East. When the Government is going to create Jharkhand State out of the tribal areas of Bihar and Uttaranchal from hill areas of U.P., what about the tribal areas and hill areas of Assam?

Sir, there is a specific provision in the Constitution and that is article 244A. If the Government has to make an autonomous State comprising of certain tribal areas of Assam, they do not have to amend the Constitution. So, there cannot be double-standard in a democracy. If they have a policy for reorganising U.P. and Bihar, why do they not do it for Assam? There has been a long-standing demand in Assam for creation of an autonomous State comprising of two hill districts of Assam. Now, the Government has adopted a discriminatory policy. If they can reorganise Bihar, why can they not create an autonomous State for Assam? The Government owes an explanation. There has been a consensus of all political parties and for that, the Government does not have to amend the Constitution as the provision already exists in the Constitution. Now, for Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh, they are bringing the Bills under article 3 and under that Article, they have to amend the Constitution. But there already exists a constitutional commitment to the tribal people of Assam to create an autonomous State.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please keep quiet, please sit down.

DR. JAYANT RONGPI : There will be silence only when State is made autonomous. We cannot sit quiet without providing autonomy to State. Therefore, we have called Assam Bandh on 18th.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now it will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (KOKRAJHAR) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am very much thankful to your honour for having given me the opportunity to raise a very serious, legitimate and genuine matter which relates to the creation of a separate State of Bodoland. Today, I am very much sorry to say that what kind of policy-decision the present NDA Government have taken for creation of Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh only has been a matter of serious concern for the Bodos. Although I strongly welcome the

*Not Recorded.

Government of India's decision to create these three States, but I must at the same time place on record my resentment over these because of the discriminatory approach towards Bodoland people in neglecting the genuine demand of the Bodos for creation of a separate State of Bodoland. So, I strongly urge upon the Government of India to fulfil the long-awaited demand of Bodo people and create a separate State of Bodoland without any further delay on the lines of Uttaranchal and Vananchal and Chhattisgarh. Until and unless Bodoland is created, there can be no peace, no development and no harmony in the North-Eastern region. ... (Interruptions) So, I would like to request the Government of India to concede to our long overdue, legitimate and inalienable right of getting a separate State of Bodoland. This is the only lasting political solution to bring peace and normalcy in the North-East. Otherwise, the policy of the Government will fail in each endeavour to bring peace in the North-East.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (PURNEA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have come to know that Government today want to introduce Bill regarding carrying out a separate State through supplementary business. Through you, I wanted to know this but Government did not give any reply. I have the apprehension that intention of Government is mala fide. Government might bring this Bill under Supplementary business when the presence of members is less in the House. Union Government has out rightly rejected the Bill which has been sent by the Bihar Government after amendment. Union Government has put the package given to the State Government in the cold storage. Intention of both the Governments is not clear. Intention of State Government is also not divide the State. They are not in favour of small States. The intention of the Union Government is also not in favour of making States strong. I want that State is saved in every circumstances, but unless full package is provided to Bihar the union Government should not introduce the Bill in any circumstances. If they introduce the Bill we may take any course to oppose the Bill in House. On the question of division of Bihar, we will not allow this Bill in any circumstances without announcing the package. I would like to know whether the Government are bringing any supplementary business regarding division of State? After collecting information from the Government, please inform the House. I have an apprehension that is why I am requesting you. Shri Chandra Shekhar also spoke on this point. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No information can be given on the basis of rumours. This item is not in the agenda. Bill has not been circulated. Please take your seat.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have such information.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point in arguing this.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Government do not respond to the rumour.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : You give direction that there will be no supplementary business of such type today.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no such rule. You have raised the question and drawn attention of the Government as well as of the House. Please take your seat.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : You say that there will be no supplementary business today.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will not be directed by you. Please take your seat.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : It means we are being mislead in regard to the division of the State. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : I will not take my seat until a reply is given by the Government. The Government should reply to this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever he has said will not be the part of the proceedings of the House.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Member, Shri Rajesh Ranjan, you gave a notice to speak, so you have got a chance to speak. Please now take your seat. Several Members have given the notice and it will not be fair to give opportunity to some Members and leave the others.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (BHADRAK) : Sir, I would like to invite your kind attention to a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)* The whole State of Orissa is agitated over the issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Please give your ruling.

*Not Recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question of ruling does not arise. There is nothing as such in the supplementary agenda. You please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, with your permission I would like to submit that in a meeting of all Political Parties held in the State Secretariat at Bhubneshwar. ...*(Interruptions)* on the 16th May, 2000 it was unanimously resolved to reiterate the long-standing demand of the people of Orissa for the merger of ex-States of Seraikela and Kharsuan in the State of Orissa. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you not allow those who have not yet got a chance to speak? You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : The meeting also resolved to urge the Union Government to undo the historic injustice done to the people of Orissa by taking away the ex-States of Seraikela and Kharsuan from the State of Orissa despite the historical, linguistic and cultural identity of the ex-States of Seraikela and Kharsuan with the rest of Orissa. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question of giving ruling does not arise.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, the meeting also resolved to urge the Union Government for the reunification of Seraikela and Kharsuan with Orissa simultaneously with creation of the Jharkhand State ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : Sir, I associate myself with what has been said by Shri Arjun Sethi ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (JAGAT SINGHPUR) : Sir, I associate myself with what has been said by Shri Arjun Sethi. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA) : Sir, I also associate myself with what has been said by Shri Arjun Sethi ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY (KENDRAPARA) : Sir, I also associate myself with Shri Arjun Sethi ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (PURI) : Sir, I also associate myself with Shri Arjun Sethi ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI) : Sir, I also associate myself with what has been said by Shri Arjun Sethi ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR) : Sir, I also associate myself with what has been said by Shri Arjun Sethi ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK) : Sir, I also associate myself with what has been said by Shri Arjun Sethi ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, you should give ruling. ...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rajesh Ranjanji nothing is going on record. You please sit down.

15.19 hrs.

At this stage Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please go to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There cannot be any order till you go back to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

15.21 hrs.

At this stage Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav went back to his seat

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go back to your seats, I will convey this to the Government.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go back to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not Recorded.

15.21½ hrs.

At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon'ble Members went back to their seats.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Our Government have already stated in the House that three Bills pertaining to creation of smaller states will be presented in the House during the current Session itself. ...*(Interruptions)* We are presenting those Bills. But presentation of those Bills does not mean that they should be passed immediately. There will be a discussion on these Bills. *(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.) : Why these Bills were not presented earlier. ...*(Interruptions)* It will not do.

15.22 hrs.

At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav and some other hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table of the House.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : We have already discussed these Bills in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : As there is so much disorder in the House the proceedings of the House is adjourned till four O' clock.

15.23 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Sixteen of the clock.

16.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at one Minute past Sixteen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

...*(Interruptions)*

At this stage Kunwar Sarvraj Singh, Shri J.S. Brar, Shri Rajesh Ranjan Alias Pappu Yadav and some other hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table of the House

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not good. Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

16.02 hrs.

RE : UTTAR PRADESH REORGANISATION BILL

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House shall take up the Legislative Business from the Supplementary List of Business – Bills to be introduced. Shri L.K. Advani.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the reorganisation of the existing State of Uttar Pradesh and for matters connected therewith.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the reorganisation of the existing State of Uttar Pradesh and for matters connected therewith."

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 17.30 hours.

16.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty Minutes past Seventeen of the Clock.

17.32 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Thirty-Two-Minutes past Seventeen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Matters under Rule 377 listed for today are treated as laid on the Table.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

- (i) **Need to direct General Insurance Corporation to settle early the claims of farmers in Banaskantha Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat.**

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (BANASKANTHA) : I would like to say something about my Parliamentary Constituency Banaskantha. Several crops had been sown in this region since June. These crops were insured and premium was also paid. But the General Insurance Corporation refunded this premium after three months by saying "no sowing, no insurance" which is not correct. After June when there was intermittent rain fall the farmers have sown their fields. But there was no rainfall in August due to which all the crops sown earlier has withered. As per the policy framed by "NABARD" the farmers are entitled to get the insurance claim as against the crop sown by them between April and September. When G.I.C. refunded the premium, the farmers and their representatives take up this matter at higher level after which a central team visited the affected area on 18th January, 2000 and found that the grievances of the farmers are genuine. The G.I.C. presumed that the farmers have not at all sown any crop as there was famine. Due to this the farmers are worried because famine like situation is prevailing there this year too and the banks are issuing notices to the farmers for the recovery of bank loans. Their fields have completely withered.

In these circumstances, through this August House, I would like to request the Government that the farmers should get their dues and the Government should direct G.I.C. to make the full payment of insured amount.

- (ii) **Need to provide more facilities at Dahod railway station in Gujarat.**

SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA (DOHAD) : There are several problems pertaining to railways in Dahod district of Gujarat about which, I myself and various organisations of my constituency have written to the Railways as well as to the hon'ble Minister of Railways several times but these problems have not been addressed to so far. A number of trains of Western railways passes through the Dahod Railway station but they have not been provided stoppage at Dahod station. Only one train halts at that station. All the trains passing through this station should stop here. Reservation quota for this station should be increased and it should be computerised. Without these facilities people are facing lot of difficulties. A team of higher officers should be sent to Dahod so that all these problems could be resolved after discussion with the concerned people.

* Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(iii) Need for all round development of Delhi

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (CHANDNI CHOWK) : Delhi is the capital city of our country. Therefore, this House should have a concern about its problems and special schemes and designs should be prepared for Delhi. There are several problems like pollution, electricity, water, unauthorised construction, encroachments and contamination of river Yamuna etc. in Delhi.

Today 17 nullahas are discharging their wastes into Yamuna. There is need to set up sewer treatment plants on the banks of these nullahas. Besides this there is also a need to frame rules for operation of vehicles in order to check pollution and also to deal with the traffic problem in Delhi. There should be a ban on setting up of factories in Delhi which are polluting the atmosphere. All the new proposed projects should be set up in neighbouring states of Delhi so that influx of people in Delhi could be checked.

The national capital region should be developed immediately. The different hurdles which are cropping up in the development of Delhi due to several local bodies should be removed and Delhi should be accorded statehood immediately.

Chandni Chowk is the heart of Delhi. Every street of Chandni Chowk has a historic background. The Government should protect this walled city from being ruined. A Development Board should be constituted to protect the historical buildings of the Chandni Chowk area. Chandni Chowk is known as centre of the Ganga-Yamuni culture which should be saved from the fast coming up of market areas resulting in migration of original natives of that area. Adequate funds should be provided for providing water, electricity and sewer line in the narrow lanes of this area and Chandni Chowk should be developed like a tourist centre.

(iv) Need to take steps to make Shahganj Sugar Mill in Jaunpur district, U.P. viable

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI (JAUNPUR) : The condition of sugarcane farmers in Eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh is wretched. Their crores of rupees are due on sugar mills. The sugar mills are not making payments. The capacity of older sugar mills has decreased. Shahganj sugar mill in Jaunpur district was established some 60 years back whose machinery have become outdated and worn out. It is due to the decrease in capacity that sugar mill is not purchasing sugarcane from the farmers and it is drying in the field. As the sugarcane is the only source of income for the farmer so it is due to non-selling of sugarcane that farmers' life have become very tough. Education of the children, medicine for older people, roofing of the houses, irrigation of fields, marriage of daughters, engagement of sons, everything has become difficult for want of money. I demand from the government that

financial assistance should be provided to Shahganj sugar mill from the National Sugar Fund so that this sugar mill may function and the life of the sugarcane farmers may become normal.

(v) Need to provide telecom facilities at Mampazhata, Champaranuvil and Rosemala in Adoor parliamentary constituency, Kerala

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR) : Sir, Adoor parliamentary constituency in Kerala is a backward remote and hilly area. This constituency is covered by two districts, which are Quilon and Pathanamthitta. Most of the area is covered by thick forest and the people of this area are very poor. The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe inhabitants' places such as Mampazhata, Champaranuvil and Rosemala in Adoor parliamentary constituency are yet to avail telecom facility.

These three places are under Kollam SSA at Kerala Circle. In each place more than 2000 families are residing and most of the families are backward. There are a number of tribal and Scheduled Caste colonies. The surrounding area of these places is covered by thick forests. The nearest telephone exchange is 14 to 15 Kms away. If there occurs any incident at these places, people do not have contact anywhere. Telecom officials are not taking any step to provide telephone facilities in these places despite a number of applicants waiting for new telephone connections. They are still waitlisted. The Telephone Department is avoiding these places because of the length of existing exchange.

Therefore, I would request the Government of India, Ministry of Communications, through the House, to provide telephone connections at the earliest.

(vi) Need for early clearance of power projects of Rajasthan, particularly in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts of the State

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER) : Sir, this is in connection with shortage of power supply to Rajasthan as a whole and to Barmer and Jaisalmer districts in particular.

There is an overall acute shortage of power in Rajasthan. To meet the shortfall which is about 50 per cent, electricity is being purchased from Punjab. There are four projects which are pending with a total capacity of about 2,000 MW, at different places and awaiting clearance from the Central Electricity Authority. Ramgarh CCGT stage II Project of 71 MW capacity is in my constituency, Barmer (Rajasthan). RSEB have submitted all the clarifications, as desired by the CEA, during March, 2000.

It is brought out here that smooth functioning of Project created under Phase I and II at Ramgarh are adversely affected due to poor quality of gas supplied by GAIL. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas as a nodal point can coordinate between GAIL, Oil India Limited and ONGC to supply higher quality gas and to improve linkage for Phase I and II. The Rajasthan Government have earmarked Rs. 45 crore for CCGT Stage II Project Ramgarh for provisioning one more 35.5 MW power plant based on gas and HSD. This project is held up for want of good quality of gas and permission to use HSD in case sufficient and good quality gas is not available at Ramgarh.

Barmer and Jaisalmer districts are in the grip of severe drought for the third consecutive year. There is acute shortage of drinking water and the area is devoid of employment opportunities.

Therefore, I request the Government for early clearance of this Project. This will go a long way to augment the acute shortage of power besides generating some employment opportunities in this drought prone backward desert area.

(vii) Need to formulate centrally sponsored schemes for the development of rural roads in the country, particularly in naxalite infested District of Aurangabad, Bihar

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (AURANGABAD, BIHAR): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the sordid condition of rural roads in my Aurangabad Parliamentary Constituency, which is highly infested by naxalites.

Development of rural roads in the country which is primarily the concern of the respective State Governments has not been given proper attention for the past several years. State Governments have not taken keen interest to utilize the funds for the development of rural roads. The condition of rural roads has now become bad to worst. In the absence of any proper development and maintenance of rural roads in the country, the naxalites and other anti-social groups have activated their functioning.

Since, the naxalites and other anti-social or anti-national groups have emerged, there is urgent need to formulate Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the development of rural roads in the country. In addition to this, I also urge upon the Union Government to extend funds to the Schemes "Roads in Special Areas" and "Rural Connectivity through all weather Roads" in the naxalites infested regions in Bihar, particularly in the Aurangabad District.

(viii) Need to retain the Vehicles Department of Ministry of Defence at Panagarh base area in West Bengal

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): Sir, the Panagarh

base area in West Bengal is not getting due attention of the Government. A major part of the vehicles department is either shifted or being shifted to other States. The man power has already been reduced specially those who were in clerical jobs and fourth grade staff. The base has also an Air-strip. The aeronautical garage is there. The facilities being provided to the workers are not adequate.

Would urge upon the Defence Minister not to shift the vehicles department from Panagarh base area to other States and the potentiality of Air-strip should be revived and other departmental workers reinstated.

(ix) Need for early construction of a by-pass at Etawa, U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (ETAWAH): I would like to draw your attention towards Etawa district By-pass at Etawa district has been approved many year back but till now construction work has not started. There is 10 to 18 hours traffic jam in the city and there are frequent accidents happening. It is due to the traffic jam that many a patients die in the way. So I request the government through the House that Etawa by-pass be constructed as soon as possible so that people may get relief.

(x) Need to open a Central School for girls in Kaushambi district, U.P.

SHRI SURESH PASI (CHAIL): Three-four years have passed since the Kaushambi was made a district, but till now a Central School for girls has not been established in Kaushambi district. It is because of this that the girl students have to go to Allahabad or Fatehpur for education and there they have to face various problems. The establishment of a central school for girls in this district is a long pending demand of the local people. Within Kaushambi district there are four Assembly constituency. Keeping in view the problems of the local people, a central school for girls should be established here at the earliest so the inconvenience of the local people could be removed.

(xi) Need to remove anomalies in selection of candidates belonging To "Other Backward Classes" in Civil Services Examination

[English]

SHRIM. CHINNASAMY (KARUR): The provision relating to reservation in Civil Services Examination (page No. 105, the Gazette of India, Extraordinary No. 226 dated November 29, 1997 IS THAT CANDIDATES BELONGING TO Backward Classes may be summoned for an interview for a personality test by the Union Public Service Commission by applying

relaxed standards in the Preliminary Examination as well as in Main Examination if the Commission is of the opinion that sufficient number of candidates from these communities are not likely to be summoned for interview for a personality test on the basis of the general standard in order to fill up vacancies reserved for them.

After interview, the candidates will be arranged by the Commission in the order of merit as per the aggregate marks finally awarded to each candidate in the Main Examination (written examination as well as interview).

Under Article 320 of the Constitution, it is mandatory for DOPT to place the facts before Parliament, if the recommendation of UPSC regarding appointment of candidates is not accepted by the DOPT. Even though the DOPT reported 16 cases of non-acceptance of various services, they have not mentioned about the denial of appointment of 21 OBC candidates of 1996 batch Civil Services Examination.

The existing Rule provides that the reserved category candidates, who have been recommended by the Commission without restoring to any relaxation/concession in the eligibility or selection criteria, at any stage of the examination, shall not be adjusted against the vacancies reserved for them.

Keeping in view the above facts, I urge upon the Government to remove the anomaly and strictly implement the existing rule and enable the reserved categories to reap the maximum benefit.

(xii) Need to set up a high power T.V. transmitter at Ichalkaranji, Maharashtra

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE (ICHALKARANJI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I represent Ichalkaranji constituency of Maharashtra in Lok Sabha. There are six Talukas in this district with a population of nearly 15 lakh. There is only a small transmission centre of Doordarshan which covers very small area. As a result of this nearly 50% population of this district do not get direct TV signal and getting Doordarshan facility through cable network is a costly affair. Thus the rural people residing in remote and farflung areas are deprived of Doordarshan programmes. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I demand that the Government should replace the existing transmission of Ichalkaranji by a high power transmission and a new TV transmission should be immediately established in inaccessible region of Shahuwadi Tehsil.

(xiii) Need for reopening of Central Schools at Bokaro, Govindpur in Bihar

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH) : In my

Parliamentary constituency and around it Central School, Bokaro, Govindpur etc. have been closed. This has affected the lower and middle class children. On the one side the government is spending heavy amount on the literacy programme of which target groups are not directly benefited and the allocated amounts are misused, and on the other hand crisis is created by closing down the schools where children are studying and teachers are working.

As a result of the closure of the schools, administrative burden of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan is increasing. So, I would request the government that the closed schools should be reopened immediately.

(xiv) Need to involve representatives of people in development schemes of Barauni refinery in Bihar

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI) : My parliamentary constituency is Begusarai of Bihar. Barauni refinery is situated here. There are 35 such villages under this oil refinery where developmental works are done by the refinery. Apart from the last year, for last many years developmental works have not been done. Till now, the senior officers of the Barauni refinery have not done any work with the advice of local public representatives. Most of the officers of this refinery are local people, who are serving their own personal interests. They appoint their own relatives as contractors and award contracts of developmental works. Their relatives are given priority in the matter of appointments on lower posts. Here, bureaucrats want to remain aloof from the public representations.

Through the House I would like to request that all these things should be investigated and the local public representatives should be included in the developmental works in the areas around the refinery, so that corruption and nepotism may be eliminated by bringing transparency in the functioning.

17.27 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY SPEAKER

Re : Business of the House

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : As the House is aware, at 4.00 p.m., today the hon. Home Minister sought leave of the House to introduce the Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Bill, 2000. However, as there was a pandemonium in the House, the Bill could not be introduced.

Sensing the mood of the House, I feel that it may not now be possible to introduce this Bill as well as the remaining Bills listed in the Supplementary List of Business circulated today.

As the Members are aware, the division on the motion

for consideration of the Major Port Trust (Amendment) Bill, 2000 was held over for want of quorum in the House yesterday. If the House agrees, we may first dispose of this part-discussed Bill and then take up the listed Half-an-Hour discussion on points arising out of the answer given by the Minister of Tourism on 4.5.2000 to Starred Question No. 542 regarding Monuments in the country.

After the Half-an-Hour discussion is over, the valedictory references on the conclusion of the Budget Session today may be made.

17.28 hrs.

MAJOR PORT TRUSTS (AMENDMENTS) BILL— Contd.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, when the motion for consideration of the Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 2000 was put to the vote of the House, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other Members pressed for the division.

...(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (GARHWAL) : I want to make a request to the House. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, why don't you sense the mood of the House from here also sometimes? I would like to make a request to the House. Before the Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 2000 is brought up for voting, I would like to appeal to the Government kindly to reconsider. We have moved an amendment. One of my senior colleagues, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasgupta had talked about the complexities of this Bill and of the many complications, intricacies of this Bill and the number of ramifications it had. We had suggested that it should be sent to the Select Committee. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now we are at the division stage.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I would like to ask the Government to reconsider it and please send it to the Select Committee. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now we are at the division stage.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : The Government can go into it in detail if it is sent to the Select Committee. Then the Government can come out with a comprehensive Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : Now we are at the division stage.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : This is my request. ...(Interruptions) There are many ramifications.

MR. SPEAKER : Now we are at the voting stage. There is a motion for consideration of the Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Please reconsider this.

17.29 hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and some other hon. Members left the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Yesterday the motion for consideration of the Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 2000 was put to the vote of the House. Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members pressed for a division.

Accordingly, the lobbies were cleared. After clearing of the lobbies, it was observed that only 52 hon. Members were present in the House. Since there was no quorum, the division on the motion was held over.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I will put the motion for consideration of the Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 2000, to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Those in favour will please say 'Aye'

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : 'Aye'.

MR. SPEAKER : Those against will please say 'No'

SOME HON. MEMBERS : 'No'.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the 'Ayes' have it. The 'Ayes' have it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Sir, the 'Noes' have it. We want a division.

MR. SPEAKER : Let the lobbies be cleared —

Now, the Lobbies have been cleared.

Kind attention of the Members is invited to the following points in the operation of the Automatic Vote Recording System :

1. Before a Division starts, every Member should

occupy his or her own seat and operate the system from that seat only.

2. As may kindly be seen, the "Red bulbs above display boards" on either side of my chair are already glowing. The means the voting system has been activated.

3. For voting, press the following two buttons simultaneously immediately after sounding of first gong, viz.,

- (i) One "Red" button in front of the Member on the head phone plate; and also
- (ii) Any one of the following buttons fixed on the top of desk of seats :
 - 'Ayes' -- Green colour
 - 'Noes' -- Red colour
 - 'Abstention' Yellow colour

4. It is essential to keep both the buttons pressed till the second gong sound is heard and the red bulbs are "off".

The hon. Members may please note that the vote will not be registered if both buttons are not kept pressed simultaneously till the sounding of the second gong.

5. Do not press the amber button (p) during Division.

6. Members can actually "see" their vote on display boards and on their desk units. In case vote is not registered, they may call for voting through slips.

The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Lok Sabha divided :

AYES

Division No. 10

17.43 hours

Adhi Shankar, Shri

Ananth Kumar, Shri

Argal, Shri Ashok

Arya, Dr. (Shrimati) Anita

Azad, Shri Kirti Jha

'Bachda', Shri Bachi Singh Rawat

Bandore, Shri V.P. Singh

Bais, Shri Ramesh

Baitha, Shri Mahendra

Bandyopadhyay, Shri Sudip

Banerjee, Kumari Mamata

Banerjee, Shrimati Jayashree

Bhagat, Prof. Dukha

Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal

Bose, Shrimati Krishna

Bwiswmuthiary, Shri Sansuma Khunggur

Chaubey, Shri Lal Muni

Chaudhary, Shri Haribhai

Chaudhary, Shri Ram Tahal

Chauhan, Shri Shriram

Chouhan, Shri Shivrāj Singh

*Dekar, Shri Mohan S.

Deo, Shri Bikram Keshari

Diler, Shri Kishan Lal

Diwate, Shri Namdeo Harbaji

Elangovan, Shri P.D.

Gandhi, Shri Dilipkumar Mansukhlal

Gangwar, Shri Santosh Kumar

Gehlot, Shri Thawar Chand

Giluwa, Shri Laxman

Goel, Shri Vijay

Indora, Dr. Sushil Kumar

Jaiswal, Dr. M.P.

Jayaseelan, Dr. A.D.K.

*Jha, Shri Raghunath

Jigajinagi, Shri Ramesh C.

*Voted through Division Slips.

Joshi, Shri Manohar	Patel, Shri Deepak
Kaswan, Shri Ram Singh	Patel, Shri Mansinh
Kataria, Shri Rattan Lal	Pathak, Shri Harin
Kathiria, Dr. Vallabhbbhai	Patil, Shri Jaysingrao Gaikwad
Khanduri, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C.	Potai, Shri Sohan
Khunte, Shri P.R.	Radhakrishnan, Shri C.P.
Khurana, Shri Madan Lal	Rai, Shri Nawal Kishore
Krishnamraju, Shri	Raje, Shrimati Vasundhra
Krishnan, Dr. C.	Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav, Shri
Krishnaswamy, Shri A.	Ram, Shri Braj Mohan
Kuppusami, Shri C.	Raman, Dr.
Kusmaria, Dr. Ramkrishna	* Rao, Shri S.B.P.B.K. Satyanarayana
M. Master Mathan, Shri	Rathwa, Shri Ramsinh
Mahtab, Shri Bhartruhari	Rawat, Prof. Rasa Singh
Mahto, Shrimati Abha	Reddy, Shri A.P. Jithender
Malhotra, Dr. Vijay Kumar	Reddy, Shri G. Ganga
Malyala, Shri Rajalah	Renu Kumari, Shrimati
Manjay Lal, Shri	Rudy, Shri Rajiv Pratap
Marandi, Shri Babu Lal	Sahu, Shri Anadi
Mishra, Shri Ram Nagina	Sal, Shri Vishnudeo
Mohale, Shri Punnu Lal	Sathi, Shri Harpal Singh
Mookherjee, Shri S.B.	Sethi, Shri Arjun
Moorthy, Shri A.K.	Shah, Shri Manabendra
Munda, Shri Kariya	Shaheen, Shri Abdul Rashid
Murmu, Shri Saikhan	Singh Deo, Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari
Murthi, Shri M.V.V.S.	Singh, Shri Bahadur
Naik, Shri Ram	Singh, Shri Chandra Pratap
Nitish Kumar, Shri	* Singh, Shri Chandra Vijay
Palanimanickam, Shri S.S.	Singh, Shri Chhatrapal
	Singh, Shri Prabhunath

Singh, Shri Radha Mohan

Singh, Shri Ramanand

Singh, Shri Ramjivan

Singh, Shri Rampal

Singh, Shri Sahib

Singh, Shri Th. Chaoba

Sinha, Shri Manoj

Somaiya, Shri Kirti

Swain, Shri Kharabela

Thakur, Shri Chunni Lal Bhai

Tiwar, Shri Lal Bihari

Tomar, Dr. Ramesh Chand

Tripathy, Shri Prakash Mani

Tripathi, Shri Braja Kishore

Tur, Shri Tarlochan Singh

Valpayee, Shri Atal Bihari

Venkataswamy, Dr. N.

Venkateswarlu, Prof. Ummareddy

Venugopal, Shri D.

Verma, Prof. Rita

Vetriseivan, Shri V.

Vijayan, Shri A.K.S.

Vukkala, Dr. Rajeswaramma

Wanaga, Shri Chintaman

Yadav, Dr. Jaswant Singh

* Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad

Yadav, Shri Dinesh Chandra

Yadav, Shri Jagdambi Prasad

Yerrannaidu, Shri K.

Zawma, Shri Vanlal

NOES

Abdullakutty, Shri A.P.

Bauri, Shrimati Sandhya

Bhaura, Shri Bhan Singh

Chakraborty, Shri Swadesh

Chatterjee, Shri Somnath

Chinnasamy, Shri M.

George, Shri K. Francis

Govindan, Shri T.

* Hassan, Shri Molnui

Kaliappan, Shri K K.

Khan, Shri Sunil

Krishnadas, Shri N.N.

Kurup, Shri Suresh

Lahiri, Shri Samik

Mahale, Shri Haribhau Shankar

Malaisamy, Shri K.

Mandal, Shri Sanat Kumar

* Mann, Shri Simranjit Singh

Mollah, Shri Hannan

Murmu, Shri Rupchand

Paswan, Shri Sukdeo

Patel, Shri Dharam Raj Singh

Radhakrishnan, Shri Varkala

Rajendran, Shri P.

Roy, Shri Subodh

Roy Pradhan, Shri Amar

Saroj, Shrimati Sushila

Saroja, Dr. V.

Singh, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad

*Voted through Division Slips.

*Voted through Division Slips.

Singh, Kunwar Akhilesh

Singh, Kunwar Sarv Raj

Singh, Shri Chandra Bhushan

Singh, Shirmati Kanti

MR. SPEAKER : Subject to correction, the result of the division is :

Ayes : 121

Noes : 31

The motion was adopted

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi -- Not Present

Shri G.M. Banatwalla -- Not Present

The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

The following Members also recorded their vote through Division slips

Ayes – 121 + Shri S.B.P.B.K. Satyanarayan Rao, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, Shri Raghunath Jha, Shri Chandra Vijay Singh, Shri Mohan S. Dolkar = 126

Noes – 31 + Shri Simranjit Singh Mann, Shri Moinul Hassan = 33

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shall we take up half-an-hour discussion?

Shri Kirit Somaiya. I think he is not interested.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : Sir, I have a submission to make. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the submission stage.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, I am requesting you to give me a chance to make a submission. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANSARPUR) : There is a request of our constituent parties, please listen. ...(Interruptions) You have got unlimited power, please give us one minute to present our views. Chair has immense power, please give us permission.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (SIRSA) : I would like to present my views before the House. I am a doctor by profession. Earlier when I used to attend the patients. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Today is the last day of the session.(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, through you, I would like to appeal to the hon. Prime Minister to reduce the prices at least to some extent. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST) : Sir, we request the Government to reconsider its decision on price increase.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : How did it happen? ...(Interruptions) Now, they have taken a very correct stand. I must appreciate this. I am sure that in the matter of principles, you will not compromise. ...(Interruptions)

17.48 hrs.

VALEDICTORY REFERENCES

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (AMETHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to thank you for guiding the business of this House during this very important Session and bringing it to a successful conclusion. Several important Motions and Bills have been passed by the House. We realise that many of these were necessary for the smooth functioning of the Government and for the continuation of its policies.

As a responsible Opposition Party wedded to the principles of parliamentary democracy, we shall always abide by the wisdom of the House. Equally, as a responsible Opposition Party, we shall always raise issues which we feel are important and to oppose moves which we feel are against the interests of the people. This we have done throughout and will continue to do.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must state with regret that we have not received satisfactory answers and responses from the Government on several major issues which we had raised, like the increase in prices, declining trends in agricultural outputs and income, stagnation in poverty alleviation programmes and schemes, the problem of reservation, the rising incidents of attacks on minorities and the vital subject of national security.

At the end of this Session, I must confess we continue to carry with us many of the fears and concerns which we had at the beginning of the Session. Our hopes that the forum of this august House will help provide solutions to a number of problems, which in our view have been caused by the policies of the present Government, have been belied. Many of the Opposition parties have joined our efforts and endeavours on these issues and for this I would like to thank them.

During the forthcoming break, the Standing Committees and the Consultative Committees will be looking at a large number of Bills of vital importance. In this context, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the Government to pay more attention to the Reports and recommendations of the Parliamentary Committees when devising policies. We feel that the best traditions of parliamentary democracy are being eroded by this Government through the increasing practice of ignoring the work and efforts of the Committees.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you once again for Chairing the business of this House through an eventful Session and I hope that you will continue to encourage and allow the hon. Members to take up the issues which require further answers and to debate fully and frankly the concerns which we bring to the House.

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPA-YEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Budget session is on its fag end. Every Budget session is important.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Prime Minister, Shri Somnath Chatterjee wants to say something.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am obliged to the hon. Prime Minister for giving

me this opportunity. I am thankful to you and I wish to express our appreciation about your guidance and the leadership that you have given in conducting the proceedings of the House. No doubt there have been periods of tension and maybe some turbulence also but that shows probably the inherent strength of the system of parliamentary democracy in this country.

In the ultimate analysis, we are all friends here trying to serve our country to the best of our ability on the basis of our own perceptions, our own policies and programmes. But, I am sure, everybody is concerned with the development of the country and the economic well being of our people. We have had different ways and we would like to express our views, programmes and policies. This is the highest forum of the country where people have sent us as their representatives. Therefore, Sir, we shall always endeavour, maybe not always, in a perfect manner to espouse the causes of the people, to articulate their urges and aspirations. At least this is a forum where people's view can be expressed in an adequate manner.

Sir, there have been certain periods when we cannot obviously agree with the Government and we have not agreed. Naturally, whatever parliamentary methods are open to us, we have tried to take recourse to them. But, in view of the complexities of the situation, complexities of the problems becoming more and more these days. There are newer and newer areas of Governmental functioning or Government shedding its own functions and responsibilities, and lesser and lesser opportunities are being had for the purpose of discussing and raising the issues inside the House because of lack of time. In spite of that, there are some important issues like the price rise, PDS and so on. We all know it, the Prime Minister is being asked everyday about it. Yesterday also, the Leader of the Opposition was shown to be listening carefully. I am sure she did. But forthwith, a rejoinder was issued rejecting all her views. I found this in Paper. But, certainly, Sir, this is an issue—I am requesting the hon. Prime Minister since he is here — which should be considered for the sake of the common people of this country.

We missed one Bill here. Every minute we missed Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee. After her passing away, the day we paid our homage to her, we felt the befitting tribute would be paid to her by passing the Women's Reservation Bill in this House but unfortunately this has not even been brought.

Sir, I hope in the next Session, the Prime Minister will not leave it to mere consensus. This seems to be the only Bill where consensus is insisted upon. We wanted a little time on Information Technology Bill to consider some of the abstruse provisions, you did not concede. We are not getting adequate time for so many Bills. Today, but for the tearing away of these things, what has happened is something unique. They tried to bring controversial Bill at the last stage through supplementary Agenda. It was asked at 3 o'clock. Even then, there was no response from the Government that these Bills are going to be introduced today. It is being done and you have seen what has happened. These are not good developments.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

Sir, the Leaders of the Opposition has spoken about the minorities. Sir, what we have really not discussed in the House is the spirit of intolerance that has developed in this country. Such a serious matter has not been fully discussed. We are always running short of time on important issues.

Sir, as regards Standing Committees, more and more questions are coming and whether you like it or not you have to face it. It is very unfortunate that insinuations are being made even about the unanimous reports of the Standing Committees. If this is done, it will be very sad day for the functioning of Parliament. Sir, you appoint Chairmen of Committees and if insinuations are made even with regard to the unanimous reports, then it will be very difficult to function. Shri Shivraj Patil is here. We always appreciate the great contributions he made. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI) : Sir, we can discuss these things for days together. When the Congress was in Government, I was also the Chairman of a Committee. This matter can be discussed separately. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Hon. Prime Minister, Sir, this is the attitude of intolerance I spoke of.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (GARHWAL) : Shri Chatterjee, you could not tolerate me for one minute and now you are preaching us tolerance. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (VIDISHA) : New traditions are being initiated. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I feel this is somewhat a touchy subject. I would only say that it is for you to see that the Standing Committees can function in a manner which is contemplated by rules. I would not say anything more.

Sir, of course, I express my thanks to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. He is accommodative and has been helpful. I am sure I wish to express my sincere thanks to Shri Ram Naik who is a very good friend of ours. I thank all of you.

Sir, many of the urgent matters which we could not discuss in this Session, we will be able to do that in the next Session. Let us hope that with greater cooperation, we shall be able to serve people better through this House.

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPA-YEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, First of all, I would like to congratulate you for the efficient manner in which you have conducted the proceedings of the House. Really you have a lot of patience. It is tested again and again and you succeed all the time. I believe that your patience will be intact and so shall the dignity of our behaviour will be maintained. As I was telling that Budget session is about to end and it is important.

18.00 hrs.

Usually the difference of opinion occurs on the Budget and it is not for the first time but it is probably for the first time that the opposition has decided to oppose it by making it an issue. It was not necessary. If we could run the Government, and make the future of the country without burdening our people then we could not have done the unpleasant job of earning unpopularity for us. Prices increase and it affects everybody that we have done it by making a balance and I believe that the people of this country will like it. After all we have come here after winning the confidence of the people. We had declared in our manifesto that...

SOME HON'BLE MEMBERS : The prices will be hiked.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I had told that we would consider about the burden which is being put on the nation and shall give it a logical form. I was surprised, when the main opposition party, which has the experience to run the country and which is waiting for coming into power again though their expectations are not going to be fulfilled, opposed it, but if we do not adopt a pragmatic approach in the economic field and remain involved in sectarian politics, then it will be very difficult for the nation to overcome the economic crisis. Yesterday, Dr. Manmohan Singh ji delivered speech in Rajya Sabha and it confirms this fact that intelligent people are also in ruling party, ruling party has also farsighted persons. ...*(Interruptions)* His speech can not be denied, it is a recorded thing. It should be read carefully. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, please excuse me, one thing I am unable to understand whether all the recommendations of all the standing committees be always accepted by the government.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I never said that.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Then what is the problem? Do you know that today whatever you are talking

about the consensus report have our members also. They did not give note of dissent keeping in mind that they are not to give note-of-dissent, otherwise there may not be any such report which does not have comments of our members and they would not have expressed their dissent.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Can you yield for a second? ...*(Interruptions)* A definite statement has been made with regard to the Committee of which I am the Chairman. Are you referring to that?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I have made a general statement.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I noticed, you were pointing your finger at me.

MR. SPEAKER : This is a valedictory reference.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : There is no such tradition that note-of-dissent can not be appended. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I do agree that the recommendations of the committee should be taken into consideration. The Government should take it seriously. Only on the basis of this you cannot say that the government should accept what you are telling - it is not necessary. I have also been in opposition and I am witness to how our recommendations were rejected, but we never complained about it.

I am thankful to the opposition that constitutional amendment was unanimously passed in this session. There are certain issues on which country is unanimous and it ought to be.

As far the rights of the scheduled castes and tribes are concerned, the issue of backlog regarding the promotion in service was raised and it was said that injustice was being done to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, there was some judgement of the court, but the entire House collectively changed it. We do not have majority in the House that we can get the constitution Amendment Bill passed on our own, but it is such an issue that the entire House was unanimous over it. Things were discussed regarding the grant of more financial autonomy of the states and giving more funds to them. For these too constitution was amended. The House cooperated in that. If the House is unanimous about similar issues, like national interest and universal welfare, then there should not

be any hesitation in it that we can unite and can support each other.

Sir, untouchability is disappearing from the social arena but it will not be a wise step to restart untouchability in political field. The need of the hour is that we should collectively work. During Budget Session, there were several occasions when it was evident that in spite of apparent differences, there is solidarity among us on the important questions. For example as far as the question of Srilanka is concerned, we did not discuss it in detail but overall the entire nation is unanimous over the issue of Srilanka and the entire nation wants that the peace be restored and the unity and integrity of Srilanka be maintained. But we continuously seek the advice of the opposition on such issues and discuss with them. Today itself, I discussed internal situation of Kashmir with Congress delegation. Yesterday a Congress delegation took pain to pay visit my House. They gave their memorandum and I replied to them, but grievance is still there that I did not accept suggestion. Yesterday I had told and today once again I am telling that our only fault is that we are in the government. But there is no justification, reason to it. There are certain issues like the matter related to the economic field where nation is in serious economic crisis, so some harsh decision had to be taken.

Sir, it was expected that the government will change the decision under pressure — we are not pleased to take this decision, but whatever has been decided has been decided after deliberation and that is why we are adamant to it. We will find a way out to satisfy our friends. I would like to assure you for that.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Information Technology Bill has been introduced in the House. Before that I wanted to introduce a Bill regarding the freedom of information but it could not be introduced, but that Bill is ready with us. As far the legislative Business is concerned, we have done a lot of work in this Budget session and I feel that was not possible without the support from all corners. At times I felt that probably it has been decided that in the morning, matters of the public importance will be allowed to be raised and in the evening concrete work will be done. That is why the House continued to sit late till night and all of us gave our cooperation. The Secretariat certainly has some difficulties, and Mr. Speaker, Sir you too have to come. Today probably Deputy Speaker, is not present in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He is on tour

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : He has gone to Brazil. Now many Members are preparing to go there. A demand has been put forward by the lady members, that during the previous government all the lady members of Parliament were sent on foreign tour, they were sent to China. Similarly it should be done this time. I will accept it if there is a consensus, I will have to accept consensus opinion.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, once again extend my heartiest congratulation to you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, today, we come to an end of the Third Session of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha which commenced on 23rd February, 2000 with the Address by the hon. President to Members of both the Houses assembled together in the Central Hall. During this Session, the House had 38 sittings, spread over 211 hours and 30 minutes.

This being the Budget Session, a substantial part of our work related to financial business. The House passed the Railway and the General Budgets for 2000-2001. As has been the practice since 1993, the House took a brief recess to enable the Departmentally-Related Standing Committees to examine and report back to the House on the Demands for Grants in respect of the concerned Ministries. The House, which had adjourned for this purpose at the end of the sitting on 16th March, 2000, re-assembled on 17th April, 2000 whereafter the financial business was completed. The Standing Committees of the Lok Sabha submitted 69 Reports on Demands for Grants of various Ministries and Departments. As many as 150 Members participated in the discussion on the Railway Budget and 65 Members took part in the debate on the General Budget.

The House also passed the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address on 25th April, 2000. The discussion on the Motion lasted over eleven hours with 25 Members taking part in it.

Substantial legislative work was also completed by the Lok Sabha during this Session. In all, the House passed 26 Bills. Some of the more important Bills passed include the Constitution Eighty-ninth and Ninetieth (Amendment) Bills; the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000; the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2000; the Designs Bill, 2000; the Mizoram University Bill, 2000; the Information Technology Bill, 1999; and the National Housing Bank (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

The House held meaningful discussions on four impor-

tant matters of public importance under Rule 193. These related to: the participation of some State Government employees in RSS activities; the drought situation prevailing in various parts of the country; the rise in prices of essential commodities; and on the Statement made by the Minister of External Affairs regarding the hijacking of Indian Airlines plane IC-814.

Five important matters were raised by Members by way of Calling Attention and the concerned Ministers made Statements in response to these Calling Attentions. In addition, 23 Statements were made by Ministers on different matters. Three Half-an-Hour Discussions were also raised in the House. As regards the Question Hour, out of the 740 Starred Questions listed, 98 Questions were orally answered in the House. While written replies were given for 8061 Unstarred Questions, two Short Notice Questions were also taken up by the House.

In respect of Private Members' Business, 60 Private Members' Bills were introduced. Of these, two Bills were discussed by the House which were later withdrawn with the consent of the House. One Bill remained part-discussed. Two Private Members' Resolutions were also discussed by the House which were subsequently withdrawn with the consent of the House. One Resolution remained part-discussed.

Members also made use of the provisions of Rule 377 to raise 225 matters in the House. Besides, as many as 281 Members raised matters of urgent public importance during the 'Zero Hour'.

One of the most significant developments during this Session has been the constitution of a Committee on Ethics which will oversee the moral and ethical conduct of the Members and examine the cases referred to it in respect of their ethical or other misconduct. I am confident that the constitution of this Committee, while further strengthening our Committee system, will also add a new dimension to ethics in public life.

As the hon. Members would have noticed, we have been able to transact substantial business of great import during this Budget Session. A good amount of this work was transacted during the second part of the Third Session.

On several days, the House sat late into the night to complete the listed business. All this was made possible of the full cooperation that I have received from all sections of the House. I am extremely grateful to the hon. Leader of the House, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, the leaders of various Parties and Groups in the House as also the Chief Whips and Whips for their kind cooperation and the courtesy they extended to me and to my colleagues, the hon. Deputy

Speaker and Members of the Panel of Chairmen. I would also like to thank each and every one of you for your valuable cooperation which facilitated the transaction of all listed business.

During this Session period, we were honoured to receive in the Central Hall of Parliament House, the President of the United States of America, His Excellency, Mr. William Jefferson Clinton. President Clinton's Address to the Members of the two Houses has been hailed as a landmark in the close and cordial relations between the world's largest democracies.

In our continuing endeavour to honour the memory of our nation builders, we installed the statue of Andhra Kesari Tanguturi Prakasam Panthulu in the Parliament building. The statue of Prakasam Panthulu was unveiled by the hon. President of India on 5th May, 2000.

In sum, we have been able to transact important business during this Third Session of Thirteenth Lok Sabha and for this, I compliment all sections of this House.

Now, hon. Members may stand up as 'Vande Matram' would be played.

NATIONAL SONG

18.16 hrs.

The National Song was played.

18.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.

**Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)**

Wednesday, May 17, 2000/Vaisakha 27, 1922 (Saka)

...

<u>Col./line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
(i)/13 (from below)	137	377
78/34	Shri Basu Deb Achariya	Shri Basu Deb Acharia
113/29	Shri Abdul Hamdi	Shri Abdul Hamid.
219/6 (from below)		
238/2 274/5	Shri Buta Singh	Sardar Buta Singh
311/7	Shri Ramesh Chennithala (Mavelikara)	Shri Ramesh Chennithala (Mavelikara)
346/1	Bandore, Shri V.P. Singh	Badnore, Shri V.P. Singh.
349/13	Tripathy, Shri Prakash Mani	Tripathi, Shri Prakash Mani

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