Thirteenth Series, Vol. IX, No. 13

Wednesday, August 9, 2000
Sravana 18, 1922 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)

(Vol. IX contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

G.C. Malhotra
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

Dr. A.K. Pandey
Additional Secretary

Hamam Singh
Joint Secretary

P.C. Bhatt
Principal Chief Editor

A.P. Chakravarti
Senior Editor

Vijay Chhabra
Editor

[ORIGINAL ENGLISH PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN ENGLISH VERSION AND ORIGINAL HINDI PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN HINDI VERSION WILL BE TREATED AS AUTHORITATIVE AND NOT THE TRANSLATION THEREOF.]

CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol. IX, Fourth Session, 2000/1922 (Saka)]

No. 13, Wednesday, August 9, 2000/Sravana 18, 1922 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
REFERENCES RE: 58TH ANNIVERSARY OF QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT, 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF DROPPING OF ATOMIC BOMBS ON HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI, CITIES OF JAPAN AND OBITUARY REFERENCE	1—3
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS:	
Starred Questions Nos. 241, 243, 244 and 246	4—31
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS:	
Starred Questions Nos. 242, 245 and 247-260	31—61
Unstarred Questions Nos. 2637-2861	61—443
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	443—446
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS	
Seventh Report	446
OBSERVATION BY SPEAKER	
Notice of motion under rule 184 for appointment of a commission of inquiry into incidents of killing of persons in Jammu and Kashmir	454
STATEMENT BY MINISTER	
Situation in Jammu and Kashmir	
Shri L.K. Advani	455—457
CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	
Non-payment of remunerative price of jute due to waiving of Jute Packaging norms and allowing non-jute materials for packaging purposes	491—502
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	491
Shri Kashiram Rana	491
Shri Rupchand Pal	495
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	
(i) Need to suitably compensate people displaced due to Subarnarekha Multi-Purpose project in Bihar.	
Shri Ram Tahal Choudhary	502

*The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(ii) Need to provide more Railway services to the passengers of Yamuna Nagar in Haryana	
Shri Rattan Lal Kataria	502
(iii) Need to formulate an action plan to make river Brahmani in Orissa pollution free	
Shri K.P. Singh Deo	503
(iv) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Assam to check erosion caused by Brahmaputra river in Dibrugarh and adjoining areas	
Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar	503
(v) Need to ensure that Keralites living in Pakistan since 1921 get visa to visit India	
Shri A.P. Abdullakutty	504
(vi) Need to render financial assistance to Government of Maharashtra for providing infrastructural facilities to pilgrims of Kumbhmela at Ramkund and Tapovan in Nasik, Maharashtra	
Shri Uttamrao Dhikale	504
(vii) Need to connect Chitrakut in U.P. by air	
Shri Ram Sajivan	505
(viii) Need for early completion of doubling of railway track between Karpooriqram and Siho in Bihar by North-Eastern Railway	
Shri Manjay Lal	506
(ix) Need to safeguard the interests of tea growers of Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu	
Shri P.H. Pandiyan	506
(x) Need to safeguard the interests of workers employed in Marble and granite industries in the country particularly in Rajasthan	
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	507
STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL	508—512
Motion to Consider	
Shri Hannan Mollah	508
Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot	510
Shri Yashwant Sinha	512
Clauses 2 to 37 and 1	514
Motion to Pass	514
STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF NOTIFICATION TO AMEND FIRST SCHEDULE TO CUSTOMS TARIFF ACT	
Shri Yashwant Sinha	514
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan	515

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193	518—594
Loss of lives and property due to floods in various parts of the country	
Shri Ramji Lal Suman	518
Shri Maheshwar Singh	521
Shri Rajkumar Wangcha	524
Shri M.V.V.S. Murthy	526
Shri Lakshman Seth	528
Shri Nawal Kishore Rai	530
Shri Ravi Prakash Verma	534
Shri Namdeo Harbaji Diwathe	536
Shri A.F. Golam Osmani	538
Shri Anant Gangaram Geete	539
Shri Balkrishna Chauhan	542
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	543
Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy	546
Shri Bijoy Handique	548
Shri Prabhunath Singh	551
Shri Joachim Baxla	554
Shri Suresh Chandel	554
Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev	556
Shri Rampal Singh	559
Shri Amar Roy Pradhan	561
Shri Ramjivan Singh	563
Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale	565
Shri Subodh Roy	565
Kunwar Akhilesh Singh	566
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	567
Shri Sheesh Ram Singh Ravi	571
Shri Ramdas Athawale	571
Shri Arjun Sethi	572
Shri N. Janardhana Reddy	577
Shri Nitish Kumar	582
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	
Twelfth Report	594
MOTION RE: CONTEMPT OF THE HOUSE BY A PERSON FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY	594

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, August 9, 2000/Sravana 18, 1922 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharjganj, U.P.) Mr. Speaker, Sir, the grave situation which has arisen in Jammu-Kashmir....*(Interruptions)* Seven people of my Constituency have been killed....*(Interruptions)*

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

11.01 hrs.

REFERENCES RE: 58TH ANNIVERSARY OF QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT, 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF DROPPING OF ATOMIC BOMBS ON HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI, CITIES OF JAPAN AND OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the nation observes today the fifty-eighth anniversary of the 'Quit India Movement'.

Fifty-eight years ago, on this day the clarion call given by Mahatma Gandhi roused the entire nation to launch Quit India Movement to attain freedom from the foreign yoke. The Father of the Nation exhorted the young and the old and the rich and the poor to 'do or die' for freedom of the country.

The people of the country stood united behind our brave leaders who put freedom of the nation above everything including their lives.

The Quit India Movement shook the very root of imperialistic rule in the country and ultimately led to the realisation of much cherished dream of millions of Indians- a free India.

With pride and gratitude we recall the sacrifices of all the freedom fighters, and pay respectful tribute to the memory of those patriots.

The hon. Members may also recall that Hiroshima and Nagasaki, two Japanese cities were destroyed by dropping of atomic bombs on 6th and 9th of August, 1945. Thousands of people were killed and millions maimed, depicting to the world how dangerous could be the insensible use of atomic weapons. The survivors of the nuclear holocaust are haunted by its after effects of radioactivity even today.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki stand as grim reminders to the world's conscience that weapons of mass destruction should never be used. If the world does not recognise the importance of elimination of nuclear weapons, people in the new millennium will not be able to live in peace. The principles and treaties that are aimed at reducing and eliminating nuclear arsenals and other conventional weapons of mass destruction should be universal, non-discriminatory and re-assuring of justice, equality, prosperity and peace for all peoples of the world.

The tragedy caused by the atom bombs should make us all, more compassionate, just and affectionate and wise to make human life better and peaceful in the world.

To ensure that there are no other Hiroshimas and Nagasakis, we need to keep up our struggle to make this world non-violent and peaceful. We should whole-heartedly support all the endeavours in this direction. We should also oppose and resist all destructive activities will all the might and will at our command.

Hon. Members, I have also to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues Shri S. Nijalingappa.

*Not recorded.

Shri S. Nijalingappa was a Member of Constituent Assembly from 1948 to 1950 and Provisional Parliament from 1950 to 1952 and First Lok Sabha from 1952 to 1956 representing Chitradurga Parliamentary Constituency of Mysore.

An able administrator, Shri Nijalingappa served as Chief Minister of erstwhile Mysore for four times during the period from 1956 to 1968.

Earlier, Shri Nijalingappa was a Member of Mysore Legislative Council during 1937-38. He served as President of Constituent Assembly of Mysore.

An advocate by profession, Shri Nijalingappa was an active social and political worker. He was associated with various organisations in different capacities. He worked for the formation of States on linguistic basis. He devoted himself to the decentralisation of industry and development of villages and welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

He was the grand old man of Karnataka and the architect of the enlarged State. As a veteran freedom fighter, Shri Nijalingappa was imprisoned for two years for participating in the Quit India Movement in 1942.

Shri S. Nijalingappa passed away on 8th August, 2000 at Chitradurga, Karnataka at the age of 98.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect in memory of the freedom fighters, victims of atomic holocaust of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and Shri S. Nijalingappa.

11.04 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.05 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Defaulting Units

*241. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of defaulting units/establishments who have not deposited the amount of Employers' share in the Provident Fund during each of the last three years, till date, State-wise;

(b) the details of the defaulters and amount outstanding against each of them; and

(c) the action taken against the defaulters?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) As on 31.3.2000, there were 21698 defaulting establishments which have failed to deposit PF dues including employer's share with the EPF authorities. The details of such defaulters during each of the last three years State-wise and the amount of EPF dues involved is given in the enclosed Annexure. As the number of the EPF defaulters is large, it is difficult to furnish individual details. Necessary legal and penal action as provided under section 7A, 8, 8B, 14 and 14B of the EPF & MP Act, 1952 and wherever necessary, also under section 406/409 of the IPC is already being taken to recover the EPF dues outstanding against the defaulting establishments.

Annexure

Details of EPF Defaulters

Sl. No.	Region	1997	1998	1998	1999	1999	2000
		No. of Establishments	Amount of default (in lakhs)	No. of Establishments	Amount of default (in lakhs)	No. of Establishments	Amount of default (in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2088	1699.25	1945	2299.40	1825	5348.47

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Bihar	771	1606.24	778	1561.02	767	2809.46
3.	Delih	417	268.01	395	360.99	406	816.56
4.	Gujarat	1477	2390.30	1142	2034.28	687	3769.35
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0.00	118	1525.28	127	327.32
6.	Haryana	933	2393.58	1116	1521.01	905	4169.62
7.	Karnataka	889	734.01	753	1356.56	1427	6987.21
8.	Kerala	733	500.59	616	689.41	951	1687.31
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1800	4150.19	1497	4925.73	1760	7751.74
10.	Maharashtra	951	4626.38	992	5864.66	1008	8970.69
11.	N-E Regions	185	166.63	208	184.78	230	727.71
12.	Orissa	659	1671.82	588	2059.29	1062	5588.63
13.	Punjab	1155	910.97	842	952.46	1025	1947.23
14.	Rajasthan	1691	646.58	1755	1932.57	1528	4802.46
15.	Tamil Nadu	2485	1802.47	3172	2366.35	3608	5773.96
16.	Uttar Pradesh	2313	4506.03	1339	7207.39	2492	12082.74
17.	West Bengal	2808	18324.86	1902	20477.55	1890	32270.59
	Total	21355	46397.91	19158	57318.75	21698	105831.05

SHRI A. NARENDRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has told in his reply that at present, as on 31.3.2000 there are 21698 defaulting units/establishments in 17 States of the country who have not deposited the amount of Employer's share in their Provident Fund during the last three years. This reply we have got but it as not been told as to what are the reasons for the failure in depositing the amount and what are the details thereof? I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether any investigation has been made against these defaulters and whether any order for the probe has been given or not? If so, what are the implications of these probe?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as was made clear in the reply of the Question that as on 31 March, 2000 there were 21698 establishments which are found defaulters and we have also tried to make assessment of the amount involved in it. On a rough estimate, out of the total amount of one thousand and fifty eight crore and thirty one lakhs involved in it, only 290 crore and 56 lakhs can be recovered. The reason of the failure to recover the rest of the amount is the stay order from Court being taken by the defaulting establishments. The Government is unable to make full recovery due to certain cases being referred to BIFR and also because of the restrictions and prohibitions under Section 22 of SICA. Some establishments have reached the situation of liquidation. Due to this reason also the recovery is not being made fully. Another reason is that some establishments have closed down. Some people have requested to pay in instalments and recovery is not being made because of this also. This way out of the total recoverable amount of Rs. 1058 crore 31 lakhs rupees. Only 290 crore and 56 lakhs are worth recoverable. We are also trying to take action in every possible way by applying all the existing laws of recovery. We are also taking action against the defaulters under various sections of Indian Penal Code and the recovery work is going on unabatedly.

SHRI A. NARENDRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Section 7A, 8, 8B, 14 and 14 B of the EPF and MP Act, 1952

provide for Penal and legal action against the defaulters. Besides there are section 406 and Section 409 of the IPC. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether all these Acts are outdated and whether the Government have ever considered bringing an amendment in these acts? If not, what is the reason thereof? Besides the hon. Minister should also throw a light on the meaning of the phrase 'wherever necessary' action will be taken which he has mentioned in his reply and which I am unable to understand. There are so many defaulter units in the country against which the action has been taken under section 406 and 409 of IPC Act. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of units against which action has been taken under these sections?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as is the concern of hon. Member and as he is also aware, under section 406 and 409 of IPC Act, 1035 case have been registered in 1999-2000 on the charge of breach of trust and the action is being taken in that regard. The action is being taken in 17367 cases under section 7 (A) dealing with provident fund while the action is being taken in 11108 cases under section 14. Official action is being taken under section 14 (B) for the delayed payment of Rs. 50 crore and 12 lakhs. The provident fund money is being realised from various organisations but except in a few difficult cases the job of realising the money is going on continuously barring the legal Confinements. We have also introduced a computer system in view of bringing in speed and vigil in this work which may lead us to know as to where, when and how the realisation is being made and the way to overcome and do away the mistakes in this regard. Every effort is being made in this regard.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, if we go through the table provided by the hon. Minister, in the year 1999-2000, the defaulting amount is the highest in the State of West Bengal, followed by Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he could state, after taking legal and penal action under various Acts of this country, in how many cases it was possible for the Government to recover the dues from the defaulting units. It is because I have first hand information from the State of Gujarat, when an employee commits a misconduct, his salary is deducted and in many cases he is summarily dismissed from the job. But in the case of an employer, why are we slow? How many employers have been punished so far? In how many cases have you successfully recovered the amount in question?

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member is concerned that the money of the labourers should be deposited in the provident fund account. He also wants to know as to what action is being taken by the Government in regard to the realisation of money of provident fund. I also align myself with his concern. I am aware that 12 per cent of the worker's wages is subscribed for this fund. The same 12 per cent is deposited by the employer. The total 24 per cent money is to be deposited by every employer till the 15th of next month. They are also given five more days for depositing the sum but if they do not deposit this money even upto 20 days then they fall in the category of defaulters. The action against all such defaulters is taken within the ambit of existing sections of law dealing with provident fund. Right now the question asked by hon. Member imbibed the concern that this law dealing with PF is outdated and there is a need to amend it. In this context, the suggestions given by various Members from time to time might be considered. The law of PF is related to the future and pension of the workers, hence every case and vigilance is required while taking action in this regard. As you have asked, I had given you the figures under section 7 (A) only because there are some legal provisions also under section 7 (a). I can also tell you if you desire....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I want to know the extent of success on the part of Government in realising the PF money from defaulters. In how many cases successful recovery has been made in these three years and what is the amount of money recovered?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: I give you the information which is available with me.

MR. SPEAKER: You better send the information to the hon. Member later on.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Provident Fund is one of the important benefits for an employee. Every month contributions from the employees are being deducted. But it is a matter of regret that the employers are defaulting. I think in the principal Act there is a lacuna to impose penalty on the defaulting companies. So, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is contemplating to incorporate very-stringent clauses in the principal Act so that the defaulting establishments can be taken to task and the employees do not get deprived of getting the benefits of the Provident Fund? Provident Fund

is having multi-effects in respect of pension also. So, I would like to have a categorical assurance from the hon. Minister on this particular aspect.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Though you have expressed your concern with a view of strengthening the law and making efficient provisions in this regard but we have also decided to take action on the basis of all these things. We have started criminal and penal cases in these cases where the employer deduct the share of PF from the worker's salary but do not deposit it, we have registered cases under section 406 and 409 of the IPC Act. I give you the information of pervious three years. The FIR registered by us were 496 in 1997-98, 111 in 1998-99 and 1035 in 1999-2000. Police had also issued chalans in this regard. Their number was 43 in 1997-98, 12 in 1998-99 and 21 in 1999-2000. Similarly we also take action under the sections 406 and 409 of the IPC Act. Alongwith it, we also take action whenever any legal problem arise under section 7 (A), 14 and 14 (B) of IPC dealing with the provisions of Provident Fund of the employees. I will also accept the suggestions given by hon. Member.

[English]

Schemes of FPI

*243. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the ongoing Schemes formulated for the development of agro processing industries recently;

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

(c) the target set and achieved during the last three years, State-wise, particularly in Maharashtra;

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate any new Scheme for revival of sick spinning units in cooperative sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the schemes finalised by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) are at variance in terms of basic features and conditions approved by the Standing Committee of Agriculture, Finance and other related bodies; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (g) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

(b) Department of Food Processing Industries has formulated different Plan schemes for implementation during the 9th Plan for the development of Processed Food Sector. Review of the Plan Schemes particularly with reference to the modalities including pattern of assistance is necessitated on account of feed back and response received from various agencies including the entrepreneurs, so that the bottlenecks are removed and mid-course corrections are carried out to facilitate achievement of the overall objectives.

(c) The schemes of the Department are project oriented and not State specific. Also, the Department does not set up food processing units on its own directly, and only provides financial assistance in the form of soft loan and grant to Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Cooperatives, Private Industry, Public Sector Undertakings, Human Resources Development (HRD) and Research and Development (R&D) institutions for food processing projects. Such assistance provided to different States, including Maharashtra, during the last three years (1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000) is given below:–

State-wise Details of Financial Assistance provided to various Food Processing Units during the last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	57.50	20.85	233.650
2.	Assam	4.80	192.00	247.560

	2	3	4	5
3.	Bihar	52.00	—	9.780
4.	Gujarat	25.00	75.00	187.400
5.	Himachal Pradesh	113.08	166.15	15.750
6	Jammu & Kashmir	—	7.50	82.565
7.	Karnataka	56 75	25.80	126.625
8.	Kerala	102.00	100.32	334.100
9.	Madhya Pradesh	50.00	73.00	44.565
10.	Maharashtra	179.80	146.77	254.940
11.	Manipur	14.43	30.41	56.680
12.	Nagaland	10.05	99.00	104.720
13.	Orissa	16.55	131.90	87.100
14.	Punjab	89.45	48.15	25.000
15.	Tamil Nadu	99.50	22.43	122.913
16.	Uttar Pradesh	52.75	78.74	204.726
17.	West Bengal	—	205.60	177.956
18.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	7.50	—
19.	Delhi	—	6.00	0.065
20.	Mizoram	36.87	—	—
21.	Meghalaya	—	—	44.300
22.	Haryana	—	—	57.500
23.	Goa	—	—	1.248
	Total	960.53	1437.12	2419.143

(d) and (e) There is an on-going Centrally sponsored Scheme for assistance to the Growers Cooperative Spinning Mills under implementation since 1974-75. During the 9th Five Year Plan a new component of rehabilitation of sick cooperative mills has been included which provides for term loan and investment loan, rescheduling of the loan, reduction in interest rate, penal interest/other penalties, additional margin money, working capital, special terms of repayment Government guarantee for fresh loan, conversion of loan into equity, exemption/deferment from charges, taxes penalties, duties, provision of any other relief/concession, etc. to the sick spinning mills for revival.

(f) and (g) The Scheme is being implemented as per the approval of the competent authority. The new component for rehabilitation of sick spinning mills was included on the recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture and Finance Committee. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is implementing the above scheme and has formulated guidelines as per the recommendations of an expert group. The main recommendations of the Expert Group are.

(i) Willingness and participation of all concerned parties jointly and severally.

(ii) Case to case of individual society.

(iii) The potentiality for rehabilitation.

(iv) More than Rs. 5.00 crores NCDC assistance to that society.

Accordingly, only those sick spinning mills which fulfill the eligibility for assistance under the scheme are considered for rehabilitation package by NCDC. Thus, in principle, there is no variation in the terms of basic features and conditions approved by different related bodies.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply, hon'ble Minister has said that the investment during Ninth Five Year Plan, in the year 1999 and 2000 is only Rs. 24 crore. It was even less during the pervious two years.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is principally an agrarian country and 80% of its population depends on agriculture, but the agro-based industries are very few in number. I want to ask the hon'ble Minister whether he has any motivation programme for the agro-based industries other than the Ninth Five Year Plan? Do you have any separate proposal in this regard and have you formulated any plan to increase investment in agriculture during the coming Tenth Five Year Plan for Maharashtra?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of the hon'ble Member relates to agro processing industries. The question has two parts. First part relates to the department of Food Processing Industries while the second part is related which the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. His question regarding agricultural sector relates to the food processing sector. Within the sector, the outlay given in the answer to original question and the expenditure during the last three years....*(Interruptions)* The information he has asked as to how much has been spent in Maharashtra is given in the reply.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: I have asked that does your department have any plan for the food processing sector other than the ninth plan?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the functions in food processing extends to many other sectors. They support variety of schemes. If someone wants to set up a food processing unit, he is given assistance and help is also extended in a number of projects, such as research and development projects, laboratories, cold storage units which are linked to processing units, production units and the Ministry also extends assistance for setting up food processing and training centres. The work of Ministry is brcadly of promotional nature while other activities are also undertaken. It works to create awareness among the people about the manner in which the processed food should be used, we also give advertisements towards that end, infrasturctural facilities are also provided and monetary assistance is also given to set up common facilities. In this way, we have a number of schemes, the information regarding which can be provided, if required by the Members. Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I can read out the entire list. It mentions about the investments made during the last three years. It is still very early for the formulation of 10th five year plan. National policy on Agriculture has just been announced and it proposes to give major thrust on value addition and food processing.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from Nagpur to Narkheda in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, oranges are widely cultivated. I want to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the State Government has made any plans for food processing based on oranges; if so, what assistance is given by the Central Government and I also want information about the schemes which are pending with you for approval. Since you have mentioned training centres. I want to ask where these training centres are located in the Vidarbha region?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, greater thrust has been given to food processing because more attention needs to be given to the fruits and vegetables we produce. If they want to set it up there, the raw materials are available. It is really unfortunate that on the one hand our country is ranked number one and two in the production of fruits and vegetables respectively but on the other hand only a little more than two per cent of that is processed while 30% of the production is damaged during the post harvest operations. There cannot be any doubt that a lot needs to be done in the field of food processing. That is why we implement many schemes to promote the entrepreneurs. We also help the State Governments. Food park scheme can be regarded as the most important one where in common facilities are developed. For that, Food Processing Department extends assistance upto Rs. four crores. With the assistance of the State Governments and other institutions, common facilities are developed. for electricity, processing, cold chain, waste disposal etc. In a way food processing park is like an industrial park or industrial estate. If the hon'ble Member is good enough to tell us about the project relating to his area, which is pending in our Ministry, we will definitely consider it.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: About the oranges?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Orange or any other fruit, we have schemes for all.

SHRI MANJAY LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has said that funds are also given for research in human resource development and for processing to development institutions in the training centres opened for this purpose. The figures that he has quoted in this regard shows that Assam was given Rs. 4.80 lakh in 1997.98, Rs. 192 lakh in 1998-99 and Rs. 247.56 in the current year. Similarly Kerala has also been given considerable funds. Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have also been given large funds but during this year, Bihar has been given a paltry sum of Rs. 9.78 lakhs. Vegetables are cultivated on a large scale in Bihar. As the hon'ble Minister said that the Centre provides funds to the institutions....

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask you supplementary.

SHRI MANJAY LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bihar has two Agricultural Universities. Research work is done both in Birsa Agricultural University and Rajendra Agricultural University. I want to ask the hon'ble Minister whether he is prepared to provide funds to the two Universities, where the research work is being undertaken? What measures are being taken to ensure remunerative prices to the vegetable growers in Bihar?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: We are ready to provide funds, but somebody should be there to receive it. We have a saying in Bihar:

"Ka par karun Singaar, Piya more Aangan."

[English]

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries was set up in 1988 to give an impetus to the development of food processing industries in India. More than eleven years later, in October, 1999, this Ministry had been downgraded to a Department of the Ministry of Agriculture. Originally, there are as many as 27 subjects which are to be allotted to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair cannot allow more than two supplementaries on each question.

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: The list includes APEDA, MPEDA, National Horticulture Board, Tea Board, Spices Board, Marine Products and Deep Sea Fishing. The whole idea is to bring all these related subjects under one umbrella for an integrated functioning instead of keeping them under nine or ten Ministries like Commerce, Agriculture etc....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is your supplementary? You need not give all the information to the Ministry.

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: I am putting the supplementary. in September 1998, they also recommended that these 27 subjects should be given to the DFPI. But unfortunately only nine subjects have been allocated to the Department of Food Processing Industries or whatever you may call it. I would request the hon. Minister that he should let the House know when all the remaining 18 subjects are going to be transferred to the DFPI. Does he think that in the absence of these subjects, which have to be transferred, the Department of Food Processing Industries would not be able to fulfil the objective for which the Ministry of Food Processing Industries was originally created in 1988?

11.29 hrs.

At this stage, some slogans from the Visitors' Gallery were heard, and some leaflets were thrown into the House from the Visitors' Gallery

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question that has been asked by the hon'ble Member and the background that has been stated by him and the situation in which the department....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, someone is throwing something from the Public Gallery into the House, Sir....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The security people will take care of it.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the information that the hon'ble Member has given about the works related to the Department of Food Processing Industry and the background of the circumstances in which the Ministry was constituted and the works that were to be assigned to it and the function that it is at present performing and the question he has asked that by which

time, and work for which the Ministry has been constituted will be assigned to it, is out of my domain to answer. But as far as this question is concerned that today whatever work is allotted to the department which is a Department attached is the Ministry of Agriculture, I would certainly like to assure that there will be speedy implementation of the work related to Food Processing Department. Keeping this in view, attempts are being made by the department to bring together separate items and district laws related to food processing and if it is achieved then it will be referred to other Ministries as a Food processing Law for consideration.

The second thing that I would like to inform is that the difficulties being faced by the Food Processing industry are due to several other reasons and about which he has not made any quarry, therefore I am not answering to that. The hurdles faced by them are different. The way it witnessed growth and the sudden negative growth after 1997 is the result of tax structure also, but that is a different question and we are taking up this question with the Minister of Finance. As a policy matter there should be a national Policy on the Food processing. An approach paper on it has been prepared by our Department and the opinion of the concerned people are being taken on that approach paper and the policy that will evolve after the seminar will be submitted to the Government for consideration and will also be placed in the House.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, in eastern India-Tripura, Assam and Malda in West Bengal-a lot of pineapples and oranges are grown. The hon. Minister has himself stated that our food production is one of the highest in the world; but in processing we are the lowest. In view of this, will the hon. Minister kindly consider circulating the procedure adopted by the Ministry to start the food processing project to the Members of Parliament so that we can deal with your Ministry directly? The Ministry should give up the procedure of sending it to the State Government. This is creating another problem. The State Governments keep them pending for months together and they do not send it to the concerned people. We are ready to spend from the MPLAD Scheme. Mostly, the Scheduled Tribe and the Scheduled Caste people are working on it. Will the hon. Minister kindly consider sending the detailed guidelines to the Members of Parliament so that we can utilise the funds available in the MPLAD Scheme?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has said that I should give information to the hon'ble Members hailing from North-East about the work of Food Processing department which is concerned with North Eastern Region. But alongwith this I would like to inform them that the Government is very soon going to launch a Technology Mission for the development of horticulture in North Eastern States. It has the components of research, production development, marketing and processing. The processing component of that technology mission will be carried on by the Department of Food Processing Industries and as the Mission gets final approval, it will be intimated to the hon'ble Members.

[English]

Dereserved Items in SSI List

+

*244. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

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

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to dereserve some selected items in the SSI list;

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

(c) the impact on the Small Scale Industries as a result thereof; and

(d) the corrective measures taken/proposed by the Government to safeguard the interest of Small Scale 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) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the issue of

dereservation in the SSI sector has engaged the attention of the Prime Minister as reported in *The Hindustan Times* dated 3rd July, 2000, who has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group consisting of the Ministers of Commerce, Textiles, Small Scale Industries, Finance and the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission.

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, everyday I am trying to ask some supplementary, but I am not getting a chance....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have seen your slip also. Please take your seat.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, an Advisory Committee meeting, which was held on 03.02.2000, recommended certain things and they were brought up to the notice of the Prime Minister. Amongst them, some were for a change in the nomenclature of three items, raising the investment limit on 41 items from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 5 crore and dereservation of 15 items etc. However, the Government has not dereserved any items. A Group of Ministers was set up on the 28th of June, 2000, under the Chairmanship of Shri L.K. Advani, and the Ministers of Commerce and Industry, Textiles, Finance and the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission are all part of this Group. Their brief was to empower the SSI sector and also to evolve a road map for selective dereservation. No decision on any kind of dereservation has been taken as yet.

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry of Small Scale Industries has forwarded any proposal seeking to raise the foreign direct investment limit from 25 per cent to 49 per cent and also to increase the investment limit on plant and machinery from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 5 crore.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, amongst the things that might be discussed over here, there were some requests that came up to us from sectors as well as from the Ministries for derservation of certain items. The S.P. Gupta Committee has produced an Interim Report very recently. It has also made some suggestions. These are before the Group of Ministers and no decision has been taken yet on them.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: As far the question of small scale industries is concerned it is very important question.

[English]

At present, there are three types of industries. The first, is the big bosses, that is, the multinational companies. The second is, the companies owned by Tata and Birla, which we call as corporate big brothers. The third is, the medium and small industries. The drawbacks of the small industries are old technology, higher cost and child labour. However, there are advantages also, namely, maximum employment generation, labour intensive industries etc. In addition to that, 50 per cent of the items produced in the small industries are exported.

[Translation]

I would like to show a paper to the hon. Minister.

[English]

However, our Minister is very competent. The Minister has made a statement as follows:

"We will provide support to the small industries, but we will not protect the small industries."

[Translation]

I would like to know an to what is the concept of the Ministry.

[English]

I would like to know whether they are protecting them or they are only giving support to them. This is my first question.

My second question is...

MR. SPEAKER: No; you cannot ask two questions. You can ask only one question.

Secondly, what are the special plans that the Government is having for debottlenecking the existing problems? What are the schemes for strengthening and improving the small scale industries?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, as far as the first part of the question is concerned, first of all, I do not think that the statement could have been made by me. As far as I am concerned, we are very clear in this Ministry and the Government that it is vital to the able to empower the small scale industries to enable them and to give them a confidence to go into the new millennium. Keeping that in mind, the Prime Minister has particularly

carved out the Ministry of Small Scale Industries with this idea. So, I am afraid that statement certainly has not been made by me.

I would also like to make out here the steps that the Government is taking to strengthen the small scale sector. That is what the Member was asking about. We discovered that the major problem facing the small scale industry is the credit facility. With that in mind, we have now gone for the credit guarantee scheme which should be in operation within a month.

The technology upgradation is also very vital for this sector. This is before the GOM. We believe that there are certain delayed payments and other fiscal anomalies like tax anomalies also in the excise duty structures. At the moment, all these are lying before the GOM. They are being discussed and thrashed out.

Apart from all that, we have taken certain steps to bring the small scale sector on to a level-playing field. Amongst them are various measures, like fiscal measures, which we have taken very recently. This is to do with something like the National Equity Fund. This is do with raising of limits for credit without collateral from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh. There are other measures in the fiscal regime which we have taken.

I am happy to tell you that today under the National Equity Fund, the number of beneficiaries given by SIDBI are 11,992 which is a large figure. The amount sanctioned is Rs. 130 crore. The amount disbursed has been Rs. 107 crore. This is one of the major measures that we have taken to strengthen the small scale sector.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, by now, the strong views of the hon. Minister with regard to the small industries, the rural industries, the agro-industries and the tiny industries, and also the pressures being mounted by the MNCs, big Indian houses and others to open up areas till today reserved for the small industries are well known. My question is not about the issue of dereservation. Because of the export potential and the employment potential in the Indian Constitution, what steps or comprehensive measures does the Ministry propose to take for augmentation of the existing skill in the small industries, rural industries and related areas?

Secondly, how could better and adequate credit facilities be made available in concrete terms? What does the Government propose to do?

Thirdly, regarding the Technology Mission that has been referred to, and the upgradation of the small industries areawise and sectorwise, what comprehensive policy does the Government propose to make in view of the pressures being mounted and the entry of the multinationals which has already taken place without any such declaration by the Government?

MR. SPEAKER: Three-in-one reply!

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, as far as impacts of liberalisation are concerned, yes, there will be some problems that the small scale industry will face. But we have safeguard measures which we are going to take. Those safeguard measures are imposition of duties up to bound rate if it is presently not lower and imposition of anti-dumping duties. There are several safeguard measures which we are going to take in terms of duties beyond the bound rates, imposition of CVD against subsidies imposed by the exporters of the exporting countries and reimposition of qualitative or quantitative restrictions.

I would like to say here that alongside all of the measures that we have taken, we are emphasising greatly on the research and development potential, the technology potential and raising of the modernisation of technology because unless this is done the small scale industry will not be in a position to compete on a level playing field with the people that the hon. Member described.

We are at the moment, looking at the technology upgradation and modernisation fund, which will go up to a large amount of money before the GOM at the moment. It has been thoroughly discussed. We hope that there will be some movement on this very shortly.

As far as the credits are concerned, I have already mentioned that we have a credit guarantee system which has already been mentioned in the Budget Speech of the hon. Finance Minister last year and which is going to go into operation next month. It envisages SIDBI and the Ministry of Small Scale Industries working together on a scheme, at the moment, of Rs. 125 crore. Out of this, Rs. 100 crore is going to be given by the Government, the Ministry of SSI and Rs. 25 crore from SIDBI. A trust has been formed by which together we will be able to work out means and measures for advancing credit, without collateral, upto Rs. 10 lakh. We hope this will happen very soon.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, the small scale industry products are being exported to Europe, especially the textiles. Is the hon. Minister aware that the textiles which are exported to the European Union market, most of the small scale industry goods are dumped? Sir, I

would also like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that most of the small scale industries have become non-performing assets due to multinationals entry into the small scale sector in the country. Will the hon. Minister enlist as to how many small scale industries are there which have been invaded by the multinationals and safeguard the *Swadeshi* Movement?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, I have here a comparative growth chart of the SSI sector and the industrial sector from 1991-1992 to 1999-2000. I am happy to inform the House that in 1991 the performance of the SSI sector viz-a-viz the industrial sector was at 3.1 per cent, where as the industrial sector was at 0.6 per cent. This growth continues and it improves. Until 1997, we have a growth rate of 8.43 per cent where as the industrial sector goes up to 5.8 per cent.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, I have asked about the dumping of Indian goods.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: I am coming to that.

The reason why I am mentioning this is that despite the fact that the small scale industry sector has worked without the Ministry and without any major support system and it has still done as well as this. Now, with the support system that we are going to be putting in place, I would like to assure the House that we will be taking care of all the measures to see that sensitivity of this sector is taken into consideration.

As far as anti-dumping is concerned, as the hon. Member has mentioned, we are taking care of it. It comes under something called 'The Safeguard Measures'. This will come up before the WTO and this is something that comes under the Ministry of Commerce. There is a body which has been put up to actually monitor it very closely. I am also very happy to inform the House that as of now there are no cases which have come up before the Anti-dumping Directorate in the Ministry of Commerce.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, today is the 9th August, the Quit India Day. This question has relevance because after Freedom, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru said in a public function in New Delhi. 'The significance of small scale industries in relation with our self-reliant economy of the country to provide supporting infrastructure to the big sector industry'. So, will the hon. Minister consider from her Ministry protection of the following sectors, namely: components of tea industry, handloom industry or powerloom industry, textiles, motorbikes, bicycles, tractors and silk waste? In these small scale sectors, the components are manufactured with great skilled labour from Ludhiana of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. For the last one year, the units are getting closed. They are dying but the huge imports of those components in India are taking place. Will the hon. Minister, therefore, publish a White Paper to identify the direct impact of this policy, the multinationals which are hitting the small scale industry sector, and submit a report to the Parliament in the next Session?

What are the specific safeguards that are taken to protect those units? Ludhiana is crying, and a few units have been closed there. In UP, half a dozen units have been closed. I can tell you that the small scale units which have been manufacturing the components of motorcycles, motor-bikes and even ambassador car in Howrah have all been closed because of this policy. Will the Minister publish a White Paper to identify the direct impact and to ensure the safeguards on each selective sector?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, the Government's concern for the small scale sector is clearly shown by the fact that after 50 years of democracy, for the first time, a Small Scale Industry Ministry has been carved out. We are concerned about the sensitivities of the small scale sector. We are interested in seeing that they are empowered. We are interested in seeing that wherever we can strengthen them, we will strengthen them, and with that aim in mind we are working towards it.

There is a suggestion to undertake a census by which we will have an idea of exactly what ills, which sector, and where. We will be undertaking this because in the last short seven month period we have put out a lot of studies....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You can go to Ludhiana and Howrah along with your officers and see the factories with your own eyes. You need not depend on me even and you can go on your own....*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: I am saying exactly what the hon. Member has just said. We are making an effort. Seven-month period is a very short time for any Ministry. We have put all of these wheels into motion and we will be able to bring satisfactory results in the next few years.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are not allowing women Members to ask questions. Small scale sector is a very important sector....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Review of Projects

*246. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the projects started with the funds allocated to the States and Union Territories under annual plans by the Planning Commission during the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the names of those States and Union Territories which have not utilized the funds allocated for the said purpose; and

(c) the criteria laid down for the increase/reduction in plan allocations to States/Union Territories?

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 AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. Plan allocations made in the Annual Plans of States and UTs and the progress of various projects/schemes under various sectors are reviewed from time to time by the Planning Commission. These reviews culminate in an overall review of the progress of implementation of various schemes/projects during Annual Plan discussions of different States/UTs. Under the existing guidelines States can divert funds from one scheme to another, so long as the outlays for earmarked sectors/ schemes are not changed. Normal Central Assistance is adjusted/cut in a pro-rata basis for any deviation from the earmarked outlays as well as shortfall in Plan expenditure with reference to approved or revised approved plan outlay as per the guidelines.

(b) The names of those States which have not utilized the funds allocated for the said purpose during the last two years are given in Annexure.

(c) The Annual Plan allocations to States in any given year are determined on the basis of their own financial resources and Central Assistance available to the State Governments for Plan financing. While allocation under Normal Central Assistance (NCA) is based on the Gadgil formula approved by the National Development Council (NDC) in December, 1991, allocation under Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for Area Programmes and Externally Aided Projects (EAP) are based on the Sector/ Project requirements of States, within the limits of gross budgetary support provided by Government of India.

Annexure

States which have not utilised Funds Allocated for the Purpose during the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000

1998-99

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Assam
3. Goa
4. Gujarat
5. Maharashtra
6. Mizoram
7. Nagaland
8. Rajasthan
9. Tamil Nadu
10. Tripura
11. Uttar Pradesh
12. West Bengal

1999-2000

1. Gujarat
2. Sikkim

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Renu Kumari.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, now a woman Member is asking a question.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the Government as to what action has been taken by the Government against the States who have not utilised within stipulated time the funds allocated by the Planning Commission for the

certain purposes, and what is the result thereof? Whether the Bihar State has utilised the fund and if so what is the progress report?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in the reply. In that question she had asked as to which are those States which have not fully utilised the earmarked schemes. The list of the states where scheme has been curtailed has been provided. You see, Bihar is not included in that list. The scheme has special significance that is nearly 50 per cent Central assistance is earmarked for some sectors. If that amount is spent in that sector then there is no cut in the scheme and implementation in Bihar is a different issue but the expenditure is necessarily made there. That is why there is no cut in the scheme. Their expenditure statement is also received....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Whenever any question related to Bihar comes....*(Interruptions)* It is written in the rule....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

11.54 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Shri Rajo Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.

[English]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seat. This is too much.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

What is this?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

What is this?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rajo Singh, please go to your seat.

[Translation]

Please take your seat.

11.56 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Shri Rajo Singh and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Mr. Minister please. You please sit down. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will take action against you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will take action against you. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Minister please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. What is this? This is Question Hour. Please understand that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you are not behaving properly in the House. If you have any clarification, you can ask.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please hear me first.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: First you listen, If you want any clarification, you should ask supplementary, you should not do like this.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we request you to advise the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister complete.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Minister please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. What is this? I am on my legs. What is this? You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat first. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record please.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please you take your seat.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever has been said by my colleague has not been said with the intention to hurt the sentiment of the hon'ble Members from Bihar....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Then what was that?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: He will reply....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tarit Baran Topdar, I am appealing to you, please sit down. You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tarit Baran Topdar, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever was said was not said with the intention to hurt the sentiment. All the Members of Bihar getting agitated in such a way, if any answer....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: Not all the Members....*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Please you sit down. I mean to say all the Members of the opposition....*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The Minister should beg apology from ten crore population of Bihar....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, I will take action against you. How are you behaving? What is this?

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Production of Raw Cashewnut/Cashewnut

*242. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up any programme to promote the cashew/raw cashew plantation for the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the production during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the target set for the present year?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development Programme of Cashew and Cocoa in India with an outlay of Rs. 70.00 crores for cashew development during Ninth Plan period. The details of the programme for the Ninth Plan is given at statement-I. The details of production of raw cashew nuts during the last three years is given at statement-II.

(c) The target for production of raw cashewnut is not fixed annually. However, an annual production target of raw cashewnut of one million MT has been contemplated by the end of Ninth Plan.

Statement-I

Programmes for the Development of Cashew during the 9th Five Year Plan

S. No.	Programme	Target (in Hectares)	Outlay (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
A. Programmes for Execution by States			
1.	New Plantation Development and Maintenance	85400	4672.773
2.	Replanting of old cashew gardens		
	(a) Private holdings	8000	583.228
	(b) Corporation	7500	158.721
3.	Adoption of Plant Protection Measures	82115	656.920
4.	Executional Infrastructure		408.650
	Total (A)		6480.292
B. Programmes Monitored by Directorate of Cashewnut and Cocoa Development (DCCD)			
1.	Establishment of Regional Nursery (Numbers)	103.5	162.000
2.	Development of Model colonal cashew gardens (Number of plots)	1085	43.292

1	2	3	4
3.	Farmers training programme (Number of farmers)	21650	48.320
4.	Plant Protection Campaign (Numbers)	140	10.360
5.	Publicity Measures for Cashew & Cocoa		39.750
6.	Development of infrastructure for Marketing & processing (Number of units)	10	50.000
7.	Model Processing Unit for Cashew Apple (Numbers)	1	15.000
8.	Executional Infrastructure to Directorate of Cashewnut & Cocoa Development		162.246
	Total (B)		530.958
	Grand Total (A+B)		7011.260

Statement-II

State-wise Production of raw Cashewnut

	State	Production (000 MT)		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50	80	100
2.	Goa	25	20	30
3.	Karnataka	35	40	60
4.	Kerala	100	130	100
5.	Maharashtra	60	85	125
6.	Orissa	45	50	40
7.	Tamil Nadu	30	35	45
8.	West Bengal	6	8	8
9.	Others	9	12	12
	Total	360	460	520

Rehabilitation Centres for Handicapped

*245. SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI:
SHRI PUSP JAIN:

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

(a) the details of handicapped in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRCs) in the country and District Rehabilitation Centres;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the present set up is not able to meet the growing demand; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to open more such centres in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSS) has conducted a National Sample Survey 47th Round during July-December, 1991 to collect information on the number of persons with disabilities. Based on the sample survey of NSSO carried out in 1991, approximately 5% of the population is estimated to be suffering from some kind of disability. The State-wise details of disabled population is given below:

S. No.	Name of the State	Estimated number of Disabled (in '000)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1572
2.	Assam	271
3.	Bihar	1361
4.	Gujarat	695
5.	Haryana	304
6.	Himachal Pradesh	140
7.	Karnataka	876
8.	Kerala	556
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1287
10.	Maharashtra	1819
11.	Orissa	720
12.	Punjab	531
13.	Rajasthan	723
14.	Tamil Nadu	1236
15.	Uttar Pradesh	2550
16.	West Bengal	1179
	All India	16154

Note:1: Figure includes visual, (ii) hearing, (iii) speech and (iv) locomotor disability.

Note : 2: For the remaining States/UTs, results are not presented as the sample size was not considered large enough to provide reliable estimates. However, the results presented at the All-India level include all the States/U.Ts. The estimated number of disabled persons given are obtained by applying survey-based proportion, to projected census population.

NSSO also conducted a separate survey (Report No. 391) of children (age 0-14 years) with delayed mental development in all the States and Union territories during July-December 1991). The survey showed a possible level of mental retardation of about 3 percent among children. Further, there is an estimated 4 million leprosy-affected persons in the country. Thus, prevalence of disability in the country as a whole is estimated to be around 5 percent. Government has now decided to include a question on disabled persons in the household schedule to be canvassed during Census of India 2001 to ascertain the number of physically/mentally disabled.

(b) At present, there are eleven District Rehabilitation Centres (DRCs) in ten States i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. There are seventeen Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRCs) under the Ministry of Labour in States/ U.T. of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(c) and (d) Recently, the Government have formulated several schemes specifically for wider coverage and holistic rehabilitation of persons with disabilities as under.

(i) Over hundred districts have been identified for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services at the doorsteps of persons with disabilities. Services identified include setting up of composite fitment and rehabilitation centres. State-wise numbers of such centres is given in the statement attached.

(ii) A Scheme of Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) has been approved for the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Himachal Pradesh for providing rehabilitation services for different kinds of disabilities and for creating infrastructure for training and manpower development.

(iii) A Scheme of Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for persons with spinal injuries and orthopaedic disabilities has been approved as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with Centre and State share on 90:10 basis for strengthening rehabilitation services in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Orissa.

(iv) Besides a new four tier-scheme namely, National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities has been approved

in the State sector for implementation for creating infrastructure at State/District/Block and Gram Panchayat level for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to the disabled.

These steps have been taken in addition to on going schemes/programmes of this Ministry for the welfare of the disabled. There are six National Institutes/Apex level Institutions set up in each major area of disability which work towards manpower development through long term and short term training programmes, provide services including socio-economic rehabilitation services, develop models of service delivery programmes for rehabilitation, reaching services to the un-reached through out-reach activities and research and development. To support entrepreneurial activity by the disabled, National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation (NHFDC) has been functioning since 1997. The Vocational Rehabilitation Centres evaluate the capacity of the disabled persons, impart them necessary vocational training and guidance. The Ministry also supports NGO activities for welfare of disabled through its two schemes viz. Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities (Umbrella Scheme) and Aids and Appliances Scheme (ADIP).

Statement

State-wise number of District Fitment Centres for persons with disabilities

State/U.T.	No. of Centres
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	3
Assam	4
Arunachal Pradesh	2
Bihar	11
Gujarat	5
Goa	1
Haryana	3
Himachal Pradesh	2
Jammu & Kashmir	2
Karnataka	5
Kerala	2
Mizoram	1
Meghalaya	1
Manipur	1
Maharashtra	5
Madhya Pradesh	11
Nagaland	1
Orissa	5
Punjab	3
Rajasthan	5
Sikkim	1
Tripura	1
Tamil Nadu	6
Uttar Pradesh	17
West Bengal	3
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1
Chandigarh	1
Daman & Diu	1
Lakshadweep	1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
Poncidherry	1

Drought Relief

*247. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent drought affected States lifted an insignificant portion of the allocated foodgrains stock and preferred financial assistance to meet the situation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the Central financial assistance was given to the State Governments as against the demand;

(d) whether any assessment has been made by the Government to find out the actual utilization of the Central

financial assistance for providing relief to drought affected areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Special allocation of foodgrains at Below Poverty Line (BPL) rates was made to Gujarat, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh, in the wake of drought, for supply to the affected people. The details of quantity allotted and quantity lifted as intimated by the Department of Food & Public Distribution, are indicated below:—

(in lakh tonnes)

State	Foodgrains	
	Quantity Allotted	Quantity lifted
Gujarat	4.19	0.88
Rajasthan	5.26	3.23
Andhra Pradesh	4.36	4.29

(c) Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) was released to these States during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. In addition, assistance was provided to them during 1999-2000 from National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the wake of drought. Details are indicated below:—

(Rs. in crore)

State	Calamity Relief Fund		National Fund for Calamity Relief Assistance	
	1999-2000	2000-2001	Demanded	Released
Gujarat	121.05	131.14	722.16	54.58
Rajasthan	155.25	168.18	1144.40	102.93
Andhra Pradesh	107.69	77.78	720.36	75.36

(d) and (e) Distribution of relief assistance and undertaking relief measures at the ground level are the responsibility of the State Governments concerned.

Agriculture Policy

*248. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the well known agro-scientists of the country have opposed the Agriculture Policy of the Government and called it an anti-farmers policy;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government are reducing the subsidy being given to the farmers of the country under the international pressure while the countries like America are still providing 25 per cent subsidy to the farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government have not reduced subsidy given to farmers under international pressure.

(d) Does not arise.

Credit Guarantee Scheme

*249. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether the Federation of Associations of Small Industries of India has urged the Government to extend the Credit Guarantee Scheme for small Scale Units and also to enhance the excise exemption limit to it;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal to extend marketing support to Small Scale Industries through Government purchases; 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 has approved a Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Small Scale Industries under which guarantee will be given for 75% of the loan (term loan as well as working capital) amount upto Rs. 10 lakhs extended by the commercial banks and well performing regional rural banks to the small scale industrial (SSI) units without collaterals including third party guarantee.

As regards excise exemption limit, Federation of Associations of Small Industries of India has suggested that the full excise exemption limit for SSI units be enhanced from the present level of Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore. It has not been possible for the Ministry of Finance to accede to this request.

(c) and (d) Government is already extending marketing support to small scale industries through Government purchases. Under the Central Government Stores Purchase Policy 358 items are currently reserved for purchase from the small scale industries.

Conference of Information Technology Ministers

*250. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had called a meeting of the Information Technology Ministers to formulate a long term I.T. policy;

(b) if so, the agenda thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry had already obtained the view points of the State Governments on the subject;

(d) if so, details thereof;

(e) whether the Chief Ministers of States have attended a conference on Computerisation of India in July, 2000;

(f) if so, the main decisions arrived at;

(g) the funds demanded and allocated to each State, State-wise; and

(h) the action plan chalked out for implementation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (h) A meeting of State IT Ministers was held on 15.07.2000 wherein 14 Chief Ministers also attended. The Agenda for the meeting was as below:

(a) IT for Masses

(b) IT Education in Schools, Colleges and Universities

(c) E-Commerce

(d) Right of Way

(e) IT Enabled Services

(f) Permitting software industry in their residential of urban area.

After comprehensive and detailed deliberations, a Common Action Plan has been drawn as given in the statement attached.

The financial requirement of States are reviewed from time to time and the actual allotment is made subject to financial constraint.

Statement

First National Conference of IT Ministers

Common Action Plan to promote IT in India

The First-ever National Conference of IT Ministers was held in New Delhi today, July 15, 2000. The Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, inaugurated the Conference, in which as many as fourteen Ministers of various States also participated.

The Conference thanked the Prime Minister for announcing the following three landmark decisions.

1. Full deregulation of National Long Distance Operations (NLDO), before August 15, 2000, with no restriction on the number of licenses to be issued.

2. Complete demonopolization of undersea optical fiber conductivity for ISPs by August 15, 2000. The private ISPs will be allowed, either singly or jointly, to set up their own landing stations anywhere in India in collaboration with international undersea bandwidth carriers.

3. A Task Force on human resource development in IT to prepare long-term strategy for significantly increasing the number of well-trained IT professionals. The Task Force will draw a plan to optimally use the existing infrastructure of the IITs, RECs, other engineering colleges and educational institutions to double their student intake from the next academic year and triple it in the next two years. The Task Force will comprise Ministers of HRD, IT and Finance, along with representatives from State Governments.

These decisions will go a long way to strengthen the country's telecom infrastructure and infrastructure for IT education.

After comprehensive and highly productive deliberations, the conference adopted the following consensus Action Plan to promote IT in India.

(1) The Union Government and the State Governments will allow free Right of Way facility, with no charge in cash or kind, to access providers to lay optical fiber networks along National highways, State highways, and other roads. Only a nominal restoration fee will be charged for providing this facility.

(2) The physical and civic infrastructure of the existing and emerging IT development centres will be improved.

(3) Development of Indian languages on computers and creation of useful content on the Internet in all Indian languages will be promoted.

(4) Facilities for IT education and IT-based education will be expanded and improved. For this, the resources and expertise of the private sector educational organizations, will be synergized with those of Government and other established educational institutions.

(5) The Union and State Governments will take specific measures to promote e-governance to improve transparency, accountability and efficiency.

(6) The Centre will reduce customs and excise regime for optical fiber, IT hardware, set top boxes, other Internet access devices, and TV sets for distance education and extension programs.

(7) There shall be no Sales Tax and other State Taxes on the IT sector for the next three to five years.

(8) The accreditation mechanism for IT education shall be strengthened, by among other things, decentralizing the power of the AICTE to the States.

(9) The decision on setting up of private Universities should be speeded up. Private Universities should be set up in consultation with the State Governments.

(10) Availability of bandwidth must precede the demand. This is essential as there is a gap between demand and supply of the bandwidth namely international, national long distance, last mile and satellite. All the four elements of telecom infrastructure need to be enhanced and improved in terms of reliability and quality also.

(11) A special rate for Internet access to educational institutions may be considered. All ISPs may be urged to extend special rates. ISPs may also be urged to levy a flat rate for internet usage for all other Internet dial-up subscribers.

(12) Internet international gateways already sanctioned must become operational by August 15, 2000.

(13) Permission may be given for utilization of Ku band for educational, health and other Government broadcasts.

[Translation]

Space Technology for Private Sector

*251. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to involve the private sector in space technology;

(b) if so, the details of the areas identified therefor; and

(c) the time by which the proposed decision is likely to be executed?

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) Yes, Sir. Guided by the objective of achieving self-reliance in space technology, partnership with industries has been nurtured through various initiatives and cooperative ventures. Department of Space (DOS) has linkages with more than 500 small, medium and large-scale industries through procurement contracts, know-how transfers and provision of technical consultancy. This includes industries in both private sector and public sector and is a continuing process.

[English]

Cauvery Water Dispute

*252. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Cauvery River Authority under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister was held, recently;

(b) if so, the decisions arrived at in the meeting; and

(c) the extent to which water dispute among Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry has been resolved?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (c) Cauvery River Authority has been constituted on 11.8.1998 to give effect to the implementation of the Interim Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal dated 25.6.1991 and, all its subsequent related orders. The second meeting of the Cauvery River Authority was held on 14.7.2000 under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. In the meeting, the Authority confirmed the minutes of the first meeting and approved the Rules and Regulations for Conduct of the Business of the Cauvery River Authority. It was also agreed that Government of Karnataka would endeavour to make good the deficit in inflow into Mettur reservoir for the month of June, 2000 within next 30 days, and Government of Tamil Nadu would make available the required quantities of water to Pondicherry.

Super Specialty Hospitals

*253. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from State Governments for the construction of Super Specialty Hospitals in the States for providing medical care under ESI scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such hospitals constructed so far in the country, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The ESI Corporation has received a proposal from the Government of Kerala to set up a 50-bed super-speciality hospital in the field of cardiology at Asramam, Kollam, Kerala.

(c) Nil.

(d) Keeping in view the fast technological advancement and the changes required within the existing institutions, the ESI Corporation has approved an Action Plan to bring about improvement in medical services under the ESI Scheme. Accordingly, the Corporation has decided to set up super-speciality services within the existing ESI hospitals so as to provide medical, surgical, diagnostic and rehabilitative facilities along with 24-hour availability of accident, emergency and critical care services. As medical care under the ESI Scheme is being administered by the State Governments/UT Administrations, the Corporation has requested them to select suitable hospitals and plan development of all the activities including super-speciality services in a comprehensive manner on zonal basis in consultation with the ESIC. In order to ensure that the ESI beneficiaries do get super-speciality treatment, the State Governments have been requested to make tie-up contractual arrangements with local reputed medical institutions. A revolving fund has also been set up with Regional Directors of the ESIC in most of the States to grant advance/medical reimbursement to insured persons for super-speciality treatment.

India-US Space CO-operation in Space Sector

*254. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to tie up with US based National Aeronautical and Space Administration for co-operation in the areas of earth and atmospheric studies;

(b) if so, whether a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the two countries; 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) and (b) A memorandum of understanding has been signed in 1997 by the Department of Space and the Department of Science & Technology with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of USA for cooperation in earth and atmospheric sciences.

(c) Several projects of mutual interest using data from satellites of both countries for research in earth and atmospheric sciences such as study of monsoon and cyclones have been identified and are progressing.

[Translation]

Ground Water

*255. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are contemplating to allocate funds to the State Governments for ground water conservation projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total funds allocated to each State during the last three years, particularly to drought affected States; and

(d) the result achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (d) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and execute schemes for ground water conservation. However, the Central Government is implementing various programmes which help in *in-situ* conservation of soil moisture, infiltration of water into soil profiles and resultant ground water recharge and improvement in efficiency of water use.

The Central Ground Water Board under the Ministry of Water Resources is implementing a pilot scheme on recharge studies. The Ninth Plan outlay for the scheme is Rs. 25.00 crore. An amount of Rs. 3.53 crore has been spent for ground water recharging and rainwater harvesting during 1997-98 to 1999-2000. The State-wise position of expenditure is given in the attached statement-I.

The Ministry of Agriculture has been implementing various schemes which have a component of ground water conservation namely, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects (RVP), Soil Conservation in Flood Prone Rivers (FPR), Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) in North Eastern States and Reclamation of Alkali Soils. The State-wise position of funds released under these schemes during the last three years (1997-98 to 1999-2000) is given in the attached statement-II.

The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing various schemes which also have a component of ground water conservation namely, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP). The State-wise position of funds released under these schemes during the last three years (1997-98 to 1999-2000) is given in the attached statements-III to V.

From the year 2000-2001, a new initiative in the form of Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) has been introduced under which Additional Central Assistance (ACA) is provided to the States/UTs for selected basic minimum services in order to focus on certain priority areas of the Government. One of the components of this scheme is Rural Drinking Water. Under the PMGY-Rural Drinking Water, minimum 25% of the total allocation for the component will be utilised by the respective States/UTs on projects/schemes for water conservation, water harvesting, water recharge and sustainability of drinking water sources in respect of DDP/DPAP areas, over-exploited, dark/grey blocks and other water stress/drought affected areas.

The impact assessment studies undertaken by the concerned agencies have shown encouraging results with regard to recharge of ground water and improvement in ground water levels.

Statement I

Funds Allocated During three years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 for Recharge Studies in Various States/UTs Under Central Sector Scheme on Studies on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water

Sl. No.	State/UT	1997-98 Expenditure (Rs.)	1998-99 Expenditure (Rs.)	Funds allocated in the year 1999-2000 (Rs. in Lakh)
1.	NCT of Delhi	5,12,361	—	17.96
2.	Haryana	—	9,24,000	34.52
3.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	25.37
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	19.00
5.	Karnataka	6,60,265	—	—
6.	Kerala	24,35,000	6,25,000	—
7.	Madhya Pradesh	4,64,000	8,27,000	17.94
8.	Maharashtra	2,20,820	12,99,000	37.32
9.	Punjab	—	10,75,000	97.74
10.	Rajasthan	—	4,50,000	14.50
11.	Tamil Nadu	6,50,000	8,00,000	—
12.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	5.00
13.	West Bengal	38,250	—	29.37
14.	Chandigarh	5,28,000	—	—
	Total	5508678	6000000	298.72*

*The total expenditure made in Central Sector Scheme of Artificial Recharge is reported as Rs. 237.89 lakhs during the year 1999-2000.

Statement-II

Statement Showing State-wise Release of Funds under the various schemes of Ministry of Agriculture (Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1368.00	1551.50	1665.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	210.00	181.00	127.00
3.	Assam	145.00	170.00	120.00
4.	Bihar	98.00	125.00	0.00
5.	Goa	0.00	8.00	3.00

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Gujarat	966.00	2433.00	2480.00
7.	Haryana	180.00	465.77	245.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	770.00	1068.20	762.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	566.00	637.00	665.00
10.	Karnataka	3050.00	3115.00	3200.00
11.	Kerala	500.00	1502.88	390.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3028.00	4013.59	4750.00
13.	Maharashtra	3320.00	4360.00	1500.00
14.	Manipur	605.00	265.00	460.00
15.	Meghalaya	120.00	360.00	410.00
16.	Mizoram	525.00	1140.00	866.00
17.	Nagaland	460.00	1000.00	900.00
18.	Orissa	1300.00	662.39	500.00
19.	Punjab	242.60	321.00	123.00
20.	Rajasthan	4198.00	5559.00	5130.00
21.	Sikkim	90.00	150.00	200.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	1500.00	2230.00	2075.00
23.	Tripura	261.00	480.00	551.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3255.40	4184.44	3575.03
25.	West Bengal	110.00	620.00	750.00
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	25.00	65.00	34.00
27.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	1.00	1.00	0.00
	Grand Total	26894.00	36668.77	31481.03

Statement-III

State-wise allocation of funds under ARWSP for the year 1997-1998, 1998-1999, 1999-2000

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7964.00	9991.36	9143.26
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1444.00	3623.00	2476.00

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	2438.00	6120.00	4180.00
4.	Bihar	9380.00	11768.50	9380.00
5.	Goa	227.00	283.75	352.92
6.	Gujarat	4672.00	5860.51	6028.52
7.	Haryana	1746.00	2190.91	1883.91
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1568.00	1967.07	2275.77
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4395.00	5514.58	6381.44
10.	Karnataka	7325.00	9177.40	8402.25
11.	Kerala	3724.00	4673.49	4307.88
12.	Madhya Pradesh	8817.00	11063.07	9444.68
13.	Maharashtra	10602.00	13301.46	13614.41
14.	Manipur	529.00	1330.00	907.00
15.	Meghalaya	568.00	1425.00	974.00
16.	Mizoram	406.00	1018.00	696.00
17.	Nagaland	422.00	1058.00	724.00
18.	Orissa	4173.00	5236.47	4847.93
19.	Punjab	1330.00	1668.62	1720.64
20.	Rajasthan	8732.00	10954.54	12676.22
21.	Sikkim	372.00	434.00	460.83
22.	Tamil Nadu	6314.00	7922.54	6534.66
23.	Tripura	503.00	1262.00	862.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	14775.00	18537.93	14775.00
25.	West Bengal	5704.00	7169.63	7008.15
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	12.50	12.50	12.50
27.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	12.50	12.50	12.50
28.	Daman & Diu	12.50	12.50	12.50
29.	Delhi	5.00	5.00	0.00
30.	Lakshadweep	12.50	12.50	12.50
31.	Pondicherry	5.00	5.00	5.00
	Total	108190.00	143611.83	130112.47

Statement-IV

Fund release during last 3 years under DDP as on 1.4.2000

(Rs. in Lakhs)

		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	421.6900	482.6200	437.06250
2.	Gujarat	1101.1400	860.1800	2750.84700
3.	Haryana	796.6200	608.2200	453.55000
4.	Himachal Pradesh	150.0000	30.0000	255.00000
5.	J & K	225.0000	585.0000	486.02000
6.	Karnataka	841.6800	350.4500	215.38000
7.	Rajasthan	3463.8900	5063.5600	3901.21550
	Total	7000.0200	7980.0300	8499.07500

Statement-V

Fund release during last 3 years under DPAP as on 1.4.2000

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	States	Central release 1997-98	Central release 1998-99	Central release 1999-2000	Opening Balance as on 1.4.2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2292.50	2290.62	2670.75	480.00
2.	Bihar	115.13	238.28	229.99	1065.00
3.	Gujarat	528.48	776.95	878.81	2265.00
4.	Himachal Pradesh	69.50	52.00	90.00	158.00
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	112.50	40.00	219.55	195.00
6.	Karnataka	786.39	908.28	801.91	985.00
7.	Madhya Pradesh	892.55	882.51	1401.76	2459.00
8.	Maharashtra	1986.06	552.00	644.50	5505.00
9.	Orissa	63.84	274.55	46.25	572.00
10.	Rajasthan	419.00	173.50	385.75	663.00
11.	Tamil Nadu	707.34	272.71	827.30	169.00
12.	Uttar Pradesh	842.06	838.61	1093.18	911.00
13.	West Bengal	259.67	—	209.25	962.00
	Total	9075.02	7300.01	9499.00	16389.00

[English]

Visit of Minister to Silicon Valley

*256. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreements or MOUs were signed during the recent visit of the Minister of IT to the Silicon Valley; and

(b) if so, the action taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The details in this regard are as below:—

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Ministry of Information Technology and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to establish two Centres of Excellence in Information Technology one each in India and Ministry of Information Technology (MIT), USA to undertake advanced research, education, human resource development and applications development in areas associated with Information Technology.

2. A second MOU was signed between IIT, Bombay and Compaq Computer India Private Limited for establishment of an Alpha Competency Centre for Unix based e-Commerce Applications for India.

3. A third MOU was signed between ERNET India, an autonomous society of the Ministry of Information Technology and M/s Cisco Systems Inc., USA.

4. The concerned agencies in India and USA are taking necessary follow up action.

Service Conditions of PSUs' Executives

*257. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make the service conditions of Executives, whole time Directors and Managing Directors of PSUs similar to that of IAS and IPS;

(b) whether the whole time Directors and CEOs of PSUs were allowed to join any private companies, competitors immediately after resigning/retiring from PSUs;

(c) if so, the norms in this regard; and

(d) the details of PSUs Directors who have resigned from the companies and joined the competitors during the last two years till date?

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) In April, 1969, the then Bureau of Public Enterprises (presently, Department of Public Enterprises) had issued some instructions on post-retirement employment of top level executives of PSUs. According to those instructions, if a top executive of a PSU on his retirement joins a private firm, no contract should be placed with that firm without the approval of the Board of Directors of the concerned Enterprises, for a period of two years following the retirement of that officer.

The Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU) (1998-99) in its 4th Report on "Senior level posts in Public Undertakings-Appointment and related matters" had recommended that the existing instructions on restrictions relating to post-retirement employment of top executives of PSUs should be reviewed/modified with a view to placing restrictions on the chief executives and Directors joining the competitors and privates firms immediately after retirement.

Based on the recommendations of COPU, instructions have been issued by the Department of Public Enterprises on 25.1.2000 laying down that no Functional Director of a company including the Chief Executive who has retired from the service of the company, after such retirement, shall accept any appointment or post, whether advisory or administrative, in any firm or company, whether Indian or foreign, with which the company has or had business relations, within two years from the date of his retirement without prior approval of the Government.

(d) These details are not required to be maintained.

Protest Against Patents

*258. SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department has opposed 4 more international patents in the field of space;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps initiated by ISRO to keep abreast of the new patents being filed by the international organisations?

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) The patent applications opposed by DOS/ISRO relate to areas in satellite communication system. All the four applications were filed by companies and persons based in USA. ISRO opposed these applications on the grounds of obviousness and lack of novelty/originality.

(c) A close watch on patent applications being filed in India is being maintained through a regular scrutiny of the 'Patents for opposition', being published in the official gazette and in journals such as Intellectual Property Rights, brought out by Patent Facilitating Cell of Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

Purulia Arms Drop Case

*259. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Government is pressing India to release the businessman who is serving life sentence in Calcutta jail in connection with Purulia arms drop case;

(b) if so, the Government stand thereon;

(c) whether Purulia arms drop case is likely to be examined afresh in order to look into foreign conspiracy angle; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government's stand remain unchanged.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Multilingual Internet Technology

*260. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken appropriate action for creation of multilingual internet technology and websites to facilitate internet based education;

(b) if so, the initiatives taken/under consideration in this regard alongwith the implications thereof; and

(c) the details of action plan finalised in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Thirteen "Resource Centres for Indian Language Technology Solutions" as given in statement have been set-up in March, 2000 at various educational institute and R&D organisations.

These Centres will:

(i) Develop methodologies and tools for multilingual internet based computing, content creation and learning systems.

(ii) Create websites and content in Indian languages.

(iii) Develop courseware in Indian languages.

Statement

Organizations	*Languages*
Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur	Hindi, Nepali
Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai	Marahati, Konkani
Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati	Assamese, Manipuri
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	Kannada, Sanskrit (Cognitivo Models)
Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta	Bengali
Jawarharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	Foreign Languages (Japanese, Chinese) & Sanskrit (Language Learning Systems)
University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad	Telugu
Anna University, Chennai	Tamil
MS University, Baroda	Gujarati
Utkal University, Orissa & Orissa Computer Application Centre (OCAC)	Oriya
Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology, Patiala	Pujabi
Electronics Research and Development Centre (ER&DCI), Thiruvananthapuram	Malayalam
Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Pune	Urdu, Sindhi, Kashmiri

Production of Cotton

2637. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cotton variety F-414 has now become virtually non-existent and has disappeared from the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to either revive this variety of cotton or to develop a new equivalent or a better variety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The presence of F-414 cotton variety has significantly reduced in the market.

(b) Variety F-414 was released by the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana in 1978. It continued to be popular till 1987-88. Since then, the cultivation of F-414 has gradually decreased.

(c) Many varieties better than F-414 have been developed and released for cultivation during late 1980s and early 1990s. Important examples are F286, F505, F1054, F846 and F1378. These new varieties are better than F-414 in yield and quality. However, the name F-414 is still being used in trade circles for superior medium staple varieties in Northern India.

ESI Facility to Unorganised Sector

2638. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to extend ESI hospital facility to unorganised labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The ESI Scheme is contributory in nature and it is applicable in certain notified areas only. As such it has not been considered possible to extend the ESI facility to unorganised labour.

[Translation]

Anomaly Committee

2639. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have constituted an Anomaly Committee to sort out the grievances of Central Government employees after implementation of recommendations of Vth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the details of the grievances before the Committee yet to be sort out; and

(c) the time by which Anomaly Committee is likely to finalise all the grievances/representations from the representative bodies of the employees?

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) In order to settle the anomalies arising out of the implementation of the recommendations of 5th Central Pay Commission, instructions have been issued for setting up National Anomaly Committee for dealing with the anomalies common to two or more Departments and in respect of common categories of employees and Departmental Anomaly Committees for dealing with the anomalies pertaining exclusively to the Department concerned and having no repercussions on the employees of other Ministries/Departments. Grievances in the form of anomalies received through Secretary, Staff Side of the respective Council are dealt with as per the procedure agreed with the representatives of Staff Side. The Anomaly Committees are required to finalise all the anomalise received, at the earliest.

Indo-Pak Joint Trade Council

2640. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute an Indo-Pak Joint Trade Council;

(b) if so, the main objectives behind it;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be constituted; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard so far?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Workers in Unorganized Sector

2641. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state number of people working in unorganized sector, sector-wise and State-wise, separately as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): A Statement is attached.

Statement

Number of people estimated to be working in unorganised sector, sector-wise as on 31.3.94

(No. in thousands)

S. No.	Sector	Employment
1.	Agriculture	207371
2.	Mining & Quarrying	1584
3.	Manufacturing	29286
4.	Elect., Gas, Water	321
5.	Construction	10382
6.	Trade	25937
7.	Transport & Storage	7059
8.	Financial Services & Community Services	24281
	Total	306221

Number of people estimated to be working in unorganised sector, State-wise as on 31.3.1994

(No. in thousands)

State/UT	Number
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	32513
Assam	6047
Bihar	26857
Gujarat	15051
Haryana	4249
Himachal Pradesh	1999
Jammu & Kashmir	2269
Karnataka	18550
Kerala	8935
Madhya Pradesh	26883
Maharashtra	31366
Manipur	574
Meghalaya	918
Nagaland	288
Orissa	11689
Punjab	5832
Rajasthan	17392
Sikkim*	163
Tamil Nadu	24365
Tripura	834
Uttar Pradesh	45364
West Bengal	20982
A & N Islands	74
Arunachal Pradesh*	410
Chandigarh	211
Dadra & N Haveli*	58
Delhi	2686
Goa	353
Daman & Diu	33
Lakshadweep*	16
Mizoram	255
Pondicherry	247
Total	307428

*This is total figure of workers in organised and unorganised sector. Break-up of workers in organised and unorganised sector is not available.

Note: The total of two statements may not tally due to rounding of certain figures.

Establishment of Office of Protector of Emigrants

2642. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have agreed to open an office of "Protector of Emigrants" at Calicut in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the reduced outflow of workers to other countries for work because of various reasons as also the fact that two offices of Protectors of Emigrants are already functioning in the State of Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram and Cochin, it is not considered feasible to open an office of Protector of Emigrants in Calicut for the present.

Construction of Dams

2643. SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several multipurpose dams are being constructed with foreign assistance in the country;

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

(c) the estimated cost, present status and funds likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the time by which these dams are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (d) No major multipurpose dams are being constructed with foreign assistance in the country. However, some medium Irrigation projects involving construction of dams in Tamil Nadu & Orissa are receiving external assistance. Details of such dams are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of Sub-Projects involving construction of Dams programmed to be constructed under on-going external assistance.

Name of sub-project involving construction of dam	Status of construction of Dam	Latest estimated cost (Rs. Million)	Expenditure upto March 2000 (Rs. Million)	Likely year of Completion
1. Tamilnadu water resources consolidation project (Cr. 2745-IN)				
Adavinainarkoil	Under Construction	586.246	195.627	2001-2002
Kokumudiar	Under Construction	185.515	3.814	2001-2002
Morchana	Under Construction	742.313	333.063	2001-2002
Nambiyar	Under Construction	195.219	101.946	2001-2002
Poigaiyar	Completed	97.885	71.176	2000-2001
Rajathopekanar	Under Construction	19.25	16.078	2000-2001
Sothupari	Under Construction	280.314	176.601	2000-2001
Vadakkupachayar	Under Construction	460.376	124.2	2001-2009
2. Orissa Water resources consolidation project (Cr. 2801-IN)				
Baghua Stage.II	Dam Completed (Gates to be fixed)	298.75	216.31	March, 2002

Subsidy Facility to Fishermen

2644. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the pathetic economic backwardness of the traditional fishermen community, the Government would consider extending subsidy facility to them on their fuel requirements for fishing purposes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Subsidised kerosene oil is supplied to traditional fishermen for use in their Outboard Motors (OBMs) for fishing purposes through Public Distribution System from the over-all quota of kerosene allotted to States by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

(b) As per the information available from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the average over-all quota of subsidized kerosene allotted to maritime States and Union Territories is about 53 million tonnes with a gradual annual increase for the last few years.

Training School for Farmers

2645. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to organise Field Schools to train farmers in Integrated Pest Management practices; and

(b) if so, number of Field Schools organized by the Government under the Scheme in the country particularly in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. So far a total of 6,222 Integrated Pest Management Farmers Field Schools, including 744 in Maharashtra, have been organised in the country and the target for such Field Schools for 2000-2001 is 520 including 24 for Maharashtra.

Mambalathar Dam

2646. SHRI PON RADHAKRISHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government received any proposal from the State Government of Tamil Nadu in regard to construction of Mambalathar dam, across the Paraliyar river in Kanyakumari district of the State;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) No such proposal regarding construction of Mambalathar dam across the Paraliyar river in Kanaykumari district of Tamil Nadu has been received in Central Water Commission.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Organic Farming

2647. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR had organized Brain Storming Session on Organic farming in close association with Bharatiya Cattle Resource Development Foundation (BCRDF);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main recommendations of said session; and

(c) the recommendations accepted by the Union Government?

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

(b) and (c) Details given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Main Recommendations

1. Inventorization of available resources for Organic Farming.
2. Establishment of a "Centre of Excellence on Organic Farming" under NARS.
3. Establishment of a country-wide "Network for research on Organic Farming"
4. Documentation of available indigenous technological knowledge (ITK) and other technologies development by various public sector research centres/NGOs/individuals on different aspects of organic farming in India.
5. Introduction of core course (s) on "Concepts and Practices in Organic Farming" in the curriculum of under-graduate and post-graduate degree programmes at different SAUs and other agricultural Institutes.
6. Expert groups, comprising eminent Agricultural and Social Scientists and progressive farmers may be constituted for visiting successful farmers associated with organic farming practices. The group may submit a detailed report covering various aspects of organic farming.
7. Standardisation of mechanisms/methods for suitably judging/classifying the "Organic Farming".
8. Formulation of appropriate package of practices in the area of organic farming for important production systems of the country.
9. Dissemination of knowledge on organic farming through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) field demonstrations, TV-programmes and other suitable media.

These recommendations have been examined. There is a proposal to strengthen a network on Organic Farming research during the current Five Year Plan under the All India Coordinated Research Project on "Microbial Decomposition and Recycling of Farm and City Wastes".

Kuppam Irrigation Project

2648. SHRI Y.S VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Centre for a grant of Rs. 15 crore for the Kuppam Irrigation project which has been initiated with the cost of Rs. 25 crores in the State;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) No such request for a grant of Rs. 15 crore for the Kuppam Irrigation Project has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects are executed by the State Governments themselves as per their priority and out of their own resources.

Prior Indication of Drought Ignored by the Government

2649. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to National Remote Sensing Agency despite clear indications including satellite images, that pockets of the country could face a severe drought this year, the signals appear to have gone unheeded by the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the images blamed by the Indian satellites had shown a serious decline in vegetation in almost two thirds of Rajasthan and areas of Gujarat as early as last year;

(d) if so, the reasons as to why these signals were ignored and no measure taken to meet the situation;

(e) whether as per preliminary observations by scientists indicate that the current drought could be worse than the previous one faced in 1987; and

(f) if so, whether the Government had made any contingency plan to meet the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) The National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) of the Department of Space had been reportedly regularly monitoring the agricultural drought conditions prevailing in 11 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh using the satellite remote sensing data, during kharif season and sending the reports to the State Governments concerned for necessary action. According to the Department of Space, the Normalised Difference Vegetation Indices (NDVI) data generated from satellite images indicated reduced vegetation condition in almost two thirds of Rajasthan and areas of Gujarat.

Drought is a creeping phenomena. The State Governments initiated necessary steps to manage the situation. Central Teams were also sent to Rajasthan, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. In addition to release Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the wake of drought was released to them. The Central Government also took measures like free transportation of water and fodder to the drought affected areas in these States and supply of foodgrains at Below Poverty Line (BPL) rates. The situation was effectively managed during the peak period due to the various measures taken by the Central and State Governments.

(e) and (f) NRSA did not undertake any comparative study with the drought conditions prevailing during 1987.

[Translation]

Decline in Agricultural Production

2650. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the crops of the farmers of the adjoining area of Panipat Oil Refinery are getting affected due to pollution resulting in decline in production;

(b) if so, the details of the last two years;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to compensate the farmers to make up their loss;

(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.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) As informed by the Haryana State Government,

there is no adverse effect on the crops of the farmers of the adjoining areas of Panipat Oil Refinery due to pollution.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Test Tube Mangoes

2651. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to News-item "Test Tube Mangoes" appearing in 'The Hindu' Delhi on March 16, 2000;

(b) whether the Government have interacted with the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in this regard;

(c) if so, the status thereof; and

(d) the research and development in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India, has supported a R & D project at BHU for standardizing a complete protocol for regeneration of mango through tissue culture. This project is a part of the network programme at (1) Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, (2) Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore (3) Central Institute of Subtropical Horticulture, Lucknow, (4) National Botancial Research Institute, Lucknow and (5) National Chemical Laboratory, Pune. The scientists of BHU have published the information of micro-propagation of North Indian mango variety 'Chausa' and hybrid 'Amrapali' in a scientific Journal 'Current Science' January, 2000.

(d) Under the Project at BHU, studies are being undertaken on plantlet regeneration for 4 mango varieties-Amrapali, Chausa, Mallika and Langra. The protocol has been standardized for plantlet regeneration through somatic embryogenesis. Efforts are being made for hardening and transfer of these plantlets to the soil. This activity needs to be further perfected since the survival percentage of the plants in the soil at present is very low.

Assistance from NCRF

2652. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds have been released from National Calamity Relief Fund (NCRF) for relief and restoration work in super cyclone affected area of Orissa during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(b) the date on which unutilised amount has been returned to the Central Government alongwith the reasons for unutilisation of relief funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) During 1999-2000, Rs. 828.15 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) was released to Orissa in the wake of floods and cyclones (including super cyclone). The scheme of NFCR has come to an end on 31.3.2000.

(b) The assistance from the NFCR was released to the State for undertaking relief and restoration measures in the wake of floods and cyclones, which are under various stages of implementation.

Review of Labour Law

2653. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Labour has taken up comprehensive review of old/outdated labour laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the review of outdated labour laws and time bound action plan for the current year; and

(d) details of the labour laws proposed to be amended/replaced during the current year with reasons therefor and implications thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Review/updation of Labour Laws is a continuous process and amendments/ fresh legislations are made depending on the results of the review. A number of Labour Laws have been framed over a period of time to address a number of issues and problems that assumed importance and attracted pointed attention at a particular point of time. While many of these concerns are of continuing nature, some of them have ceased to be of erstwhile importance and may have indeed become obsolete and redundant. There is thus always a need to review labour laws comprehensively so as to ensure both consistency of labour laws with the

general changes taking place in the economic policy and also to provide for greater welfare of the workers. The National Commission on Labour set by Government on 15.10.99 would comprehensively review that labour laws and suggest appropriate changes in labour legislation/ policy. The Commission would suggest rationalisation of existing laws relating to labour in the organised sector and an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the un-organised sectors. The duration of the Commission is 24 months from the date of its constitution i.e. upto 15.10.2001.

Promotional Avenues in Central Secretariat Service

2654. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently enhanced the existing ceiling of 15 per cent for appointment to Non-Functional Selection Grade in Group A of Central Services to thirty per cent to all duty posts (operational posts) at the level of senior Time scale and above;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to extend similar benefits to the Central Secretariat Service Officers in the posts of Director and Selection Grade on account of very promotional avenues; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

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.

(a) The Govt. does not propose to extend similar benefits to the Central Secretariat Service Officers because Non-Functional Selection Grade is applicable only to organised Group 'A' Central Services. It does not apply to the Central Secretariat Service, not being an organised Group 'A' Service.

(c) Does not arise.

Nuclear Power Generating Capacity

2655. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether nuclear energy is being generated in the country at a comparatively cheaper rate;

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Government to operate the nuclear power plants at a higher power generating capacity;

(c) the average power generating capacity of each nuclear power plant and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to enhance power generating capacity of the nuclear power plants in the country;

(d) whether any foreign assistance has been sought for this purpose; and

(e) 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) The cost of generation from nuclear power stations is competitive with coal based thermal power stations at locations away from coal mines.

(b) The capacity factors (C. Fs) of nuclear power stations in commercial operation have seen progressive improvement based on efforts at (i) strengthening of condition monitoring and preventive & predictive maintenance, (ii) improving outage management, (iii) intensive training for maintenance and operating staff, and (iv) effective co-ordination with Regional Electricity Boards to improve frequency control for the grid. The overall capacity factors of nuclear power plants of NPCIL during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are 71%, 75% and 80% respectively.

(c) The following table indicates the present generating capacity of each nuclear power plant in commercial operation, along with the capacity factors achieved during the year 1999-2000.

Name of Station & Location	Unit	Present Capacity (MWe)	C.F.-% 1999-2000
Tarapur Atomic Power Station, Maharashtra	TAPS-1&2	2x160	77
Rajasthan Atomic Power Station, Rajasthan	RAPS-1 RAPS-2	100 200	71 80
Madras Atomic Power Station, Tamil Nadu	MAPS 1&2	2x170	75
Narora Atomic Power Station, Uttar Pradesh	NAPS 1&2	2x220	81
Kakrapar Atomic Power Station, Gujarat	KAPS 1&2	2x220	88

In addition to above, Kaiga Unit-2 (220 MWe) at Kaiga Atomic Power Plant in Karnataka and RAPP Unit-3 (220 MWe) at Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant in Rajasthan were made operational on 16th March, 2000 and 1st June, 2000 respectively.

(d) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SSC Exams

2656. SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the candidates who passed the examination conducted by the Staff Selection Commission for the recruitment of clerks in the year 1997 have been appointed;

(b) if so, the number of such successful candidates appointed and the number of candidates not appointed alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the remaining successful candidates are likely to be appointed?

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) 5186 candidates were recommended for appointment on the basis of Clerks Grade Examination, 1997 conducted by Staff Selection Commission. All the recommended candidates except 121 have been nominated for appointment to various user Departments. However, out of the nominated candidates, 66 dossiers have been returned by some of the user Departments for reasons like curtailment of vacancies, ban orders etc. They are being renominated to other user Departments. The dossiers of remaining 121 candidates are being scrutinised and their nomination will depend on their meeting all the scrutiny requirements.

Incentive from National Horticulture Board

2657. SHRI MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) details of the incentives provided by "National Horticulture Board" set up for agricultural development to small farmers, farmers organizations, Government and non-Governmental organizations for ultra modern farming of various fruits and flowers, State-wise;

(b) whether the minimum incentive/assistance has been provided to Bihar by the said board;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) if not, the number of projects cleared in Bihar and those proved successful out of them; and

(e) whether Government are contemplating to improve the way of working of the said important board by transferring the competent and efficient officers from I.C.A.R. or NABARD to the said board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) State-wise details of financial assistance released by the National Horticulture Board to provide incentives for ultra modern farming of various fruits and flowers such as floriculture and tissue culture units under ...eme, namely. 'Development of Marketing of Horticultural Produce through Participation in Soft Loan' are indicated in the Statement-I. Details of financial assistance provided by the National Horticulture Board for transfer of proven technology on commercial scale, State-wise, are indicated in the Statement-II. As the schemes are demand based, no State-wise targets are fixed. Details of financial assistance provided to the States/ UTs including Bihar under other major schemes of the National Horticulture Board for integrated development of horticulture are indicated in the Statement-III.

(e) The National Horticulture Board has been implementing the approved schemes/programmes assigned to it for integrated development of horticulture and there is no such proposal to have the services of officials from ICAR of NABARD.

Statement-I

National Horticulture Board for floriculture & tissue culture units under its Scheme, "Development of Marketing of Horticultural Produce through Participation in Soft Loan" during 1993-94 to 1999-2000.

Sr. No.	State	Assistance release (Rs. in lakh)	Number of Projects
1.	Andhra Pradesh	553.50	7
2.	Karnataka	1337.84	15
3.	Kerala	3.52	1
4.	Maharashtra	1148.83	14
5.	Tamilnadu	307.14	4
6.	UP (Plains)	215.70	3
7.	Haryana	680.00	8
8.	Punjab	75.50	1
9.	Rajasthan	147.00	2
	Total	4469.03	55

Statement-II

State/UT-wise financial assistance provided by National Horticulture Board under its Scheme, "Introduction of New Technology and Concepts in Horticulture" during 1993-94 to 1999-2000

(Rs. in lakh)

Sr. No.	State	Assistance release
1.	Karnataka	3.92
2.	Kerala	23.15
3.	Maharashtra	237.94
4.	Tamilnadu	9.86
5.	UP (Plains)	30.28
6.	Madhya Pradesh	20.60
7.	Orissa	4.41
8.	Gujarat	20.00
9.	Bihar	5.33
10.	Nagaland	22.10
11.	Himachal Pradesh	115.07
12.	Punjab	59.43
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	25.00
14.	Delhi	51.40
15.	West Bengal	15.42
	Total	643.91

Statement-III

State/UT-wise financial assistance provided by National Horticulture Board under its other major Schemes during 1993-94 to 1999-2000:

(i) Integrated Project on Management of Post-Harvest Infrastructure for Horticulture Crops

(ii) Establishment of Nutritional Gardens in Rural Areas

(iii) Transfer of Technology through Training and Visits of Horticultural Growers

Sr. No.	State	Assistance Released (Rs. in lakh)		
		(i)	(ii)	(iii)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	320.13	96.61	8.76
2.	Goa	—	23.32	3.05
3.	Maharashtra	765.87	36.00	10.50
4.	Tamilnadu	109.20	76.60	4.68
5.	Karnataka	497.10	59.71	5.28
6.	Kerala	14.65	52.50	2.00
7.	Lakshdweep	—	0.20	—
8.	UP (Plains)	212.27	160.09	10.75
9.	Mahdya Pradesh	510.16	61.50	2.00
10.	Orissa	208.43	81.95	5.00
11.	Gujarat	190.44	53.91	9.50
12.	Bihar	86.73	154.55	19.45
13.	West Bengal	394.00	108.07	8.50
14.	Meghalaya	—	13.00	3.05
15.	Manipur	—	66.75	5.00
16.	Mizoram	9.80	10.15	3.50
17.	Assam	—	15.77	0.995
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	41.75	2.82
19.	Nagaland	18.91	38.25	9.50
20.	Tripura	—	3.75	—
21.	Sikkim	—	7.10	4.40
22.	Rajasthan	179.75	67.00	6.75
23.	Haryana	71.68	48.50	4.12
24.	Himachal Pradesh	197.75	42.60	4.09
25.	Punjab	600.50	28.00	1.50
26.	J&K	100.00	28.50	1.50
27.	Delhi	37.87	13.92	1.80
28.	UP (Hills)	13.90	30.00	2.50
29.	Pondicherry	—	—	0.28
30.	Daman & Diu	—	—	0.50
31.	Andaman Nicobar	—	—	0.475
32.	Chandigarh	—	—	—

[English]

Potential of IT Development in SISI

2658. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Small Industries Service Institutes have updated its training programmes keeping in view of the vast expansion and potential of the Information Technology Development;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether any updated camps were held in Andhra Pradesh duing 1999-2000;

(d) whether Small Industries Service Institute has set any specific target to train a certain number of entrepreneurs in Andhra Pradesh during 2000-2001; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far till date in this regard?

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) Curriculum of the training programmes conducted by SISIs in many cases have been updated to include areas of Information Technology Viz:—

networking, e-mail, e-commerce, CAD/CAM, use of software for accounting/inventory/office management etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) For the year 2000-2001 SISI, Hyderabad has already fixed a specific target of training at least 1500 prospective and existing entrepreneurs in Andhra Pradesh through a series of training activities including Entrepreneurship Development Programmes, Management Development Programmes, Skill Development Programmes and Information Technology—related programmes. So far training has been imparted to 850 existing and prospective entrepreneurs.

[Translation]

Funds for Rural Regions

2659. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has made an estimate of the requirement of funds for the development of the rural sector in the country for the coming years;

(b) if so, the total estimated amount required during the current financial year and coming years;

(c) whether the Government have identified the resources for availability of the requisite funds; and

(d) 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 AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) Development of rural sector has been accorded a high priority in the developmental plans of the Central and State Governments. The Central Government, through various central sector and centrally sponsored programmes and schemes supplements the efforts of the State Governments in their endeavour to develop the rural economy. The State Governments project the availability of funds for taking up developmental work in rural areas based on their own resources and the Central assistance provided by the Government of India to the States for their Annual Plans. The gross budgetary support to the Central Ministries/Departments is decided keeping in view the national priorities and the availability of funds. The requirements of funds projected by the Ministries/ Departments for the programmes undertaken for rural areas are considered in the light of national priorities which provide greater attention to the development of rural sector.

The Ninth Plan (1997-2002) allocation for rural development provided to Ministry of Rural Development was Rs. 42278 crores as against Rs. 31682 crores in the Eighth Plan period. For the current year, Rs. 9760 crores have been allocated to Ministry of Rural

Development for the schemes which address different needs of the rural population. In addition, Pradhan Mantri's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) has been allocated Rs. 5,000 crores during the current year of which a major proportion of funds would flow to the rural sector.

[English]

Defection/Desertion by Embassy Personnel

2660. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of employees/officers posted abroad have defected/deserted;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years till date;

(c) the action taken against the erring employees/ officers; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check defection/desertion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) No employee or officer posted abroad has defected in recent years. There are some cases of unauthorized absence from duty abroad by officials. There have been 10 cases since 1996.

(c) and (d) Disciplinary proceedings have been initiated in all such cases. To further prevent unauthorized absence, the Government has decided to limit the validity of passports of officials posted abroad and impound passports of those on unauthorized absence.

[Translation]

Setting up of Krishi Vigyan Kendras

2661. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:
SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL:
SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
DR. V. SAROJA:
SHRI GEORGE EDEN:
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras set up in the country during the last three years, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) the funds allocated and released for smooth functioning of these Kendras during the last three years and current year also;

(c) the salient features for selection of places for setting up of such Krishi Vigyan Kendras;

(d) whether the Government have received any proposals from various State Governments to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the country;

(e) if so, the name of those States alongwith the location for setting up such kendras; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) During the last three years (1997-98 to 1999-2000), eight Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) were set up. The districts are Gwalior and Sehore (Madhya Pradesh); Jahanabad (Bihar), Pilibhit, Unnao and Pratapgarh (Uttar Pradesh), Kangra (Himachal Pradesh); and Lakshadweep.

(b) During the last three years Rs. 53.71 lakh were released to these KVKs. Rs. 76.26 lakh have been allocated for 2000-2001.

(c) The KVKs were normally established in rural and backward districts.

(d) and (e) During the last three years, proposals for 33 districts were received from various State Governments for establishment of new KVKs. The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(f) The establishment of more KVK will depend on the availability of additional resources.

Statement

Proposals received from State Governments for setting up of new KVKs

S. No.	State	Number	Districts
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	Cuddapah, Krishna, Khammam and Nizamabad

1	2	3	4
2.	Assam	2	Barpeta and Dibrugarh
3.	Bihar	1	Gaya
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	5	Baramula, Doda, Kupwara, Rajouri and Srinagar
5.	Madhya Pradesh	7	Ujjain, Bhind, Chattarpur, Dindori, Kawardha, Neemuch and Mandla
6.	Nagaland	3	Phek, Mokokchung and Mon
7.	Punjab	6	Muktsar, Mansa, Jalandhar, Fatehgarh, Moga and Amritsar
8.	Uttar Pradesh	5	Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudra Prayag, Dehradun and Bulandshahar
	Total	33	

[English]

Irregularities in ICAR

2662. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been complaints that crores of rupees have been siphoned off from the Government in the name of Krishi Vigyan Kendras, several of them are non-existent that send manipulated audit utilisation reports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) There are 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK), including 149 under State Agricultural Universities and other educational institutions, 27 under ICAR Institutes, 74 under Non-Government Organizations (NGO) and the remaining 11 under Public Sector Undertakings and State Governments.

The activities of the KVKs are strictly monitored by 8 Zonal Coordinating Units on regular basis. Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), including the representatives of the farmers, development departments, research and extension agencies has been constituted for each KVK to review the activities. The funds are released based on the audit utilization certificates commensurate with performance. Special audit teams are deployed for verification of records in case of discrepancy.

Nine Quinquennial Review Teams have also reviewed the functioning of the KVKs.

Indo-Bangladesh Negotiation

2663. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have negotiated with Bangladesh proposals of railways, road and waterways communication with the North East Land Locked areas of the country through Bangladesh corridor; and

(b) if so, the progress thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) India has limited transit facility through Bangladesh under the provisions of the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade, which has been in operation since 1972. The Government of India has made repeated proposals to the Government of Bangladesh for transit to the north-eastern States by road and rail. Bangladesh has not agreed to these proposals.

Flood Control

2664. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether floods in Arunachal Pradesh have taken a heavy toll of human lives and several crucial bridges have been swept away and the villages are totally cut of from the rest of the State;

(b) if so, whether Arunachal Pradesh Government have pointed out that China's Siang river called Sangyo in China is the main cause of devastating flood; and

(c) if so, whether Union Government propose to provide financial assistance to the State Government and take up this issue with the Chinese Government to prevent such floods in the State in future?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Arunachal Pradesh has informed that due to flash flood in Siang river on 11.6.2000, 26 persons have died and three bridges namely Sagarm Bridge, Dite Dime bridge and Nubo bridge have been washed away. Four districts namely East Siang, Upper Siang, West Siang and Dibang Valley have been affected by the floods.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Arunachal Pradesh Government has pointed out that the Siang river in India which is called Tsangpo in China is the main cause of the flood.

(c) In the current financial year 2000-2001, the Union Government has released Rs. 4.40 crore to the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh from Calamity Relief Fund. To prevent such floods in the State in future, Government of India has taken up the issue with the Chinese Government.

[Translation]

Flood Control in Bihar

2665. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central Team has visited the flood, excessive soil erosion and water logging affected Katihar and Khagaria districts of North Bihar recently;

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

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the time by which the recommendations of the report are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Central Team led by Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission visited the erosion affected areas of eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal (including Katihar in Bihar) with the task of on-the-spot inspection and assessment of the gravity of the problem of river erosion of Ganga in consultation with the respective State Government. The team submitted its report in January, 2000 to this Ministry. The Central Team did not visit the Khagaria district.

(c) The report of the team containing specific recommendations has been sent to the respective States including Bihar for implementation. The team had identified two numbers of schemes for Katihar district viz. Erosion at Karhagola-Jarlahi (left bank of river Ganga) at an estimated cost of Rs. 17.91 crore and Erosion at Goagachi (left bank of river Ganga) at an estimated cost of Rs. 5.25 crore. The Government of India has included these schemes for providing Central assistance under the programme "Critical Anti erosion works in Ganga Basin State at an estimated cost of Rs. 140.83 crore". The Expenditure Finance Committee has approved the aforesaid programme in July, 2000.

(d) Implementation of the schemes including the schedule for their completion is within the purview of the State Government.

[English]

Share Capital to Spinning Mills

2666. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the share capital provided to the spinning mills by the Union Government;

(b) the agency entrusted with the work of monitoring the utilisation of share money;

(c) whether any fraud has come to notice;

(d) if so, the details thereof, mill-wise; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has released Rs. 4868.48 lakhs to 25 Cooperative Spinning Mills in the country upto 31.3.2000 under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for assistance to Growers Cooperative Spinning Mills implemented through National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

(b) NCDC has its own mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the programme by way of field visits, periodic reports and review meetings etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

POWs in China

2667. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have elicited any information about the Indian Prisoners of War languishing in Chinese jails;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to secure their release?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) As per Government's records, there are no Indian Prisoners of War in China.

(c) The question does not arise.

Deployment of Missiles by China

2668. SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has deployed missiles targeting India;

(b) if so, its impact on the security of India and the Indian sub-continent; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to deal with this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Government monitors carefully the development and deployment of weapons of mass destruction and the means of their delivery in the region and beyond. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interests in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

[English]

Funds for Orissa

2669. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to the Government of Orissa during the current Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether any special economic package has been prepared for Orissa, especially after the super-cyclone; and

(c) 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 AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The approved Annual Plan Outlays for Orissa during the first three years of the Ninth Five Year Plan are as follows:

Annual Plan 1997-98	Rs. 2529.46 crore
Annual Plan 1998-99	Rs. 3084.43 crore
Annual Plan 1999-2000	Rs. 3309.17 crore

The Annual Plan outlay for 2000-2001 has not yet been finalized.

(b) and (c) Assistance has been provided to Orissa for rebuilding the cyclone affected coastal areras as

indicated below:

Assistance from National Fund for Calamity Relief in the wake of floods/cyclones.	Rs. 828.15 crore
Central share of Calamity Relief Fund for 1999-2000	Rs. 42.50 crore
Central share of Calamity Relief Fund for 2000-2001	Rs. 30.70 crore
Advance assistance for rehabilitation	Rs. 450.00 crore
Additional Central Assistance for meeting the counterpart funding for availing World Bank assistance for the immediate phase of reconstruction work	Rs. 43.00 crore

Urea for Timber Industry

2670. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any quota of urea for timber industry has been fixed by the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to increase the quantity of urea to said quota; and

(c) the steps initiated by the Government that local farmers get to receive their allocation of urea which goes to timber industry which they presently deprived of?

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) The State-wise seasonal requirements of urea are assessed in consultation with State Governments. The assessed requirement is met through supplies as per the allocation made under the Fertiliser Control Order. Additional allocations are also made to the States during the course of the season whenever required. The supplies within the State is the responsibility of the State Government.

[Translation]

Imbalance in per Capita Income

2671. SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production from the conventional resources in the Gross Domestic Product is declining and that from the new resources are fast increasing in the wake of globalisation and liberalization in the country;

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

(c) whether this gap is likely to cause an imbalance in the per capita income in the country; and

(d) if not, the assessment of the Government in this regard and the estimated per capita income by the end of the nineties?

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 AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The contribution of production from the conventional sectors like agriculture and industry to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has declined from 31% and 26.3% respectively in the year 1993-94 to 29.1% and 25.7% respectively in the year 1998-99. The contribution of service sector to GDP has increased from 42% to 45.2% during the same period. Within the service sector, contribution from trade, transport and communication, banking and insurance and community, social and personal services is increasing rapidly.

(c) and (d) The per capita income of the country, measured by Net National Product, is estimated at Rs. 14,682 for the year 1998-99. However, regarding imbalance in the per capita income in the country, no conclusion can be drawn on the basis of the changes in sectoral share of GDP.

Funds to Rural Industries

2672. SHRI ARUN KUMAR:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

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

(a) the total amount of financial assistance provided to the States particularly to the rural industries in the country particularly Bihar during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Union Government have sought progress report regarding the utilisation of the amount, district-wise; 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) The details of total amount disbursed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to the rural industries in the country particularly in Bihar during last three years:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	KVIC		Consortium Bank Credit
	Khadi	Loans	
All India			
1997-98	33682.69	1128.78	7114.04
1998-99	34276.62	1281.74	14591.58
1999-2000	33141.24	735.85	4729.37
Bihar			
1997-98	752.45	30.81	8.82
1998-99	1230.49	60.85	4.01
1999-2000	349.84	26.87	—

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Production of Oilseeds

2673. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether import of Oilseeds and rice has adversely affected the farmers;

(b) whether oilseed and rice growing farmers are switching over to cultivate other profitable crops; and

(c) if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to promote and encourage production of oilseeds to protect the interests of Indian farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) In the case of oilseeds the farmers are definitely affected due to large import of edible oils in the country. However, in the case of rice there has not been much impact and in fact the country has achieved a higher production as compared to the last year. In the case of oilseeds, there is no report from any of the oilseeds growing States for shifting of oilseeds area to other crops. In order to increase the production of oilseeds and to protect the interest of farmers, a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in implementation in 25 States covering 397 selected districts. Under the scheme, various incentives by way of subsidy on critical inputs are being provided to the farmers. Moreover the Government of India has been announcing the Minimum Support Prices of Oilseed crops every year well before the sowing season of oilseed crops and NAFED is the central nodal agency to carry out the purchase operations of oilseed grower's produce on the MSP in case the market prices of oilseeds fall below the Minimum Support Price.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds

2674. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount sanctioned for the implementation of schemes during Ninth Five Year Plan have been reduced;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is likely to affect the target fixed in respect of developmental works;

(d) whether the Government propose to take any concrete steps in this regard; 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 AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Central budgetary support estimated for the five-year period for the implementation of a Five Year Plan is merely indicative, it is operationalised through allocations made in its Annual Plans. In respect of the Ninth Five Year Plan, the year wise budgeted gross budgetary support and the actual/revised estimates are given in the statement enclosed. The Statement shows that the allocations has been increased each year and that the gap between the budgeted and the actual/revised allocations has varied from year to year during the period 1997-98 to 1999-2000.

(c) to (e) It is for the Central Ministries/Departments and the States/UT Governments, (in respect of Central Assistance to State/UT Plans), to undertake plan expenditure in accordance with the allocations for the Plan and with a view to meet targets fixed in respect of their development works. In the course of finalising Annual Plan allocations for the Central Ministries/Departments and the Central Assistance to State/UTs Plans, the Planning Commission reviews the budgeted and actual/revised plan expenditure along with the physical achievements on various Plan programmes/schemes. The plan allocation for the subsequent year is, accordingly, fixed. The Standing Finance Committees attached to the various Central Ministries have also been making suggestions in respect of under-utilisation of budgetary allocations, from time to time, to the concerned Ministries. In addition, the Mid-Term Appraisal exercise for the Ninth Five Year Plan has been initiated by the Planning Commission with a view to assess the performance of the Plan for the years it has been implemented and to take corrective action to effectively achieve the objectives laid out for the Plan period as a whole. The exercise is currently in progress.

Statement

Centre's Gross Budgetary Support (GBS)

(in Rs. crores, at current prices)

		1997-98			1998-99			1999-2000			2000-2001
		Budget Estimates	Actuals	Percentage Shortfall	Budget Estimates	Actuals	Percentage Shortfall	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Percentage Shortfall	Budget Estimates
I.	GBS to Centre Sector Plan	36130.34	32331.00	-10.52	42464.27	37108.00	-12.61	44000.00	43660.58	-0.77	51275.60
II.	Central Assistance to State/UTs Plans	26722.01	26746.00	0.09	29538.01	29710.00	0.58	33000.00	35734.66	8.29	36824.40
III.	Centre's Total Budgetary Support to the Annual Plans.	62852.35	59077.00	-6.01	72002.28	66818.00	-7.20	77000.00	79395.24	3.11	88100.00

Note: The negative figures in columns (3), (6) and (9) indicate a shortfall over the Budget Estimates of respective Annual Plan.

Unemployed Persons

2675. YOGI ADITYA NATH:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated/uneducated unemployed youth in the country as per the record of Employment Exchanges alongwith the SC/ST as on March, 2000, State-wise and Union Territory-wise separately; and

(b) the number of those unemployed youth provided employment through Employment Exchanges during each of the last three years?

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, registered with the Employment Exchanges educated/ uneducated, SC/ST category-wise at the end of 1997 (latest available), is given in the attached statement.

(b) The number of placements effected by the Employment Exchanges during the year 1997, 1998 & 1999 were of the order of 2.75, 2.33 & 2.21 lakhs respectively.

Statement

State-wise number of Job-seekers on the live register of Employment Exchanges in the country as on 31st December, 1997

(In thousands)

S. No.	State/Union Territories	Educated (10th class and above)	Uneducated Below 10th Class (including illiterates)	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2026.9	1060.6	542.4	82.9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.0	8.8	0.2	5.8
3.	Assam	925.2	549.8	81.8	146.1
4.	Bihar	2386.8	964.5	459.7	248.6
5.	Goa	81.8	27.2	1.7	—
6.	Gujarat	682.5	259.8	200.4	94.5
7.	Haryana	504.0	283.1	135.5	@
8.	Himachal Pradesh	552.9	165.5	135.3	20.2
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	64.8	99.9	7.5	0.8
10.	Karnataka	1219.2	612.4	239.4	47.2
11.	Kerala	2831.3	700.5	402.5	17.5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1932.2	445.2	321.5	241 5
13.	Maharashtra	2904.9	1018.6	573.1	139.1
14.	Manipur	206.4	111.7	2.5	87.4
15.	Meghalaya	18.5	15.9	0.4	27.1
16.	Mizoram	30.9	37.0	—	67.9

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Nagaland	13.9	7.8	0.2	20.9
18.	Orissa	738.0	239.3	142.4	91.5
19.	Punjab	380.4	200.1	169.4	@
20.	Rajasthan	597.9	275.9	132.6	63.0
21.	Sikkim*	—	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	2746.2	1149.9	756.6	9.6
23.	Tripura	70.4	142.1	15.2	17.9
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2011.5	685.3	522.0	11.3
25.	West Bengal	3333.4	2405.6	557.9	109.7
26.	A & N Islands	8.6	16.5	—	0.7
27.	Chandigarh	76.0	48.7	29.4	0.1
28.	D & N Haveli	1.2	4.3	0.2	0.9
29.	Delhi	839.9	257.6	185.6	27.7
30.	Daman & Diu	2.0	3.5	0.4	0.2
31.	Lakshadweep	1.7	7.1	—	6.4
32.	Pondicherry	90.6	53.9	10.4	@
	Total	27282.0	11857.9	5626.0	1586.6

Figures may not tally due to rounding off.
**No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.,*
@ Figures less than fifty.

[English]

Extradition of Hijackers

2676. SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have requested the Interpol to issue a red corner notice in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Britian and several other countries for arresting and extraditing the hijackers of Indian Airlines IC-814;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The CBI-Interpol Wing has forwarded a request to Interpol Secretariat General (IPSG), Notice Section, Lyons, France on 7th June 2000 for issuance of "Red Corner Notices" against the seven wanted hijackers involved in the hijacking of Indian Airlines flight IC 814 from Kathmandu to Kandhar.

(c) The "Red Corner Notices" are yet to be issued against them by IPSG.

[Translation]

Recognition to Hindi

2677. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not granting recognition to Hindi by UNO;

(b) whether the Union Government have made any efforts to get Hindi recognised in the UNO;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) At present the United Nations has six Official Languages viz., English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Chinese. The introduction of an additional Official Language is governed by the established Rules of Procedure of the Organization and would require the approval of majority of Member States of the United Nations i.e., 93 of the 185 Members. This would require amendment in Rule 51 (specifying the Official and Working Languages) of the Rules of Procedure of the United Nations General Assembly.

An important consideration in getting adequate support would be the number of national delegations who use the language and the additional financial implications for the Member States of the United Nations for such a move. The introduction of an additional Official Language would involve significant expenditure from the regular budget of the United Nations which is solely financed by the Member States. Article 17 (2) of the Chapter provides that 'the expenses of the Organization shall be borne by the Members as apportioned by the General Assembly'.

For the last several years translation facilities are being provided by Government of India to the leader and members of the Indian Delegation who wish to address the UNGA in Hindi during the United Nations General Assembly Sessions.

Government has taken up with member countries with large Hindi Speaking populations to assess their general reaction to the proposal for making Hindi as one of the Official Languages of the United Nations.

Minorities Commission

2678. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of the Minority Commission has expressed its inability to safeguard the interests of the minorities owing to the lack of resources;

(b) if so, the details of the funds provided during the last three years; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to meet the shortage of resources of the Minority Commission?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

ICAR SCAM

2679. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI MUDRAGADA PADMANABHAM:
SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL:
SHRI ATMARAM BHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Scientist is shunted out for highlighting an ICAR "Scam", appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated May 15, 2000;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been made to the allegations made therein; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the scientist has not been shunted out.

(b) and (c) The matter is being enquired into.

Vacant Post of Director (ICAR)

2680. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE 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 SC/STs in important posts/assignments under various Ministries;

(b) if so, the number of posts of Directors in all the National Research Centres under Indian Council of Agricultural Research and number of persons from SCs and STs category working against such posts as on

1.1.1996 and 1.1.2000 and their percentage as compared to the said total posts; and

(c) the reasons for not meeting the demand of SC/ ST Parliamentarians?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No such representations have been received in Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Computer Centres for OBCs

2681. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received to establish computer centres for OBCs;

(b) if so, details thereof and the locations identified for setting up such centres, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which such centres are likely to be set up and funds allocated therefor, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) 152 proposals have been received to establish computer for OBCs.

(b) Details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) There is no specified time for sanction of projects. The disposal of applications depends upon the documents received being complete and recommendation of the prescribed authorities being available on record. Under the scheme of assistance to Voluntary Organizations for the Other Backward Classes, the funds are not allocated State-wise.

Statement

Andhra Pradesh	Assam	Bihar	Gujarat	Haryana	Madhya Pradesh
Locations Identified & No. of Proposals received	Locations Identified & No. of Proposals received	Locations Identified & No. of Proposals received	Locations Identified & No. of Proposals received	Locations Identified & No. of Proposals received	Locations Identified & No. of Proposals received
Anantapur-6	Hailakandi-1	Darbhanga-1	Ahmedabad-1	Faridabad-1	Bhind-3
Chittoor-6	Nagaon-2	Samastipur-1	Gandhinagar-2	Sonepat-1	Bhopal-7
Cuddapah-2	—	—	Jamnagar-1	—	Gwalior-4
Guntur-6	—	—	Jungarh-1	—	Jabalpur-1
Hyderabad-7	—	—	Mehsana-1	—	Morena-5
Khammam-4	—	—	Sabaarkanth-1	—	Raipur-1
Kurnool-3	—	—	—	—	Ratlam-2
Mahaboobnagar-2	—	—	—	—	Satna-1
Medak-1	—	—	—	—	—
Nalgonda-1	—	—	—	—	—
Nellore-1	—	—	—	—	—
Prakasham-8	—	—	—	—	—
Rangareddy-6	—	—	—	—	—
Vizianagaram-1	—	—	—	—	—
Warangal-1	—	—	—	—	—
Total-55	3	2	7	2	24

Maharashtra	Manipur	Orissa	Uttar Pradesh	West Bengal	Delhi
Locations Identified & No. of Proposals received	Locations Identified & No. of Proposals received	Locations Identified & No. of Proposals received	Locations Identified & No. of Proposals received	Locations Identified & No. of Proposals received	Locations Identified & No. of Proposals received
Aurangabad-2	Imphal-2	Bhubneswar-2	Allahabad-1	Midanapore-1	East Delhi-2
Buldhana-1	—	Cuttack-2	Bulandshahr-2	—	West Delhi-1
Dhule-3	—	Keonjhar-1	Firozabad-1	—	South Delhi-2
Jalgaon-3	—	Khurda-1	Gorakhpur-1	—	Central Delhi-2
Jalna-1	—	—	Lucknow-3	—	—
Kolhapur-1	—	—	Kanpur-1	—	—
Latur-4	—	—	Partapgarh-1	—	—
Nagpur-2	—	—	Rampur-1	—	—
Nanded-11	—	—	—	—	—
Osmanabad-1	—	—	—	—	—
Pune-2	—	—	—	—	—
Yavatmal-1	—	—	—	—	—
Total-32	2	6	11	1	7

Setting up Food Park

2682. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up food parks in three more States to encourage the fledging food processing industry; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Department does not set up Food Parks on its own. However, assistance is provided under the Plan Scheme to various entrepreneurs including State Public Sector Undertakings, Joint/Assisted/Private Sector and Non Governmental Organizations/Cooperatives. The assistance provided is up to Rs. 400 lakhs.

Proposals for setting up of Food Parks in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Haryana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Orissa, Punjab and Tamil Nadu were received from various organizations. The proposals received were incomplete in many respects and as such, have been referred back for removing the deficiencies and to submit complete proposals.

[Translation]

Expansion of ESI in Bihar

2683. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the E.S.I. Corporation has prepared a phase-wise programme for the expansion of E.S.I. in new areas of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the efforts made by the Union Government so far to provide assistance to the States for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ESI Corporation in consultation with the State Govt. has planned to implement the ESI Scheme at Chakradharpur, Daltanganj, Tetulmari and Giridih in Bihar.

(c) As the responsibility for administration of medical care under the ESI Scheme vests in the State Governments, the Govt. of Bihar is required to make suitable arrangements for medical care in this regard. In order to assist the State govt. the ESIC has already decided to bear the total expenditure on implementation of ESI Scheme in new areas for the first three years.

[English]

Scheme for Child Labour

2684. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of schemes have been constituted by the Central Government for the upliftment of working children; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of working children benefited under these Schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) 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. 93 NCLPs are currently under implementation in 11 child labour endemic States for rehabilitation of 1.9 lakh children. Government has approved the continuance of the scheme of NCLP for the duration of the Ninth Plan and expansion of number of projects upto 100.

Under the Scheme of Grant-in-aid, 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 60 projects are currently under implementation for rehabilitation of 8500 children under the Scheme.

The above Schemes are continuing in the year 2000-2001 also.

Increase in Indian Cultural Centres Abroad

2685. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to increase the cultural Centres abroad from the present 14;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of their role in the promotion of India's cultural Heritage;

(d) the details of the programmes conducted last year by the ICCR within and outside India and the scholars/ artists who visited abroad during the last three years till date; and

(e) the details of the future events on anvil and the tentative itinerary of such events that will promote and propagate Indian Heritage abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has decided to open a Cultural Centre in Washington (USA). There are in addition several other proposals from various Indian Missions abroad which are currently under examination.

(c) The activities of the 14 Indian Cultural Centres currently in existence reflects the needs of the local population. Their activities include the organisation of talks, lectures, exhibitions of visual arts, essay competitions, performances of dance & music, staging of plays, screening of Indian films, publication of news bulletins etc. Additionally, in most of the Cultural Centres classes in various aspects of Indian culture such as music, dance, Hindi language and yoga are being conducted.

The Centres also maintain libraries, reading rooms and audio-video facilities for visitors. Apart from organising their own activities, the Indian Cultural Centres provide support to the respective Indian Missions for coordinating various cultural activities. These Centres develop and maintain contacts with local citizens particularly students, teachers academicians, opinion makers and cultural personalities to project a holistic picture of India's rich and diverse cultural heritage.

(d) The details pertaining to the delegations sent abroad by the ICCR during 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000

and 2000-2001 (till date) are given in the statement-I attached. The details pertaining to the programmes organised within India during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (till date) are given in the statement-II. The details of the Scholars/Artists sent abroad during 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (till date) are given in the attached statement-III.

(e) The proposed Plan of Action of the ICCR for the period April, 2000-March 2001 has been approved by the Council's Governing Bodies. Details of items implemented (April to July 2000) have been provided in the Annexures in para (d) above. Implementation of other proposals for the remaining period of the current Financial Year are being finalised in consultation with Indian diplomatic Missions/various organisations abroad. Details of tentative itineraries are given in the attached statement-IV.

Statement-I

Indian Council for Cultural Relations

Outgoing Cultural Delegations 1997-98

S. No.	Country	Type of Group	Period	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Pakistan	Ms. Sharbari Mukherjee music expert from Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi	2nd April to 7th April, 97	Invitation received from Pakistan National Council of Arts to participate in Symposium on Living Traditions of Music in Asia Muslim World and Central Asian Region.
2.	North Korea	Sh. Nandu Bhende popular music group X 7, Mumbai	7th April to 18th April, 97	To participate in the 15th April Spring Festival in Pyongyang.
3.	USA	Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma (Santoor), Mumbai and Ustad Shafaat Ahmad Khan (Tabla), New Delhi	18th April to 19 May, 97	Invitation received from Dr. B.N. Dixit Centre for the Performing Arts of India. Univ. of Pittsburgh. Ongoing programme of ICCR's co-operation with the Centre for Performing Arts.
4.	U.K.	Sh. Umyalapuram K. Sivaraman (Mridangam Player) Chennai. Tamilandu	17th April to 30th May, 97	To perform at the invitation of Mr. K.S. Bhavani Shankar, Director of Related Arts. Liverpool.
5.	South Korea	Folk dance group of Sarabhuj led by Sh. Tarun Pradhan X 15 Calcutta	11-15th May, 97 (Assistance)	To participate in "Asia Week, festival organised by International Relations Deptt., Pusan.
6-7.	France (A) Morocco	Panchavadyam & Thyambaka (Drums of Kerala) X 12 Thiruvananthapuram	15 May-4 June 97	Invitation of the Thearte de la Ville Paris for performances at their new Theatre
	France (B)	Ms. Bharati Shivaji (Mohiniattam Dancer) X 6 New Delhi	8-20 June 97	-Do-

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Hungary	Sh. Shubendra Rao (Sitar Player), New Delhi	21st June to 22nd June, 97	To perform at the International Music Day.
9.	Australia	Ms. Krishna Chakravarty (Sarod Player) X 2 Banaras	12th June to 28th June, 97 organised by the Art	To perform during the exhibition entitled dancing to the flute Gallery of New South Wales.
10.	USA	Ms. Madan Bala Sidhu (Punjabi Folk Singer) X 5 New Delhi	5th July to 20th July, 97	To give performances at a Punjabi Conference
11.	U.K.	Wadali brothers (Sufi Singers) X 6 Amritsar	1st July to 14th July 98	Request received from Shri Prakash Daswani, Artistic Director, Music London, to participate in the Music Village Project.
12.	Germany Morocco	Sh. Keshav Bagade Folk Music Group X 4 Pune	4th July to 16th July, 97	To give performance at Rudolf Stadt Folk Dance Music Festival in Germany Performances being arranged by Mission in Rabat.
13.	Mauritius Reunion Islands	Pung Cholam and Dhol Cholam Group (Jagoi Marup Group) X 9, Imphal	1st-14th July, 97	To give performances on the occasion of "Made in India Show" being organised by Confederation of Indian Industries.
14.	Nepal	Ms. Vani Jairam Vocalist x 5	15-22 July, 97	To give performances
15.	Kyrghyzstan	10-12 Children's Cultural Group, Bal Bhavan New Delhi	30th July to 5th August, 97	To participate in the International Youth Talent Festival, 97 at the request of the wife of the President of Kyrghyzstan
16-17.	Maldives	Sh. R. Ganesh and Sh. R. Kumaresh (Violin) X4, Chennai and Ms. Alakananda Das Gupta ((Kathak) X5, New Delhi	11th to 18th August, 97	To give performances
18.	Bangladesh	Pt. Birju Maharaj (Kathak) Dance Maestro X 12 New Delhi	10th-14th Aug. 97	To give performances
19.	Sri Lanka	Uttar Priyadarshi by Chorus Repertory Theatre of Sh. Rattan Thiyam X 28 Imphal	11th Aug. to 19th Aug. 97	To give performances

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Canada	Three travel grants (a) Ms. H. Vijayantimala Devi (Manipuri), New Delhi (b) Sh. Shashidhar Acharya (Chhau), New Delhi (c) Sh. P. Vijayan (Kathakali), Thiruvananthapuram	12th Aug. to 19th Aug. 97	Request from Mission for presentation of special multimedia dance theatre production, "Muktinad".
21.	USA	Ustad Ali Akbar Khan (Sarod) X3, USA	15th Aug. 97	Performance in main Hall of the United Nation's General Assembly, New York
22.	USA	Sh. Channulal Mishra Hindustani Vocal X5 Banaras	24th Aug. to 15th Sept., 97	Invitation received from Smithsonian Institute
23.	U.K.	Shri Lokendra Arambam Theatre group X5 Imphal	7th-27th Aug. 97 inc. London.	To present a Joint Production "Macbeth" with Waterman
24.	Germany	Ms. Daksha Seth Kathak and Contemporary Dance X5, Thiruvananthapuram	22-30 Aug. 97	To give performances
25-26	South Africa Zambia Lesotho	Vasant Raas and August, 97 Pung Cholam group X 15, Imphal	15th to 30th	To give performances.
27.	Switzerland Germany	Sh. Shujat Khan (Sitar) X5 New Delhi	5th to 17th Aug., 97	To perform at the U.N. in Geneva and participate in the Geneva Festival and to give performance in the Night Concert in Berlin on 16th Aug.
28.	Egypt	Lok. Nartak Dal Kakog let by Shri Brahm Dutt Sharma Folk dancers X 16 Shimla	24th Aug. to 31st Aug. 97	To give performances
29.	Colombia	"Begam Barve" by Theatre group of Sh.. Amal Allana X8, New Delhi	25th Aug. to 7th Sept. 97	To perform at the "VI International Festival of Theatre, Ciudad de Cicuta"
30.	Turkey Jordan Syria Cyprus Greece	Sh. Jaya Rama Rao and Sh. Vanashree Rao (Kuchipudi) X6 New Delhi	1st August, 97 to 6th Sept. 97	To give performances

1	2	3	4	5
31.	USA	Pt. Brij Narayan Sharma (Sarod), Mumbai and Pt. Anindo Chatterjee (Tabla)	24th Aug. to 20th Sept., 97	Request from Dr. B.N. Dixit Centre for the Performing Arts of India, Univ. of Pittsburg. Ongoing programme of ICCR's co-operation with the Centre for Performing Arts.
32-33.	Ghana Nigeria Morocco Ivory Coast Benin Togo Burkina Faso Cameroon	Folk dance/music group from Rajasthan Gangaur Ghoomar Group X 11, Mumbai and from Punjab (Bhangra) (CGH Police Cultural group X 8, Chandigarh	9th Aug. to 22nd Sept, 97	To give performances.
34-35.	Tanzania Uganda Ethiopia Kenya Botswana Zambia	Flute-Hindushtani Sh. Pashupati Nath Arya New Delhi and Sh. Madhukar Anand and Ms. Kiran Chauhan Kathak X 7, Patna, New Delhi	7th Aug, to 6th Sept., 97	To give performances
36.	Australia New Zealand Port Moresby	Garbha dance troupe of Kedar Arts Centre Baroda X 15	13th Aug., to 5th Sept., 97	To give performances.
37-38.	Uzbekistan	Dr. Shanno Khurana (Hindustani Vocal) Ms. Sailesh Srivastava Folk Singer X 9, New Delhi	25 Aug., 3 Sept., 97	To participate in the International Music Festival
39.	USA Canada	Ms. Protima Gauri Bedi Odissi Group X 7 Bangalore	14th Aug. to 10th Oct. 97	To give performances in New York and other cities in USA & Canada.
40.	Bhutan	Sh. Gautam Roy (Pop Group) X 8, Mumbai	12-24 Aug. 97	To give performances
41-42.	Indonesia Malaysia Singapore	Presentation by Ms. Kanaka Srinivasan and her students X 13, New Delhi and Music group of Sh. Shahid Parvez (Sitar) X 3, Pune	12th Aug., to 30th Aug., 97	To give performances at the invitation of Indo-Indonesia Association.
43.	Pakistan	Pt. Hari Prasad Chaurasia Hindustani Flute X 5 Mumbai	1-8 Sept., 97	To give lecture-demonstration at the invitation of Sanjan Nagar, Instt. of Arts and Philosophy, Lahore and a concert to be organised by the Mission in Islamabad.

1	2	3	4	5
44.	USA	Ustad Asad Ali Khan (Rudra Veena) X 3 New Delhi	13th Sept. to 23rd Dec. 97	To give performances in U.S.A.
45-50.	Kazakhstan	Cultural groups -Sh. Durga Charan Ranbir (Odissi group) X 12, Bhubneshwar -Ms. Aimoni Gagoi (Bihu group) X 11 -Dollu Kunitha Group, Guwahati (Drums of Karnataka) X 10 -Pt. Amarnath (Flute), New Delhi -Ms. Renu Bassi/Mangla Bhatt (Kathak Group) -Sh. T.V. Gopalakrishnan X 5 (Percussion & Ensemble), Chennai	3 Sept. to 9th Sept. 97	To participate in the "Days of Indian Culture"
51-52.	Hungary Poland Romania Croatia Bulgaria Austria Bratislava	Ms. Ranjana Gauhar (Odissi) X 5, New Delhi and Sh. Ravi Kiran (Gottuvadyam)X 5 Chennai	2nd Sept. to 21st Sept., 97	To give performances.
53-54.	Russia Belarus	Cultural Group X 15 1. Ms. Mangi Bai (Teratali group) Folk Dance group X 6 Jodhpur 2. Sh. Sikander Langa Folk Music group X 5 Jodhpur	1-16th Sept., 97	To participate in the Festival "One World" organised to celebrate the 850th Anniversary of Moscow.
55.	Germany Ireland	Tolpavakuttu.- Puppet group X 8 Thiruvananthapuram	11th Sept., to 22nd Sept., 97	To give performances in the International Puppet Festival in Ireland.
56.	Italy	Shri Aijaz Mohd. Bangle Maker (Craftsmen) Jaipur	19 Sept. to 1st Oct. 97 being organised to Turin.	Request from Mission for a Craftsman to be sent for an Exhibition
57-58.	U.A.E. Qatar Kuwait Bahrain Egypt Tunis Morocco Oman Yemen	(a) Ms. Vaishali Trivedi (Kathak) Ahmedabad X 5 (b) Sh. Kailash Sharma (Flute, Hindustani) X 1 New Delhi	17 Sept. to 2nd Nov. 97	To give performances

1	2	3	4	5
59.	Trinidad and Tobago Surinam Guyana Barbados	Contemporary dance group of Ms. Mamta Shankar X 15 Calcutta	13th Sept., 97 to 6th Oct. 97	To give performances
60.	Chile Peru Argentina Barzil Mexico Cuba Panama, Costa Rica Colombia & Venezuela	Ms. Sonal Mansingh dance group (Odissi) X 6. New Delhi	28th Sept. to 28th Nov. 97	To participate in the Cervantino Festival and chain tour of Latin America
61.	U.S.A.	Ms. Vidya Dengle (Violinist) X 2 Mumbai	16 Sept. to 16th Oct. 97	To give performances
62.	Sweden Finland Norway Ireland Belarus Germany U.K.	Ms. Kavita Dwibedi (Odissi) X 5 New Delhi	26 Sept., to 21st Oct., 97	To give performances
63-64.	(a) Italy Germany Malta & Libya	1. Pt. Jagannath (Shehnai) X 5 New Delhi	26th Sept. to 18th Oct. 97	"India Night" Alter oper Frankfurt, followed by chain tour of Germnay to be organised by Indo-Germany
	(b) Italy Germany	2. Ms. Pratibha Prahlad Bharatanatyam Dancer Bangalore X 5	26th Sept. to 18th Oct. 97	Society.
65-66.	Norway	Folk dance group X 14 1. Shri Subash Nirwan (Tabla)X 3 Thiruvanathapuram 2. Dr. L. Subramaniam (Violinist) X 5, Bangalore	19th Sept. to 30th Sept. 97 25th Oct. to 15th Nov. 97	Performances being organized by Norwegian Government's Rikskonserte
67.	South Korea	Sh. K.N. Panikker's Sopanam Theatre X 16 Thiruvananthapuram	1st Sept. to 11th Sept. 97	ITI-UNESCO International Theatre Festival, Seoul.
68.	Iraq Jordan	Folk Dance group Sarabhuj X 15, Midnapur	25th Sept. to 4th Oct. 97	To give performances in Babylon Festival.

1	2	3	4	5
69	Japan	Acharya Chhau Nritya Bichitra (a) Seraikella Chhau Group X 12 (b) Ms. Rama Vaidyanathan Bharatanatyam dancer X 8 New Delhi	2-21 Sept. 97 Concert.	To participate in the Min-On
70-71	Kyrghyzstan	Darpana Academy (Folk dance Group) X 14. Ahmedabad Ms. Penaz Masani (Pop Music Group) X 9, Mumbai Technical team X 3	17-24 Oct. 97	To participate in the "Days of Indian Culture"
72	Finland	Sh. Gulfam Sabri and Tabla player, New Delhi	9-25 Oct. 97	To give performances
73.	Portugal Switzerland	Ustad Amjad Ali Khan (Sarod Maestro) X 3, New Delhi	6-12 Oct. 97	To give performances
74.	Mauritius Namibia Seychelles	Ms. Gopa Biswas (Odissi) X 6 Bhubenswar	27th Oct. to 7th Nov. 97	To give performances
75.	Turkmensitan	-"Aavishkar" group Folk Dance group X 21 from Ahmedabad	24th Oct. to 31st Oct. 97	To participate in the 6th Anniversary Celebration of the independence of Turkmenistan.
76.	Kazakhstan	Sh. Shubender Rao Sitar Player X 1, New Delhi	17-27 Oct. 97	To give performances at the Kazakhstan Music Festival
77-78.	China	Ms. Madhumita Roy (Kathak) X 5 Calcutta and Sh. G.S. Rajan (Carnatic Flute) X 4, New Delhi	22 Oct. 97 to 1 Nov., 97	To give performances
79.	Hongkong China	Ms. Sharon Prabhakar Popular Music group X 11 Mumbai	22nd Oct. to 5th Nov. 97	To give performances
80	Canada USA	Ms. Chandralekha's Group (Special Choreographic Composition "Mahakal") X 16 Chennai	6th Oct to 9th Nov. 97	To give performances on the occasion of Canada's Year of Asia Pacific at the invitation of Brooklyn Academy for Music.
81.	Belgium	Pt. Ram Narayan (Sarangi) X 4 Mumbai	30th Oct. to 6th Nov, 97	To give performances at the Invitation of Indo-Belgium Society.
82.	Germany	Ms. Arundati Roy Odissi dancer X 1, Bhubneswar	4 Oct-4 Nov. 97	To give performances

1	2	3	4	5
83.	Syria Greece	Dr. Lalgudi Jayaraman (Violin) X 5 Chenai	7th Nov. to 29th Nov. 97	For lecture/performances tour.
84.	USA	Smt. Veena Sahasrabuddhe (Hindustani Vocal) X 3 Pune	3 Nov. to 15 Dec. 97	Festival of Songs, organised by Asia Society. The National Festival of Indian Vocal Music.
85.	South Korea Myanmar Vietnam Laos Combodia	Ms. Ananda Shankar Modern Dance Group Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi from Hyderabad X 12	7-30 Nov., 97	To participate in Changmu International Dance Festival, 97, in Seoul and to give performances in International Ramayana Festival in Combodia.
86.	Italy	5 Member Darpana Academy (Puppet) Ahmedabad	30 Nov.-5 Dec. 97	To give performances at the invitation of "La Grande Opera"
87-88.	Bangladesh	Sh. Manna Dey Play Back Singer X 5 Mumbai Ms. Alamel Valli Bharatanatyam Dancer X 6 Chennai Shri T.R. Dhandapanai., Talavadya Kacheri X 5 New Delhi	1-4th Dec. 97	To give performances in the South Asian Music Festival.
90.	Nepal	Ms. Kiran Segal (Odissi) Ramayana Presentation X 16, New Delhi	1st -6th Dec., 97	To give performances
91-92.	Sri Lanka	Hindustani and Carnatic Violin, Jugalbandi Ms. N. Ranjam X 3 from Banaras and Sh. T.N. Krishnan X 4 from Chennai	7-14th Dec. 97	To give performances
93.	Thailand Indonesia	Ms. Nalini & Kamalini (Kathak Dancers) X 6 New Delhi	7th Dec. to 20th Dec., 97	To give performances
94.	Italy	Ms. Jyotsna Shourie Bharatnatyam	17 Dec., -22 Dec. 97	To present her production "Birth of Jesus" Dancer X 6, New Delhi
95-96.	Srilanka	Ms. Sreikala Bharat (Bharatnatyam) Ms. S. Gayatri (Vocal) from Chennai	20-22 Dec. 97	To give performances/ Lecture Demonstration.
97.	France	16 member Kudiyattam group of Kerala Kala Mandalam, Thiruvananthapuram	10th Jan. to 10th Feb. 98	To give performances.

1	2	3	4	5
98.	Pakistan	Pt. Jasraj (Hindustani Vocal) X 6, Mumbai	23rd Jan. to 26th Jan. 98	To give performances on the occasion of Republic Day Celebrations.
99.	USA	Pt. Jasraj (Hindustani Vocal) X 6, Mumbai.	January, 98	To give performances.
100.	U.K.	Smt. Kumudini Lakhia Director 23rd March 98 "Kadamb", Ahmedabad	11th Feb. 98	To give lectures at the invitation of Sampad (South Asian Arts Developemnt) U.K.
101-102.	Madagascar Tanzania Zimbabwe Kenya South Africa	Mrs. Surva Mukherjee of Geetanjali group X 11, Calcutta and Smt. Sharmista Mukherjee (Kathak Dancer) X 4, New Delhi	12th Feb. to 3rd March 98	To give performances
103.	U.A.E. Qatar Kuwait Bahrain Oman	Ms. Sarla Kumari (Kuchipudi) X 6 Hyderabad. A.P.	17th Feb. to 10th March 98	To give performances.
104.	Mauritius	Ms. Sumitra Guha (Vocal) X 7, New Delhi	20th Feb. to 3rd March 98	To give performances
105.	Australia	Karikudi Mani Percussion Ensemble X 4 Chennai	24th Feb. 98 to 20th March 98	To give performances
106.	Swaziland Mozambique Botswana Tanzania	Kuchipudi group of Ms. Swathy Somanath X 6 Hyderabad. A.P.	26th Feb. to 10th March 98	To give performances
107.	Nepal	Pt. Ravi Shankar (Sitar) X 7, New Delhi	28th Feb. to 1st March 98	To give performances
108.	France	Travel grant to Pt. Shivu Taralaghatti Sitar and his tabla player X 2, Chennai	1st March 98 to 5th June 98	To give performances at the invitation of Paris based association "Kalavistar"
109.	Mexico Panama Surinam Barbodos Guyana Tanzania	Ms. Penaz Masani Popular group X 9 Mumbai	2nd March to 6th April 98	To give performances at the India Trade Promotion Exhibitior and chain tour to the region.
110.	Mexico El-Salvador Panama Venezuela Surinam	Ms. Aditi Mangaladas (Kathak group) X 6 New Delhi	2nd March to 29th March 98	To give performances at the Indian Trade Exhibition and chain tour to the region.

1	2	3	4	5
111.	Bangladesh	"Jatra" People's little theatre group led by Ms. Sova Sen X 30 Calcutta	8-13th March 98	To give performances
112.	Sri Lanka	Ms. Joya Biswas (Sitar) X 4 Calcutta	12th March to 7th April 98	To give performances
113.	Mauritius	Ramleela Group of Shri Ram Bharatiya Kala Kendra, New Delhi	13-20th March 98	To give performances
114.	France	Sh. Paban Das Baul Baul Singer West Bengal X 4	18th March to 18th April 98	To give performances
115.	Morocco Egypt	Sh. Ganesh Mahato Purulia Chhau group from West Bengal X 14	20th March to 4th April 98	To give performances
116.	Reunion Island	Bharata Kalanjali group led by Shri V.P. Dhanajayan X 15 Chennai	22nd March to 16th April 98	To give performances at St. Denis at the request of our Mission
117.	Israel Syria Cyprus Italy Romania	Ms. Alarmel Valli (Bharatanatyam) X 6 Chennai	23rd March to 17th April 98	To give performances
118.	Colombia	Theatre group led by Shri Bansi Kaul X 16 Bhopal. M.P.	30th March to 9th April 98	To give performances in the VIth Ibero-American Theatre Festival.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations outgoing Cultural Delegations 1998-99

S. No.	Country	Name of the Group	Period	Particulars of Visit
	2	3	4	5
1.	USA *	Sh. M.S. Shashank (Carnatic Flute) X 4 Chennai	23rd March to 14th April., 98	To perform at the National Academy of Sciences and at the Getty Hall in Los Angeles
2.	North Korea	Ms. Padmini Roy (Pop Group) X 9 Mumbai	10-18th April. 98	To Participate in April Spring festival in Pyong Yang.
3-5.	Brazil	Cultural Groups 1. Pt. Hari Prasad Chaurasia X 5 (Flute), Mumbai 2. Ms. Malavika Sarukkai (Bharatanatyam) X 6, Chennai. 3. Ms. Kumudini Lakhia (Kathak) X 16	1-20th May, 98	To Perform at the Fesitval of India

1	2	3	4	5
6.	USA * Germany	Shri Atul Desai (Hindustani Vocal)X 3 Ahmedabad	1st May to 30th Aug. 98	To give Performances
7.	Germany * USA UAE	Gundecha Bandhu (Dhrupad) X 4 Mumbai	8th May to 30th June, 98	To give Performances at the invitation of Indo-German Societies
8.	Greece	Shri Hemant Chauhan (Folk Singer) X 4 Ahmedabad	14-26 May, 98	To Participate in the India Vision 98
9-10.	Japan Philippines Hong Kong Singapore	Ms. Malavikasarukkai (Bharatanatyam) X 6 Chennai Ustad Shamim Ahmed Khan (Sitar) X 3, Mumbai	15th May to 2nd June, 98	To give Performances Organised by MIN-On Concerts in Japan and Chain Tour of the Region
11.	Barbados Surinam Trinidad & Tobago	Folk Singer of Smt. Deep Mala Mohan (Bhojpuri Folk Singer) X 4, New Delhi	15th May to 14th June 98	To give Performances
12.	Morocco UAE Hungary France	Prof. Debu Chaudhury (Sitar) X 4, Delhi	23rd May to 15th June, 98	To give Performances at the Sacred Music Festival in the city of FES, Morocco and Chain Tour of the Region.
13.	Singapore	Panchavadyam and Thyambaka Percussion Ensemble X 10, Kerala	30th May to 4th June, 98	To give Performances in the Singapore Arts Festival
14.	France *	Smt. Gangubai Hangal (Hindustani Vocal) X 5 Hubli, Karnataka	1-12th June, 98	To give Performances at UNESCO, Paris on invitation.
15.	USA *	Shri Vempati China Satyam Kuchipudi Arts Academy X 10 Chennai	3rd June to 29th Sept. 98	To give Performances
16.	U.K.	Feroz Khan's Theatre "Mahatma Versus Gandhi" Mumbai	8th June 98	To give Performances at the Bloomberry Theatre at the Invitation of Indian High Commission
17-19.	Bangladesh	1. Ms.Kum Kum Dhar (Kathak) X 5, Lucknow 2. Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt (Mohan Veena) X 4, Jaipur 3. Ms. Malini Rajurkar (Hindustani Vocal) X 5, Hyderabad	9-16th June. 98 15-21 June, 98 21-27th June, 98	To give Performances
20.	Singapore *	Shri O.S. Arun (Carnatic Vocal) X 5. Chennai	9-22nd June, 98	To give Performances in Singapore Arts Festival

1	2	3	4	5
21.	U.K *	Shri Anand Shankar & Shri Gopal Mishra, Calcutta	June 98	To participate in the Indo British Music Project
22.	Brunei	Ms. Neelima Azeem and Pandit Ram Mohan Mishra	June 98	To give Performances
23.	USA	7-Member Rajasthani Folk Dance & Music group of Shri Nizammudin Langa, Delhi & one Craftsman, Shri Jafar Ali (Brocade Weaver)	25-28th June 98	To Participate in the Boise River Festival in the State of IDAHO.
24.	France *	5-Member Puppet Group Bhartiya Lok Kala Mandal. From Udaipur	28th June to 5th July, 98	To Give Performances at the Invitation of Theatre en tete in the Festival Sur L air de L'inde Paris'
25.	Portugal Hungary Denmark	• Dancers Guild X 16 led by Manju Shri Chaki Sircar Calcutta	July 98	To Participate in the World Expo 98 and thereafter to Tour the Region
26.	Portugal	• Shri Buddhadev Dasgupta (Sarod) X 3, Calcutta	July 98	To Participate in the World Expo 98
27.	Portugal Denmark Hungary Italy	• Pung Cholam & Dhol Cholam X 10, Manipur	July 98	To Participate in the World Expo 98 and thereafter to tour the Region.
28.	Portugal Hungary Germany	• Rang Bahar X 14 Folk Dance Group Gujarat	July 98	To Participate in the World Expo 98 and Thereafter to tour the Region.
29.	Switzerland*	Arya Vaidya Sala Kottakkal Mapapuram X 10 (Kathakali) Distt. Kerala	8-14 July 98	To give Performances.
30.	South Africa Zimbabwe Botswana Tanzania	Harvinder Singh Bajwa (Bhangra & Giddha) X 16, Ludhiana, Punjab	10th July to 10th Aug. 98	To Participate in the Heritage Festival in Durban
31.	Vietnam Laos Combodia Malaysia Singapore Indonesia	Ms. Leela Samson (Bharatanatyam) X 7 New Delhi	14th July to 10th August 98	To give Performances
32.	Sudan Jordan Saudi Arabia Kenya Tanzania UAE	Shri Jafar Hussain (Qawwali) X 9 Badyaun	14th July to 10th August 98	To give Performances

1	2	3	4	5
33.	Palestine	13-Member Contemporary Dance Troupe "Bhoomika" led by Pt. Narendra Sharma, New Delhi	17-20 July, 98	To give Performances at the 6th Palestine International Festival
34.	Bangladesh	Ms. Usha Ganguli (Theatre) X 25 Calcutta	20-30th July 98	To give Performances
35.	Ethiopia Djibouti	Shri Johar Ali (Violin) X 3	24-28 July, 98	To give Performances
36.	USA	8-Member Nandikar Group of Prof. Rudhraprasad Sengupta, Calcutta	29th July to 25th Aug. 98	To give Performances & joint Production of The play Gotraheen at The New York International Friberg Festival
37.	Qatar UAE	Nina & Rajinder Mehta (Light Classical), Mumbai	2-15thAugust 98	To Give Performances
38.	Madagascar Mauritius	Shri Partho Bose (Sitar Player) Calcutta	9-17th Aug. 98	For Jugalbandi Perforamnces
39.	Maldives	Dummy Horse Folk Dance Group X 14, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	11-18th August, 98	To give Performances
40.	Nepal	Folk Dance & Music Group (Song & Drama Division) X 25 New Delhi	11-18th August, 98	To give Performances
41-42	Iraq Jordan	Shri Deepak Chaudhury (Sitar) X 3, Calcutta Ms. Prerana Shrimali, (Kathak) X 5, Delhi	11-18th Aug. 98	To give Performances
43.	Thailand	Singhajeet Singh & Charu Mathur, (Manipur Dance) X 14, New Delhi	11-19th Aug. 98	To give Performances
44.	Norway Denmark Italy Germany	Ms. Kala Ramnatah (Hindustani Violini) X 3	12-22nd Aug. 98	To give Performances
45.	Bhutan	Ms. Usha Uthup (Pop Singer) X 11, Calcutta	12-24th Aug. 98	To give Performances
46.	Italy UK Netherlands Germany	Ms. Uma Sharma (Kathak) X 6, Delhi	12-24th Aug. 98	To give Performances
47.	Seychelles Reunion Islands South Africa	Hengerabari Asom Kala Kendra, (Bihu Group) X 14, Guwahati Assam	13-23rd Aug. 98	To give Performances

1	2	3	4	5
48.	Australia *	Shri T.V. Gopalkrishnan, (Percussion Ensemble) X 6, Chennai	14-24th August, 98	To give Performances
49.	USA *	Ms. Prabha Atre (Hindustani Vocal) X 3, Mumbai	14th Aug. 30th Nov. 98	To give Performances
50.	Sri Lanka *	20-Member Bombay Chamber Orchestra	15th Aug. 98	To present Joint Concert with Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka
51.	Iraq Syria Turkey Azerbaijan	"Rangala" (Bhangra and Giddha) X 12 Ludhiana, Punjab	26th Aug. to 12th Sept. 98	To participate in Babylon International Festival in Iraq, Basrah Festival in Syria and Izmir Folk Dance Festival in Turkey
52.	USA *	Smt. Pushpa Bhuyan (Sattriya Dance) X 4, Guwahati	29th July to 29th Aug. 98	To give Performances at the Invitation of the Indian-Forum Utah (IFU), Salt lake the Proposal was originally approved by the former President, ICCR. Visit could not take place earlier due to illness of Ms. Bhuyan.
53.	Australia Indonesia Malaysia Hong Kong Japan Singapore South Korea	Ms. Swapana Sundari, (Kuchipudi) X 5, New Delhi	7th Aug. 98 to 13th Sept. 98	To give Performances
54.	Nigeria Ivory Coast Cameroon Spain France, Germany	Ms. Aruna Mohanty (Odissi) X 5 Bhubneswar	7th Sept to 15th October 98	To give Performances
55.	Nigeria Ivory Coast Cameroon Spain France	Shri M.N. Rao (Sitar)X3 Bangalore	7th-30th Sept. 98	To Gove Performances
56.	Poland Czech Republic	Ms. Vasudhara Doraswamy (Bharatanatyam) X 5, Bangalore	9-14 Sept 1998	To give Cultural Performances
57-59.	USA *	Shri Ulhas Kalshalkar (Vocal) Shri Partha Sarthy (Sarod) Shri Shubhendra Rao (Sitar)	15th Sept to 1st Nov. 98	Request from Dr. B.N. Dixit for Indian Music concerts Arranged by Centre for the performing arts of India
60.	USA *	Shri K.J. Yesudas & Smt. Sudha Raghunathan, (Carnatic Vocal) X 7 Chennai	16th Sept to 30th Sept 98	To give Performances at the Invitation of Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan USA

1	2	3	4	5
61.	U.K., France * Austria	Smt. Shanno Khurana (Hindustani Vocal) X 5 New Delhi	22nd Sept to 20th Oct. 98	To give Performances
62.	Malaysia	Ms. Gurmeet Bawa (Bhangra & Gidda Group) X 18	11-29 Sept 98	To give Performances during Commonwealth Games
63.	France	Prof. Gora Sarbadhakary (Rabindra Sangeet) Vishwabharti, Calcutta	28th Sept. to 7th Oct. 98	To give Performances
64-65.	Russia *	Pt. Laxman Krishna Rao Pandit. (Hindustani Vocal) X 2, New Delhi Shri Sunil Mukherjee (Sarod), New Delhi	29th Sept. to 6th Oct. 98	To give Lecture Demonstration and Performances
66-67.	Turkey Kuwait Qatar Oman, UAE	Ms. Vijyalakshmi (Mohiniattam) X 6 Ms. Vandana Kaul (Kathak) X 5	2-21st Oct. 98	To give Performances
68.	Mexico Venezuela Argentina Cuba	Shri Astad Deboo (Contemporary Dance) X 8 Mumbai	9-27th Oct. 98	To Participate in Cervantino Festival. Mexico and Chain tour of the Region
69.	Netherlands UK Germany Denmark	Ms. Mahima Casewa (Light Classical) X 4 New Delhi	9-21st Oct. 98	To give Performances
70.	Germany UK Sweden	Yakshagana Group of Late Shri Shiva Ram Karanth X 14, Karnataka	16th Oct. to 26th Nov. 98	To give Performances at the Invitation of Indo-German Societies
71.	Austria * France	Shri Sanjoy Bandopadhyay (Sitar) X 3 Khairagarh MP	23rd Oct. to 20th Nov. 98	To give Performances at the Request of Austria-India Association
72.	France * UK	Ms. Sulochana Brahaspati (Hindustani Vocal) X 5 New Delhi	23rd Oct. 30th Nov. 98	To give Performances
73.	Belgium * Denmark France Germany	Ms. Shobhna Rao (Light Classical) X 5	23rd Oct. to 20th Nov. 98	To give Performances
74.	France * Germany Belgium	Shri M.V. Narashimhachari (Bharatanatyam) X 3 Chennai	30th Oct. to 15th Dec. 98	To give Performances at the Invitation of 'Triveni'

1	2	3	4	5
75.	Philippines	5 Air Tickets to Paranjoti Academy Chorus Group, Mumbai	8-15th Nov. 98	To Participate in the International Chorus Festival
76.	Sri Lanka	Ms. Jyoti Srivastava, Odissi Dancer X 5 New Delhi	12-19th Nov. 98	To give Performances in Dance Festival and give Lecture Demonstration
77.	France	Ustad Imrat Khan (Sitar) X 2 St. Louis, USA	15-18th Nov. 98	To give Performances in connection with the UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Prize
78.	France Netherlands Croatia	Ms. Geetanjali Lal (Kathak) X 5 New Delhi	19-30th Nov. 98	To give Performances at the invitation of 'Mandapa' in Paris
79.	Canada	Shri Mazhar Ali Khan/Javad Ali Khan (Vocal) X 3	8-20 Dec.98	To give Performances at the invitation of Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan Music Academy of Toronto
80.	Thailand	Kargam Group X 20 (Folk Dance Group), Tamil Nadu	7-13th Dec. 98	To give Performances on the Occasion of the Asian Games
81-82.	Sri Lanka	• Ms. Rama Vaidyanathan (Bharatnatyam) X 4 New Delhi • Ms. Charumati Ramachandran (Carnatic Vocal)	10-22 Dec. 1998	To give Lec Demonstration/ Conduct Workshop and give Performances
83.	Thailand	Ms. Rina Jana (Odissi) X 5, Bhubneswar	13-25 Jan. 99	To give Performances and Lecture Demonstration
84.	South Africa Zimbabwe Mozambique Zambia Botswana	Ustad Aslam Sabri (Qawwali) X 6, New Delhi	20th Jan-23rd Feb. 99	To give Performance
85.	UAE Oman Qatar	Samanvay Folk Dance Group from Gujarat X 18	21st Jan- 11th Feb 1999	To give Performances
86.	Malaysia Singapore Indonesia	Ms. Madhavi Mudgal (Odissi) X 7 New Delhi	24th Jan -12th Feb 1999	To give Performances and Lecture Demonstration/ Interaction with Dancers and Visit Dance Institutions
87-88.	Germany Bosnia Denmark Italy	Ms. Deepti Omcherry Bhalla (Mohiniattam) X 5 and Ustad Allauddin Khan (Esraj Player) X 3	25th Jan -22nd Feb 1999	To give Performances
89.	South Africa Zambia Botswana	Smt. Mani Krishnaswami (Carnatic Vocal)X6 Chennai	27 Jan-20th Feb. 99	To Give Performances
90.	Sri Lanka	Ms. Rekha Surya (Light Classical) X 5, New Delhi	6-13th Feb. 1999	To give Performances

1	2	3	4	5
91-92.	Nepal	Ms. Pratibha Prahlad (Bharatanatyam) X 6, Bangalore Ms. Alarmel Valli (Bharatanatyam) X 6, Chennai	3-7th Feb. 1999 14-17th Feb. 1999	To give Performances
93.	Bangladesh	Ms. Ranjaboti Sircar (Contemporary Dance) X 5, Chennai	16-19 Feb 1999	To give Performances
94.	Sweden Netherlands Poland Belgium Germany	Ms. Shovana Narayan (Kathak) X 5 New Delhi	17th Feb-7th March 1999	To give Performances, Lecture Demonstation and conduct Workshops
95.	Australia *	Theatre Group of Ms. Neelam Mansingh Choudhary X 21. Chandigarh	20th Feb. 99 to 12th March 99	To Participate in the festival of Perth and Canberra Multicultural Festival in Canberra
96-101.	Bangladesh	Shri Ratan Thiyam (Theatre) X 30. Imphal	7-12th March 1999	To give Performances during the "India Trade Exhibition" Organised by ITPO in Association with HCI. Dhaka
		Ms. Padma Talwalkar (Vocal) X 3, Mumbai	9-12th March 1999	
		Ms. Sangeeta Das (Odissi) X 5, Bhubaneshwar	10-14th March 1999	
		Ms. Kumudini Lakhia (Kathak) X 16, Ahmedabad	11-17th March 1999	
		Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma (Santoor) X 4, Mumbai	12-17th March 1999	
		Kohinoor Langa (Folk) X 10, Jodhpur	13-18th March 1999	
102.	Kenya Uganda Tanzania Zambia	Ms. Anjana Chopra, (Light Classical) X 5 New Delhi	11-31st March 99	To give Performances
103.	New Zealand Australia	15-Member Folk group of Shri Bhagwan Sahu (Orissa) New Delhi	14th March-7th April 1999	To Participate in the Festival 'Asia 2000'
104.	USA *	Shri Parameshwar Hegde (Hindustani Vocal) X 3, Bangalore	March/ April 1999	To give Performances
105.	Sri Lanka	A. Kathakali Group X 14 (Margi Kathakali) Trivandrum	25-31st March 99	To give Performances

1	2	3	4	5
106.	South Africa Zambia Reunion Islands Mauritius	Ms. Meenu Thakur (Kuchipudi) X 5 New Delhi	25th March- 20th April, 1999	To give Performances
		Indian Council for Cultural Relations outgoing Cultural Delegations 1999-2000		
1-2.	Syria Tunisia Egypt Qatar Kuwait Turkey	Ms. Shreekala Bharath (Bharatanatyam) X 5 Chennai & Dr. Mustafa Raza (Vichitra Veena) X 3 New Delhi	1 April-4 May 1999	To give Performances
3.	North Korea	10-Member group of Kathak Kendra, New Delhi	10-18 April 1999	To Participate in the April Spring Arts Festival in Pyong Yang
4-5.	Finland * U.K.	Ustad Sabri Khan and Kamal Sabri (Sarangi), New Delhi	15 April-15 July 1999	To give Performances at the invitation of 'Surya Productions Helsinki and Sabari Ensemble, U.K.'
6.	Canada *	Shri Kumar Bose (Tabla), Calcutta	15 April-20 August 1999	To give Performances at the invitation of Pandit Jasraj Scholarship Fund, University of Toronto, Toronto.
7-8.	Finland Estonia	Ms. Kalavati Devi (Manipuri) X 15, Calcutta Ms. Kshemavathy Kalamandalam (Mohiniattam) X 6 Trivandrum	1-9 May 1999	To Participate in the 'Asia in Helsinki Festival'
9.	South Africa	Ms. Jayati Chatterji Odissi X 1 (Mumbai)	22nd May - June 1999	Request from Mr. Jay Pather, Artistic Director, Siwela Sonke Dance Theatre, the play house company to Enable him work on Dance Production "Siddhartha" with the Combination of Several Styles of Dances: Kathak, Bharatanatyam, Odissi, Traditional African Classical Ballet and Contemporary Dance
10.	Ukraine Romania Latvia Morocco	Ms. Geeta Chandran (Bharatanatyam) X 5 (New Delhi)	22 May - 22 June 1999	To Participate in the Festival of Marakesh in Morocco and to give Performances in other Countries
11.	Poland	Rangputhli Puppet Group X 8, Bangalore	23 May -2 June, 1999	To give Performances
12.	Germany	12-Member Bhangra Group of Shri Paramjit Singh Siddhu, Punjab	9-22 June, 1999	To give Performances

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Sweden Germany Slovakia Poland	Percussion Group of Shri T.R. Dhandapany (Carnatic) X 6, New Delhi	11-25 June 1999	To give Performances
14.	USA & UK *	Pt. Rajan and Sajan Misra X 3 (Hindustani Vocal), New Delhi	18 June -9 August, 1999	To Participate in the Music for the Millennium Concert at the invitation of Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan
15.	South Africa Botswana Zambia	Shri R.K. Srinivasan (Carnatic/Hindustani Flutist) X 4, Varanasi	21 June -10 July 1999	To give Carnatic/Hindustani Music Recitals and to Participate in the Thyagaraja Festival, Organised by the Indian Academy of South Africa.
16.	Hungary Germany Bulgaria	Ms. Rajashree Chintak Behera (Odissi) X 5 Bhubaneswar	24 June - 14 July, 1999	To participate in the Budapest Farewell Festival & The Plovdiv Festival in Bulgaria
17.	Sri Lanka	Ms. Nandini Singh Kathak Dancer X 5, New Delhi	2-8 July, 1999	To give performances
18.	France *	Shri Uday Bhawalkar Hindustani Vocalist, Mumbai	16 July - 30 August, 1999	To Participate in the Festival Oliver, Messain in France
19.	Italy *	4 - Accompanists of Ileana Citaristi, Odissi Dancer, Bhubaneshwar	18 July-09 August 1999	To give Performances
20.	Tunisia Egypt	Ms. Mukta Misra Kathak Dancer X 5, New Delhi	22-28 July, 1999	To give Performances
21.	Singapore Thiland Vitenam Malaysia Indonesia	Ramayana Group of Shri Ram Bhartiya Kala Kendra X 25, New Delhi	9-31 August, 1999	To Participate in the Bangkok's International Festival of Dance & Music and to give Performances in other Countries
22.	Hungary Egypt	12-Member Dance and Music group from Himachal Pradesh	9-22 August, 1999	To Participate in the Pepsi Island Festival, Hungary and Ismalia Festival, Cairo
23.	Mauritius South Africa Uganda Tanzania	Ms. Amala Shankar (Modern Dance) X 15, Calcutta	9 August -3 September, 1999	To Participate in the made in India show, Tanzania and to Give Performances in other Countries
24.	UK & Egypt *	United Players Guild India (Theatre Group) Led by Shri Roysten Abel X 6, New Delhi	11 August -11 September, 1999	To Participate in the Edinburgh Festival, UK and in the Experminantal Theatre Festival, Cairo

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Bhutan	Popular Music Group of Ms. Ila Arun X 25, Mumbai	12-19 August 1999	To Participate in Indian Independence day Celeberations
26.	Nepal	Pt. Jasraj, Hindustani Vocalist X 6 Mumbai	13-16 August 1999	To Particpate in Indian Independence Day Celebrations
27-30.	Belgium & UK	-(i) Ms. Anuradha Krishnamurthy Carnatic Vocal X 4, Chennai	14-19 August, 1999	To Participate in Festival of India in Edinburgh, UK
	UK, Northern Ireland (Belfast) Switzerland	(ii) Ms. Urmila Sathyanarayanan (Bharatnatyam) X 5 Chennai	21 August-31 August 1999 14-26 August, 19999	-Do- -Do-
	Denmark	(iii) Shri Kirit Khan (Sitar) X 3, Calcutta		
	Denmark, Switzerland, UK and Northern Ireland (Belfast)		18-21 August, 1999	
	UK	(IV) Shri Ajay Pohankar (Hindustani Vocal) X 4, Mumbai		-Do-
31.	Mongolia	15-Member Cham Dance Group from Spituk Monastery of Leh, Laddakh	20 August-5 September, 1999	To Participate in the Function being Organised to Inaugurate a Monsatery in Ulaanbaatar
32.	Germany Austria	Shri Ashish Kar (Seraikella Chhau) X 10, Bihar	27 August - 26 Sept., 1999	To give Performances in Germany and Austria. Visit to Austria is at the invitation of Natya-Mandir Association/the Austro Indian Association.
33.	Syria Egypt Iraq	Pung, Dhol Cholam and Martial Arts Troupe Manipur X 14 Ranganiketan International Group	1 September-27 Sept. 1999	To Participate in the Bosra International Dance Festival, Syria and Izmir Festival, Cairo and Babylon Festival, Iraq.
34.	Japan *	Ustad Wassiffuddin Dagar, Hindustani Vocal X 4, New Delhi	3 September-14 October, 1999	To give Performances
35.	USA *	Ms. Shubha Mudgal (Hindustani Vocal) X 3, New Delhi	8 Sept. 15 November, 1999	To give Performances at the invitation of Shri B.N. Dixit, Director, Centre for Performing Arts of India (Asian Studies-UCIS) University of Pittsburgh
36.	USA *	Ronu Majumdar (Flute) X 2, Mumbai	13 Sept - 9 Nov. 1999	-Do-

1	2	3	4	5
37.	U.K ** Netherlands	Ms. Shovana Narayan, Kathak X 5, New Delhi	13-26 Sept., 1999	To give Performances at the VI World Hindi Conference Sammelan (On Behalf of MEA as Agency work) and to give Performances in Netherlands
38.	France *	Ms. Aruna Sayeeram (Sacred Singer) X 5, Chennai	16 Sept.- 14 Oct, 1999	To Participate in the Festival D'ille de France.
39.	Nepal	Ms. Malvika Sarukkai Bhartanatyam X 6, Chennai	17-24 Sept., 1999	To give Performances
40.	USA Mexico Belize El Salvador	Modern Dance Group of Ananda Shankar Led by Ms. Tanushree Shankar X 12, Calcutta	23 Sept. - 25 Oct., 1999	To Participate in the Cervantese Festival at Guanajuato, Mexico and to Participate in the India Month Organised by the Liverpool Chain of Stores, Mexico
41-42.	Bahrain Doha UAE	Jugalbandi Group of Mukesh Sharma (Sarod) and Anupriya (Violin)X 4, New Delhi	29 Sept.-9 October, 1999	To give Performances
43.	France *	Chetna Theatre Group of Shri Arun Mukherajee X 5 Calcutta	1-24 October, 1999	To give Performances at the invitation of Mr. M. Philippe Rouyer Head of Performing Arts, Deptt. of Universite Michel de Montaigne Bordeaw
44.	Belarus Poland	Chotte Sabir Khan X 3 Sarangi Player, New Delhi	2-10 October, 1999	To give Performances
	Czech Republic Hungary	Ms. Ketaki Narayan (Bharatanatyam) X 5, New Delhi	12-23 October, 1999	To give Performances
45-48.	Bangladesh	(i) Ms. Ashwini Bhede, Hindustani Vocal X 4, Mumbai (ii) Shri Shahid Parvez, Sitar X 3, Pune (iii) Shri Vinayak Torvi, Carnatic Vocal X 4 Bangalore	23-27 October, 1999	To give Performances at the Music Utsav
49-50.	Sri Lanka	(i) Ms. Kavitha and Ms. Triveni Saralaya (Carnatic Vocal) X 6, Bangalore (ii) Ms. Meenakshi Chitharanjan, Bharatnatyam X 3, Chennai	28 October- 4 November 1999 28 October - 4 November, 1999	To Participate in the Music and Dance Festival to be organised by the Arts Council of Sri Lanka

1	2	3	4	5
51-54.	Bangladesh	(i) Sopanam Institute of Performing Arts and Research led by Shri Kavalam Narayana Panicker, Theatre X 18, Thiruvanathapuram (ii) Sri Idagunji Mahaganapathi Yakshagana Mandali Led by Shri Keremane Shambhu Hegde X 10, Karnataka (iii) Kudiyattam Group of Kerala Kala Mandalam X 9, Thiruvanathapuram (iv) C. Yashoda Rao, Kuchipudi Dancer X 5, Hyderabad	3-8 Dec., 1999	To Participate in the Sanskrit Theatre Symposium "Natyotsav" Being Organised in Collaboration with the Centre for Asian Theatre, Dhaka
55-56.	China Myanmar Malaysia China	(i) Pt. Birju Maharaj Kathak X 14, New Delhi (ii) Pung and Dhol Cholam' Group X 10 Jawaharlal Nehru Manipuri Dance Academi, Imphal	28 Dec. - 16 January, 2000 28 Dec. - 19 January, 2000	To Participate in the China International Year of Ethnic Culture, 1999
57-61.	France • • • • •	3 Musicians- (i) Shri Biswajit Roy Chowdhury (Sarod) X 2, New Delhi (ii) Prakash Wadhera (Flute) X 2, New Delhi (iii) Fiaz Khan (Tabla) X 1, New Delhi (iv) Shri Som Nath Mukherjee (Tabla) X 2, New Delhi (v) Shri Rafiuddin Sabri (Tabla) x 2, Calcutta	31 Dec- 4 January, 2000	Request Received from Ms. Milena Salvini of Mandapa for a 24 Hours Raga Concert
62-63.	Germany UK Switzerland	Ms. Chitra Visweswaran (Bharatanatyam) and R. Visweswaran (Santoor) X 6, Chennai	20 Jan - 20 Feb., 2000	Invitation from Shankara Asian Arts, London and other Cultural Organisations in Germany

1	2	3	4	5
64-65.	Japan South Korea Philippines Thailand	(i) Shri Raja & Radha Reddy (Kuchipudi) X 6, New Delhi	26 jan - 19 Feb. 2000	To give Performances at the invitation of Min-on Organisation
	Japan South Korea Malaysia	(ii) Shri Bhajan Sopori (Santoor) X 4, New Delhi	26 Jan - 12 Feb 2000	
66.	Sri Lanka	Ms. Vanja Uday (Kuchipudi) X 5, Hyderabad	22-30 Jan., 2000	To give Cultural Performances coinciding with the 50th Anniversary of Republic Day
67.	UAE Turkey	Shri Kalu Nath Kalbelia (Rajasthani Folk Dance) X 10, Rajasthani	22 January-8 Feb., 2000	To give Cultural Performances
68-69.	Sri Lanka	Dr. Balamurali Krishna, Carnatic Vocalist & Alarmel Valli X 11, Chennai	30 January - 2 February, 2000	To give Cultural Performances at the invitation of International Centre for Ethnic Studies and Law & Society Trust as Part of Neelam Tiruchelvam Commemoration Programme
70-71.	Bangladesh	(i) Shri Madhup Mudgal (Carnatic Vocalist) X 5 (ii) Shri Dhrubo Ghosh (Sarangi) X 3	February, 2000	To Participate in the Dance and Music Festival
72.	Mauritius Reunion Island	Lok Chhanda Group of Ms. Maitreyee Pahari X 18		

Indian Council for Cultural Relations outgoing Cultural Delegations 2000-2001 Implementation Report April, 2000- till Date

S. No.	Countries	Name of the Group	Period	Particulars of the Visit
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Venezuela Colombia Brazil	Kathakali Group of International Centre for Kathakali X 12, Delhi	1 April - 4 May, 2000	For Participation in the VIIth Edition of the Biennial Iberoamerican Festival in Colombia and the 12th International Theatre Festival in Caracas.
2.	Indonesia North Korea China Malaysia	10-Member Bharatanatyam Dance Group of Ms. Jayalakshmi Iswar, Delhi	8 April - 1 May, 2000	To Participate in the Spring Arts Festival in Pyong Yong and to give Performances in other Countries.
3.	USA	* Dr. M. Balamurali Krishna (Carnatic Vocal) X 5, Chennai	20 April - 30 April, 2000	To Participate in the Tyagraja Music Festival

1	2	3	4	5
4.	USA	*Ms. Ashwini Bhide (Vocal) X 3, Mumbai	4 April - 24 May, 2000	To visit USA at the Invitation of Prof. Dixit for Concerts on the US University Circuit.
5.	Israel	12-Member Gujarati Folk Dance Group of Halar Lok Kala Mandal, Jamnagar X 12	1-10 May, 2000	To Participate in the "India Week" to Coincide with India Trade Fair Organised by ITPO.
6.	USA	10-Member Pung Dhol Cholam Group of Jawaharlal Nehru Manipuri Dance Academy for Performing Arts Imphal	4-30 May, 2000	To Participate in "May 2000 Festival" at Memphis Between 3-14 May and to give Performances in other Cities in the U.S.A.
7.	Trinidad & Tobago	Ms. Deepa Raghavan (Bharatanatyam) X 1 and Ms. Bani Ray (Odissi) X 1	17-31 May, 2000	To Participate in the Festival of India
8.	China	** Dr. L. Subramaniam (Violin) X 11	24 May - 5 June, 2000	To Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relation Between India and Peoples Republic of China during the Visit of President of India to China in May, 2000
9.	Singapore	12-Member Charkula Nritya Avam Brij Geet Manch led by Shri Murarli Lal Sahrma, U.P.	30 May - 5 June, 2000	To Participate in Singapore Arts Festival 2000 being Organised by the National Arts Council NAC of Singapore
10.	Germany Bratislava Romania Russia	Ms. Pragati Sood (Kathak) X 5, Delhi	2 June - 23 June	To give Performances at an International Conference at Indian Pavilion at Hannover Expo and in Region.
11.	South Korea Malaysia	* Koodiyattam Dance Group from Natanakairali of Shri • Ammannur Chakyar Madhom, Kerala X 6	7 June - 20 June	To give Performance at the invitation of the Korean National University of Arts School of Dance.
12.	Poland UK Moroccc	Ms. Sharan Rani Backliwal (Sarod) X 4, Delhi	11-28 June, 2000	To Participate in the 14th International Organ and Chamber Music Festival Kolodzko 2000 and Performances in Region.
13.	Morocco Egypt	Rehmat Khan Langa (Rajasthani folk Singer) X 6, Delhi	15-28 June, 2000	To Participate in the National Festival of Popular Arts in Marrakesh
14.	UK Hungary Bosnia & Herzegovina Poland France	Kuchipudi Dance Group led by Ms. Kaushalya Reddy X, 6 Delhi	23 June - 16 July, 2000	To Participate in Budapest Farewell Festival 2000 & Bucsu Festival and Performances in Region

1	2	3	4	5
15	South Africa	Bharatnatyam Dance Group of Ms. Priyardarshini Govind X 5, Chennai	24 June -12 July 2000	To Participate in the "Grahamstown" Festival and Performances in Region.
16.	Poland Germany	'Anjika' Manipuri Dance group led by Ms. Priti Patel X 9, Calcutta	8 July - 3 August, 2000	To Participate in the Krakow Festival and to give Performances at Indian Pavilion at Hannover Expo.
17.	USA	* Prime Time Theatre Group led by Lillette Dubey X 6, Mumbai	13 July -2 August 2000	To give Shows of "Dance Like a Man" in New York and other Cities of USA.
18.	Canada USA	* Ms. Sutapa Talukdar (Odissi) X 5, Calcutta	25 July - 27 September	To give Performances in Houston at the invitation of Indo-American Association, Texas and in the Region.
19.	Kenya Tanzania Zambia South Africa Madagascar Mauritius Seychelles	Rajasthani folk Dance Group of Rajki Puran Nath Sapera X 10	4 August- 4 September, 2000	To give Performances

Statement-II

Incoming Cultural Delegations

1999-2000

S. No.	Country	Cultural Troupe
1	2	3
1.	Myanmar	15-Member Ramayan Group
2.	Bangladesh	32-Member Cultural Troupe
3.	Namibia	22-Member Cultural Troupe
4.	Germany	14-Members Ensemble Oriol Berlin
5.	Bulgaria	5-Member Dance group of Mrs. Diana Dofova
6.	China (Beijing)	20-Member Gansu Acrobatic Group
7.	Uganda	7-Member Folk Dances & Drums
8.	Italy	Solisti Veneti Orchestra
9.	Italy	Teatro Koros
10.	France	4-Member Jazz Concert Stephone Kochayan

1	2	3
11	Austria	Art of Brass Quintet (Western Music Group)
12.	Egypt	27-Member Al-Taliaa Theatre Group
13.	Sri Lanka	13-Member Folk Dance & Music Group
14.	Nepal	6-Member Music Group of Anand Karki
15.	Vietnam	15-Member Folk Dance & Music Group
16.	France	Basque Duo Music Group
17.	Singaore	16-Member Ramayana Group
18.	UK	Shared Experience Theatre Group
19.	Netherlands	Storioni Piano Trio
20.	Austira	103-Member Vienna Symphony Orchestra
21.	Japan	Okinawa Folk Group
22.	South Africa	6-Member Theatre Group of Ronnie Govendar
23.	Greece	9-Member Attis Theatre Group
24.	Germany	4-Member Music Group of Tunji Beier
2000-2001		
1.	Hungary	19-Member Liszt Franz Chamber Orchestra
2.	Tunisia	10-Member Music Group of Lotfi Bouchnak

Indian Programmes—Horizon Series, New Delhi

1999-2000

S. No.	Name of the Artist	Field	Date of Performance
	2	3	4
1.	Gaurav Mazumdar	Sitar	9 April'99
2.	Piyoosha Kailash Anuj	Devotional songs	16 April'99
3.	Aggarwal Sisters	Sitar & Sarod duet	21 May'99
4.	Iftekhar Ahmed & Party	Bazm-e-Qawwali	25 June'99
5.	Priyadarshini Ghosh Shome	Mohiniattam	27 Aug'99
6.	Saraswati Rajagopalan & Sayeed Zafar Khan	Veena Sitar	17 Sept'99
7.	Malashri Prasad	Light Classical Vocal	29 Oct'99
8.	Prabhat Kumar & Mohsin Ahmed Niazi	Sarod Recital Hindustani Vocal	19 Nov'99

1	2	3	4
9.	Abhay Shankar Mishra & Shikha Khare	Kathak	11 Feb'2000
10.	Uma Garg	Hindustani Vocal	18 Feb'2000
11.	Prakash Sangeet	Hindustani Vocal	10 Mar'2000
2000-2001			
1.	Rajeev Janardan Amrish Mishra	Sitar Sugam Sangeet	21 Apr'2000
2.	Kalai Vani Rajmohan	Bharatanatyam	5 May'2000
3.	Sruti Banerjee	Manipuri Dance	12 May'2000

Indian Programmes—Horizon Series, Outside Delhi

1999-2000

S. No.	Name of the Artist	Field	Date of Performance
1	2	3	4
Bangalore			
1.	Shafique Khan, Gulbarga	Sitar	2 April'99
2.	Shubha Dhananjay	Bharatanatyam	9 April'99
3.	Ms. Vani Yadunandan	Veena Recital	16 April'99
4.	Anapayinidas Mayshark	Bharatanatyam	23 April'99
5.	Ramesk Kulkarni	Light Music	30 April'99
6.	Mr. J. Krishnakumar, Chennai	Bharatanatyam	7 May'99
7.	M.K. Neelakantahcar	Veena Recital	14 May'99
8.	A Rashmi	Bharatanatyam	21 May'99
9.	Roopa and Deepa	Carnatic Vocal Concert	28 May'99
10.	Padma Murali	Bharatanatyam	4 June'99
11.	Nikhil Joshi	Guitar in Carnatic Style	11 June'99
12.	Priya V. Raman	Bharatanatyam	18 June'99
13.	M.K. Siddharaju	Light Music	25 June'99
14.	Ranganatha Rao	Narakasura Vadha, Puppet Show	2 July'99
15.	Shilpa Uthapa	Bharatanatyam	9 July'99
16.	Saraswathi Murthy	Light Music	16 July'99
17.	Ajay Viswanatha	Bharatanatyam	23 July'99

1	2	3	4
18.	H. Geetha Gopal	Flute Concert	30 July'99
19.	Anitha Mahesh		6 Aug'99
20.	Y.K. Muddukrishna & Rathnamala Prakash	Drama-Nakkavu Nakshatra	13 Aug'99
21.	Bangalore Musical Association	Light Music	20 Aug'99
22.	Sowmya Narayana	Bharatanatyam	27 Aug'99
23.	B.G. Vinutha Budhihal	Light Music	3 Sept'99
24.	A.R. Sreedhara	Bharatanatyam	10 Sept'99
25.	Palavi Prabha	Devotional Songs	17 Sept'99
26.	Naina R. Shastri	Bharatanatyam	24 Sept'99
27.	Lakshmi V. Koushik	Kanatic Vocal	1 Oct'99
28.	Shubharani Bolar	Bharatanatyam	8 Oct'99
29.	B. Shivananda	Karnatic Music	15 Oct'99
30.	Chandrika V. Rao	Bharatanatyam	22 Oct'99
31.	R.K. Subramanya	Sitar Recital	29 Oct'99
32.	S.D. Banuma	Light Music	5 Nov'99
33.	Federation of International Student Associations	International Cutlural Evening	12 Nov'99
34.	Geleyara Balaga	Kannada Drama-Neralu	19 Nov'99
35.	G. Lakshmi Bai	Bharatanatyam	26 Nov'99
36.	B.C. Malathi	Bharatanatyam	3 Dec'99
37.	Syed Sallauddin Pasha	Kathak	10 Dec'99
38.	Saraswathi Narayan	Karnatic Vocal	17 Dec'99
39.	Suryanarayana Panjaje & Party	Yakshagana-Sishupala Vadhe	24 Dec'99
40.	Anulekha Tagore	Bharatanatyam	31 Dec'99
41.	Dattatreya Arali Katte	Puppet Show "Kumara Sambhava"	7 Jan'2000
42.	V.G. Ranjani	Bharatanatyam	14 Jan'2000
43.	M.N. Prashant	Veena Recital	21 April'2000
44.	Youth Writers and Artists Guild	Variety Cultural Programme	28 Jan'2000
45.	Kyoko Nobi, Japan	Bharatanatyam	4 Feb'2000
46.	Nanda Troupe	Drama - "Doni"	11 Feb'2000

1	2	3	4
47.	R. Jyothi	Bharatanatyam	18 Feb'2000
48.	Ashok Pant	Hindustani Vocal	25 Feb'2000
49.	Poornima Ashok	Bharatanatyam	3 March'2000
50.	Ganashree	Karnatic Vocal	10 March'2000
51.	T.K. Shobha	Bharatanatyam	17 March'2000
52.	Prakash Kumar Hegde	Flute-Hindustani	24 March'2000
53.	Rashmi Sudhindhra	Bharatanatyam	31 March'2000
Chandigarh			
1.	Shahed Baba Deep Singh	Martial Art	12 Aug'99
2.	Himachali Folk Dances and Songs	Folk Dances	16 Sept'99
3.	Punjabi Folk Dances and Songs Atamjit and Group of Chd. Police	Folk Dances	14 Oct'99
4.	Punjabi Folk Dances and Songs Atamjit and Group of Chd. Police	Folk Dances	24 Feb'2000
5.	Programme of Ghazals by Ustad Saleem Iqbal	Ghazals	9 March'2000
6.	Himachali Folk Dance and Songs	Folk Dances	23 March'2000
Lucknow			
1.	Arun Bhatt & Ilmas Husain	Tabla	April'99
2.	Shri Ravi Nagar	Semi Classical (Vocal)	May'99
3.	Pt. Chandra Prakash	Haveli Sangeet	June'99
4.	Brijendra Nath Srivastava	Gazal	July'99
5.	Hari Mohan Srivastava	Flute	Aug'99
6.	Runa De	Classical Vocal	Sept'99
7.	Sadana Rahatgonkar	Semi Classical (Vocal)	Oct'99
I. Anniversary of Horizon			
8.	Ms. Meeta Pandit	Classical Vocal	10 Nov'99
	Sunil Kant Gupta	Flute	10 Nov'99
	Neerja Srivastava & Alka Bhatt	Kathak	11 Nov'99
	Rajeev Janardhan	Sitar	11 Nov'99
	Pt Chandra Prakash	Mand Sangeet	12 Nov'99
	Sushmita Banerjee	Kathak	12 Nov'99

1	2	3	4
Trivandrum			
1.	Vyjayanthi Kaushi	Kuchipudi	6 July'99
2.	Margi	Nagiyar Koothu	13 Aug'99
3.	Leena Mohanty	Odissi	10 Oct'99
4.	Subramania Sarma	Violin	27 Jan'2000
5.	Hariharan Nair	Carnatic	17 Feb'2000
2000-2001			
Bangalore			
1.	C.P. Vidya Shankar	Light Music	7 Apr 2000
2.	Ramdev	Harmonium	14 Apr 2000
3.	Km Manjula Vishwanath	Bharatanatyam	21 Apr 2000
4.	B. Deepak Kumar	Bharatanatyam	28 Apr 2000
5.	Narasimhalu Wodavatti	Clarionet	5 May, 2000
6.	Vivekananda Kala Kendra	Variety Programme	12 May 2000
7.	Km. S. Snehasri	Bharatanatyam	19 May 2000
8.	M.S. Shanantha	Carnatic Vocal	26 May 2000
9.	B.J. Bharath & Km. Yuktha Rao	Light Music	2 June 2000
10.	C. Mallika	Carnatic Vocal	16 June 2000
11.	K.S Vijayalakshmi	Bharatanatyam	23 June 2000
12.	Padmaja Suresh	Group Dance "Navodarsan"	30 June 2000
13.	Sri Srivatsa	Light Music	1 July 2000
14.	Prakruthi Gururaj & Pallavi Gururaj	Bharatanatyam	7 July 2000
15.	Veena Mardu	Hindustani Vocal	14 July 2000
16.	Mauli K Shah & Ishira Parik	Kathak	21 July 2000
17.	D. Keshava & Anjali	Bharatanatyam	28 July 2000
Trivandrum			
1.	Vyjayanthi Kaushi	Kuchipudi	6 July 1999
2.	Margi	Nangiyar Koothu	13 Aug. 1999
3.	Leena Mohanty	Odissi	10 Oct 1999
4.	Subramania Sarma	Violin	27 Jan 2000
5.	Hariharan Nair	Carnatic Music	17 Feb 2000

1	2	3	4
Lucknow			
1.	Abhijit Roychoudhary	Sarod	26 May, 2000
2.	Om Prakash	Flute	9 June, 2000
3.	Ajeet Srivastava & Group	Folk Music	14 July, 2000
Chandigarh			
1.	Punjabi Lok Kala	Punjabi Folk Dance & Songs	1 June, 2000
2.	Maj Singh Rangala Punjab Youth Club of Tehal Singh	Folk Dances	21 June, 2000

INDIAN PROGRAMMES—RETROSPECTIVES SERIES NEW DELHI

1999-2000			
1.	Ustad Allauddin Khan	Esraj	19 April'99
2.	Vasundhara Doraswamy	Bharatanatyam	19 April'99
3.	Ustad Shamim Ahmed Khan	Sitar	20 April'99
4.	Deepti Omcherry Bhalla	mohinittam	20 April'99
5.	Shovana Narayan	Kathak	22 April'99
6.	Madhavi Mudgal	Odissi	23 April'99
7.	Sulochna Brahaspati	Hindustani Vocal	12 May'99
8.	Deepmala Mohan	Folk Song of UP	13 May'99
9.	Mahima Casewa	Ghazals	14 May'99
10.	Pt. Pashupati Nath Arya	Hindustani Flute	19 July'99
11.	Rekha Surya	Ghazals	20 July'99
12.	Pt. Laxman Krishnarao Pandit	Hindustani Flute	21 July'99
13.	Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra	Odissi	10 Aug'99
14.	Dr. Mustafa Raza	Vichitra Veena	19 Aug'99
15.	Kathak Kendra	Choreographic Compositions	20 Aug'99
16.	Guru Singhajit Singh and Charu Mathur	Manipuri	14 Sept'99
17.	Pt. Rajan and Pt. Sajan Mishra	Bhakti Sngeet	15 Sept'99
18.	Johar Ali Khan Mukesh Sharma and Anupriya Deotale	Hindustani Violin Sarod Violin	27 Oct'99
19.	Rama Vaidyanathan	Bharatnatyam	28 OCt'99

1	2	3	4
20.	Kalavati Devi & Troupe	Manipuri	3 Nov'9921.
21.	Rajinder & Neena Mehta	Sham-e-Ghazal	12 Nov'99
22.	Wasifuddin Dagar	Hindustani Vocal	16 Nov'99
23.	Kavita Dwidebi	Odissi	17 NOv'99
24.	Srekala Bharath	Bharatanatyam	18 Nov'99
25.	Shubha Mudgal	Hindustani Vocal	15 Dec'99
26.	Ustad Amjad Ali Khand	Sarod	16 Jan00
27.	Pt. Ram Narayan	Sarangi	17 Feb'00
28.	Pt. Bhajan Sopori	Santoor	18 March'00
200-2001			
1.	Madhup Mudgal	Hindustani Vocal	26 Apr 2000
2.	Pt. Birju Maharaj	Kathak	27 Apr 2000

Statement-III

Outgoing Visitors (1997-98)

S. No.	Name of Visitor	Country	Purpose	Period
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Dr. N. Radhakrishnan Director Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti	Peru	To attend the conference organised on Gandhiji at the Catholic University, Lima	7-12 April 1997
2.	Prof. Meenakshi Mukherjee 329 Hauz Khas, SFS Appt New Delhi	USA	To deliver lectures in the University of Califomia for a period of two weeks	15-30 April 1997
3.	Shri Vivan Sundaram 3/9 Shanti Niketan New Delhi	Cuba	To participate in the 6th Havana Biennial	25 April - 7 May 1997
4.	Shri K.S. Duggal P-7 Hauz Khas Enclave New Delhi	USA	To participate & present a paper on "The Question of Punjabi Identity (East & West) in the Third Annual Conference of the Akademy of Punjabi in the North America (APNA) at the American University	26-27 April 1997
5.	Prof. Leela Dube D 504 Purvasha Anand Lok Society Mayur Vihar Phase-I Delhi	Mexico	To attend seminar and give talks on theme of Indian Culture & Communities organised by the Centre for Asian & African Studies, El-Colegio de Mexico	2 May- June 1997
6.	Ms. Geeta Dharmarajan Executive Director Katha A3 Sarvodaya Enclave New Delhi	UK	To participate in the Seminar/ Round Table discussions organised by the South Asian Arts on promoting 50 years of South Asian Literature in Translation	12-16 May 1997

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Dr. Pramod Talgheri Vice-Chancellor Central Institute of English & Foreign Languages Hyderabad	Kyrghyzstan	To discuss the arrangements for teaching English to Kyrghyz students at CIFL on payment basis	14-21 May 1997
8-12.	5-Member Delegation Shri L.C. Jain Dr. Devika Jain Ms. Shashi Rajagopalan Shri J.N. Dixist Shri Nikhil Chakravarty	South Africa	To attend the India-South Africa Round Table meeting convened by the University of Western Cape's Southern African Development Educational Policy Research Unit	15-16 May 1997
13.	Ms. Sima Roy Chowdhury 55/3 B Ballygunge Circular Road Calcutta	Poland	To deliver a series of lectures on Indian Art & Culture	18-29 May 1997
14.	Dr. Abid Hussain Vice-Chairman Rajiv Gandhi Foundation New Delhi	Switzerland	To deliver the Nehru Memorial Lecture at the Modern Asia Research Centre, Geneva	19 May - 7 June
15.	Ms. Rekha Tandon 102 Vasant Enclave New Delhi	UK	In connection with the research project and methods of teaching Indian dance at the Laban Center, London	20 May 1997
16.	Prof. N. Kamala 41 Dakshinapuram JNU, New Delhi	Canada	To participate in a Seminar "Post-Colonial Translations" jointly organised by Concordia University & University of Montreal	22-25 May 1997
17.	Dr. Sujit Mukherjee 329 Hauz Khas (SFS Aptts.) New Delhi	UK	To participate in the Seminar on "South Asian Literature in English Translation" organised by SAMPAD	22-25 May 1997
18.	Shri S.D. Halbhavi Principal School of Art Opp. Civil Court Dharwad	South Africa	To deliver lecture at the exhibition of the Indian Contemporart Art organised at Durban by the National Gallery of Modern Art to commemorate the 50th anniversary celebration of India's Independence	3-29 June 1997
19.	Prof. G.N. Dash Deptt. of Linguistics Behrampur University Orissa	Germany	To participate in the international conference on "Jagannath Revisited Studying Society, Religion and the State in Orissa"	19-22 June 1997

1	2	3	4	5
20-23.	4-Member Delegation of Janothasava, Bangalore Shri Rajendra Nathan Ms. Anjela Sudharshan Ms. Teresa Chinnappa Shri Bernadette Devraj	Austria	To participte in the United Games of Nations in Austria	21 June -2 August
24.	Shri Ravi Chaturvedi Asstt Professor Deptt. of Dramatics University of Rajasthan Jaipur	Mexico	To participate & present paper in the Annual Conference of International Federation for Theatre Research at Chulula, Mexico	23-25 June 1997
25-26.	2-Member Delegation Shri Duryodhan Mahapatra Bhubaneshwar Shri Surendra Meher Bargarh, Orissa	USA	Live demonstration at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco	27 June - 27 August 1997
27.	Dr. Kapila Vatsayayan Academic Director IGNCA, New Delhi	Kyrghyzstan	In connection with the setting up of a Centre of Indian Studies	29 June - 6 July 1997
28.	Dr. Sakuntala Narasimhan 217, 8F Main, 27th Cross 3rd Block, Jayanagar Bangalore		To gather material in connection with the biography of Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay	30 June - 4 July 1997
29.	Ms. Sushma Deshpande 20 Sai Kunj Opp Anand Nagar Pand Road, Pune	UK/Ireland	Performance tour	June-August 1997
30-31.	2-Member Delegation Prof. K.V. Subbarao, Delhi Shri Omkar Nath Kaul Mysore	Russia	To participate in the Conference on South Asian Languages organised by the Moscow State University	30 June - 4 July 1997
32.	Dr. Harnam Singh Shah 405 Sector 16 Chandigarh	Hungary	To participate in the 35th International Congress of Asian & North African Studies held in Budapest	7-12 July 1997
33.	Prof. Brij Mohan Pande Y 81 Hauz Khas New Delhi	Italy	To participate in the Conference organised by the Association of South Asian Archaeologists	7-11 July 1997
34.	Dr. (Smt) Sudha Mishra Secretary Orissa Sangeet Natak Academy Museum Building Bhubaneshwar	USA	To present a series of lecture-cum-demonstration on various performing arts of Orissa & temple culture	July 1997

1	2	3	4	5
35.	Ms. V.R. Devika T 74A, 30th Cross Basant Nagar Chennai	Finland	To participate in a conference organised by the Dance and Child International (DACI), an International body affiliated to UNESCO	19 July - 11 August 1997
36.	Dr. Somvir DC-6 Gwyer Hall Hostel Delhi	Indonesia	To undertake teaching assignment at Udayana University, Indonesia	One year
37.	Shri Jagdish Chaturvedi C-2/32 A Lawrence Road Delhi	South Korea	To deliver lecture on "Indian Poetry Today and Tagore" organised by the Tagore Soceity of Korea	27 July - 6 August 1997
38.	Shri Amit Khaneja DJ/1170 Vasant Kunj New Delhi	Germany	To particiapte in the Workshop for Chorus of the 47th International Youth Festival Bayreuth	7-29 August 1997
39.	Ms. Darshana Jhaveri Shanti Kutir 215 Marine Drive Mumbai	Kenya	To participate, as Adjudicator in the Annual Kenya Music Festival in Nairobi	9-10 August 1997
40.	Dr. N.S. Bose 94 Ramakrishnapur Lane Howrah, W. Bengal	Mauritius	To give lecture/talk at Mahatama Gandhi Institute, Port Louis	11-17 August 1997
41.	Shri P. Stobdan Fellow Institute for Defence Studies & Analysis New Delhi	Mongolia	To participate in the 7th International Congress of Mongolists held in Ulan Bator	11-17 August 1997
42.	Ms. Poonam Trivedi A5 Sector 14 Noida	UK	To present a paper at the first "Scaena Shakespeare and his contemporaries in Performance" International Conference held at St. John's College, Cambridge	13-15 August 1997
43-44.	Smt. Radha Raina Consultant INTACH, Bhartiyam New Delhi & Shri Madan Mehta Photographer	Uzbekistan	To complete the final project of exhibition entitled "Glimpses of the Past Cultural Rhythms: India and Central Asia 14th to 18th century"	13-23 August 1997
45.	Prof. Hem Lata Swarup 111/98 A, Ashok Nagar Kanpur	South Korea	To participate in the International Political Science Association (IPSA) XVII World Congress held at Seoul	17-21 August 1997

1	2	3	4	5
46.	Porf. Hiranmay Karlekar 54E, Sujan Singh Park New Delhi	Malaysia	To participate in the Second International Seminar on "Dialogue among Asian Cultures" organised by the Malaysia Strategic Research Centre Pusat Penyelldikon Strategic Malaysia	17-19 August 1997
47.	Justice S. Mohan Judge, Supreme Court of India 41 Venkata Krishna Road Haja Annamalaipuram Chennai	South Korea	To participate in the 17th World Conference of Poets	20-24 August 1997
48.	Dr. S.R. Rao Former Director General Archaeological Survey of India and Consultant Marine Archaeology Centre, National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula, Goa	Australia	To participate in the International Maritime Museum Conference at Fremantle Western Australia	30 August - 9 Sept 1997
49.	Dr. Satyanarayan Chakarborty Reader, Deptt. of Sanskrit Rabindra Bharati University Calcutta	Netherlands	To chair a session of the International Comparative Literature Association XV Congress held at University of Leiden, Netherlands	August 1997
50.	Shri Pran Naville 16/35 East Patel Nagar New Delhi	UK	In connection with the book "Indian Women in the Raj"	5-14 Sept. 1997
51.	Shri Kazim Ali Khan Member Rampur Raza Library Rampur House 19-B Friends Colony New Delhi	Turkey/ Uzbekistan	Presentation of photographic replicas of Turkish Manuscripts from Rampur Raza Library in connection with the 50th anniversary celebrations in Turkey	7 Sept-12 Oct 1997
52.	Ms. Gogi Saroj Pal A 32 Tara Apartments Alaknanda New Delhi	USA	In connection with the Exhibition entitled "Women Artists of India —A Celebration of Independence" organised by the Mills College, Oakland	7 Sept-6 Oct. 1997
53.	Prof. P. Bhatia Deptt. of History University of Delhi Delhi	Germany	To attend a conference on "Hephthalite Sasanian and Indo-Sasanian Coin-hoards" found in Ajmer Distt., "Rajasthan"	7-12 Sept 1997
54.	Lalltha Lajmi Painter, Mumbai	USA	To participate in a group show of Indian Women Painters Exhibition of Art	9 Sept.-2 Nov 1997

1	2	3	4	5
55.	Dr. (Mrs.) Sharada Srinivasan Homi Bhabha Research Fellow Deptt. of Metallurgy, Indian Institute of Science Bangalore	USA	To attend Metals in Antiquity Conference at Harvard University	10-13 Sept 1997
56.	Ms. Premlata Puri Flat No. 1, Triveni Kala Sangam	USA	To work with Graduate Programmes at Columbia College for Inter Disciplinary Arts and the Department of Educational Studies and also to give lecture demonstrations in Seattle	14 Sept - 20 Nov. 1997
57.	Ms. Anupam Sud 3D Karkar Dooma Delhi	UK	To attend Honorary Research Assistantship at the Slade School of Fine Arts, London	20 Sept - 15 Dec 1997
58.	Dr. Suresh K. Srivastava Reader Department of History Hansraj College Delhi	USA	To attend the Oral History Association Conference at New Orleans, USA	25-28 Sept 1997
59.	Prof. Varyam Singh 1318 Poorvanchal JNU, New Delhi	Kyrghyzstan	To participate in the release of Hindi translation of "Manas" in the Kyrghyz Republic	2-12 Oct 1997
60.	Smt. Prakashvati Pal Yashpal Niwas B-335 Mahanagar Gole Market Lucknow	Canada	Lecture tour on Gandhiji and "Role and participation of Women in Indian Independence ...vement" at the Concordia ...ersity, Montreal	15 Oct - 6 Nov 1997
61.	Shri N. Pattabhi Raman Editor-in-Chief, Srulti Alapana 276-B. J.J. Road Chennai	Canada	To participate in a Colloquium on "Appreciating Indian Classical Dance"	17-19 Octo. 1997
62.	Prof. Romila Thapar 23 B Road Maharani Bagh New Delhi	South Africa	Lecture tour on aspects of Modern Indian History	21 Oct - 8 Nov 1997
63.	Shri Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee Regional Secretary Sahitya Akademi Calcutta	UK	To consult the India Office Library and the British Museum in connection with the project entitled "Towards an integrated History of the Literatures of the SAARC countries	21 Oct-3 Dec. 1997
64-65.	Ms. Pramita Mallick Well known exponent of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's Music 25 C, Mohini Mohan Road Calcutta & Shri Sri Kumar Banerjee Sarod Player, Calcutta	UK	For lecture demonstration	24 Oct - 24 Nov. 1997

1	2	3	4	5
66-68.	3 Participants from Spandana Theatre Ms. Basavaraj Jayashree Ms. Shilpa Ananda Raju Mr. Mysore Narasimhaiah Padmanabhan	UK	To participate in the rehearsals and production of an Indian play in collaboration with Theatre Workshop, Edinburgh	26 Oct - 24 Dec. 1997
69.	Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar Rajiv Gandhi Foundation New Delhi	UK & USA	To deliver series of lectures	1-17 Nov. 1997
70.	Dr. (Smt.) S.A.K. Durga Director Centre for Ethnomusicology Shyam Manohar Brindavan Street Chennai	UK	To participate and present a paper in a conference organised by the British Forum for Ethnomusicology at the Faculty of Music and Centre for South Asian Studies, University of Edinburgh, UK	1 Nov 1997
71.	Shri Gautam Kaul Hony Secretary Delhi Symphony Society C-1/22 Humayun's Tomb New Delhi	Japan	To participate in the three days seminar of Asian Orchestra	2-16 Nov 1997
72-73.	2-Member Delegation Shri Abdul Majeed Udaipur (Rajasthan) Smt. Rashida Banu Udaipur (Rajasthan)	China	To participate in the China-Guizhou International Batik Academic discussion & Batik works combined exhibition	14-20 Nov 1997
74.	Shri Turlapaty Kutumba Rao Eminent Journalist Vijayawada	Mauritius	To participate in the seminar at the University of Mauritius on "News Reportage in a Global Society" and round table discussion at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute on "Media in India-Television and Films"	25 Nov - 2 Dec 1997
75.	Prof. Vijay Gupta Chairman Institute of African Studies New Delhi	South Africa	To attend the second Dr. Yusuf Dadoo Memorial 30th November 1997	27 Nov - 3 Dec 1997
76.	Ms. Nayantara Sahgal 181B, Rajpur Road Dehradun	UK	To deliver a lecture of Gresham College, London	1 Dec 1997
77.	Qari Mohammed Sajid Imam of Madarsa Alia Fatehpuri Delhi	Malaysia	To participate in the 39th International Quran Reciters Assembly	10-16 Dec 1997

1	2	3	4	5
78.	Prof. S. Sirajuddin Prof. of English Osamina University Hyderabad	UK	To participate in the Bi-Centenary Celebrations of Mirza Ghalib	14-21 Dec 1997
79.	Dr. S.R. Bhatt Prof. of Philosophy University of Delhi Delhi	USA	To participate & present paper in the Third International Research Conference on Asian & Comparative Philosophy held at the University of Hawall, Honolulu	5-9 Jan 1998
80.	Shri Vasant Choudhury Poet/Researcher Calcutta	Myanmar	To attend and present a paper on "Arakani Coins" in the Conference on "Economy & Polity: Historical & Contemporary Studies of some South Asian States" organised by the University of Asian Studies. Yangon	10-12 Jan 1998
81.	Shri Chidananda Dasgupta Eminent Playwright Calcutta	UK	In connection with research on the life and times of Dwarakanath Tagore	Jan 1998
82.	Shri Dharmvir Gehlaut Freelance Journalist Haryana	Isarel	In connection with the research project on Comparative Studies of Customs of the Kibbulz & Mashav Communities in Israel	Feb 1998
83-84.	2-Member Delegation Shri Amitabha Choudhuri Calcutta Shri Pabitra Sarkar Calcutta	Indonesia	To participate in the Seminar on Rabindranath Tagore	16-17 Feb 1998
85.	Prof. Harish Trivedi Pforessor & Head Department of English University of Delhi Delhi	UK	To participate in a seminar series at the Centre for South Asian Studies, University of Edinburgh, UK to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of India's Independence	3-21 March 1998
		50th Anniversary Celebrations		
1-2.	Shri Narendra Kumar President The Federation of Indian Publishers 18/1-C, Institutional Area Near JNU Campus New Delhi Shri Shakti Malik Hony General Secretary The Federation of Indian Publishers	UK	To participate in the exhibition and support the Indian Book Fair held in London	7-14 July 1997

1	2	3	4	5
3-4.	Shri Gaulam Ahmad Jan Kathmaldan Alamgari Bazar, Srinagar Shri S. Rajan Rajan Industries 107 S. W.M. Main Road Baburajapuram Panchayat Thimmakudi	UK	To participate in the "Art in Action "Festival at Oxford	17-20 July 1997
5-7.	Shri Mohd Rizwan Ansari JNU, New Delhi Ms. C. Usha JNU, New Delhi Shri Battilal Balrwa JNU, New Delhi	Cuba	To participate in the 14th World Festival of Youth & Students organised by the National Preparatory Committee of Cuba	28 July - 5 August 1997
8-12.	Kunwar Bahadur Kavitayan 2 G-51, Nehru Nagar Ghaziabad (U.P.) Shri Balkavi Bairagi 19, Shikshak Nagar Neemuch P.O. Manasa (MP) Dr. Ramdarash Mishra R-38 Vani Nagar Uttam Nagar New Delhi Prof. Vachaspati Upadhyaya Vice-Chancellor Lal Bahadur Shashtri Bharatiya Vidyapeeth New Delhi Shri Sheen Kauz Nizam Kabutaron Ka Chowk Jodhpur (Rajasthan)	UK	To participate in the International Convention on Indian Languages held in London	11-14 Sept 1997
13-14.	Shri Kalicharan Gupta Garhi Village New Delhi Shri Jagdish Chander Garhi Village New Delhi	Russia	To attend the exhibition organised by Artetan Gallery, Vladivostok	17 Sept - 7 Oct 1997
15.	Prof. Kailash Vajpeyi Deptt. of Hindi University of Delhi Delhi	Canada	To participate and present a paper at the conference entitled "Completing Realities: Fifty Years of South Asian Literature" organised by the University of Toronto	19-21 Sept 1997

1	2	3	4	5
16-20.	Shri K.C. Pant Former Defence Minister 20, L Block Central Secretariat New Delhi Ms. Neerja Chowdhury JNU, New Delhi Shri K.P. Saksena 16 Samachar Apartments Mayur Vihar Phase-I Delhi Shri Ashok Nandy 29 Rajpur Road Delhi Shri Muchkund Dubey Flat 5 D. Girdhar Apartments 28 Ferozeshah Road New Delhi	USA	To participate in the conference on "India's Democracy at Fifty" held in Washington	24-27 Sept 1997
21.	Shri C.A. Menon Chairman Gandhi Samarak Nidhi Rajghat, New Delhi	Kyrghyzstan	To participate in a conference on Gandhian Philosophy of Tolerence & its Relevance held at the Centre of Gandhian Studies in Bishkek University	26 Sept - 3 Oct 1997
22.	Shri J.N Dixit Former Foreign Secretary New Delhi	UK	To participate in an International Seminar on the Evolution of India's Foreign Policy and its contribution to World Peace held in London	1-5 Oct 1997
23-24.	Dr. Ramjee Singh Director Gandhian Institute of Studies Varanasi Prof. K.D. Gangrade 156 Vaishali Pitampura New Delhi	Kenya	To participate in the seminar on "Mahatma Gandhi"	2-7 Oct 1997
25.	Dr. Pramod Kumar Mishra Reader in Political Science R.L.A. College University of Delhi	Russia	To participate in an International symposium "Problem of Conscience in Works of Indian Philosophers and Modern Activities" devoted to the 50th anniversary of India's Independence organised by the Oriental Institute of the Far Eastern State University	4-10 Oct 1997
26.	Shri Sabitendranath Roy Representative Publishers & Booksellers Guild 5A Bhawani Dutta Lane, Calcutta	Germany	To attend Frankfurt Book Fair	13-28 Oct 1997

1	2	3	4	5
27-34.	8-Member Artist/Curators Delegation Shri R. Siva Kumar Calcutta Shri Jogen Chowdhury Calcutta Ms. Jayshree Chakraborty Calcutta Smt. Rakhi Sarkar Calcutta Shri P.B. Sarkar, Calcutta Smt. Arpita Singh New Delhi Shri Manjit Bawa New Delhi Shri Sudarshan Shetty, Mumbai	Singapore	To participate in the major exhibition titled "Tryst with Destiny—Art from Modern India - 1947-97" held at Singapore Art Museum	23 Oct - Nov 1997
35-39.	5-Member team of Indian Writers from Sahitya Akademi	Sweden	To interact with Swedish writers, artists, literary academics publishing houses and intellectuals, and to visit various libraries etc.	Oct 1997
40.	Prof. U.R. Rao Former Secretary (Space) & Chairman, ISRO Deptt. of Space Antariksh Bhavan New BEL Road Bangalore	Germany	To delier Golden Jobuilee	1-5 Dec 1997
41.	Shri Asghar Ali Engineer Distinguished Indian Thinker & Social Activist	Uzbekistan	To deliver lectures on Indian Secularism	24-28 Dec 1997
42.	Ms. Anjolie Ela Menon 8, Shroff Apartments 2 Nizamuddin East New Delhi	Hong Kong	To participate in the painting exhibition by seven prominent Indian contemporary artists	17-24 Jan 1998
43.	Ms. Kristine Michael Ceramic Artist Garhi Studio New Delhi	USA	Lecture tours at the Clay Studio Philadelphia as a resident artist to the United States of America	23 Jan - 30 April 1998
44.	Dr. A.M. Khusro Eminent Indian Economist and Political Thinker	Uzbekistan	To deliver lecture on the course of India's economic reforms within the overall frame work of economic development in Indian during the 50th year of Independence	25-30 Jan 1998

1	2	3	4	5
45-47.	Dr. Sushila Nayar Renowned Gandhian Sevagram Distt. Wardha Dr. A.P. Jain Personal Medical Escort Dr. Hari Dev Sharma Nehru Memorial Museum & Library New Delhi	South Africa	In connection with the 50th Anniversary of Mahatma Martyrdom. To have discussions with Individuals, institutions, activists and also to collect documents and source material pertaining to Gandhiji and his struggle in South Africa	29 Jan - 13 Feb 1998
48-49.	Prof. Barrister Pakem Vice-Chancellor North Eastern Hill University, Shillong Meghalaya Prof (Ms.) A.S. Desai Chairperson UGC, New Delhi	Malaysia	To participate in the Asia Europe University Forum organised by the Malaysian Strategic Research Centre	17-19 March 1998
50.	Ms Mrinalini Mukherjee Scultor Delhi	Sweden	To participate in the contemporary Indian art exhibition at Gothenburg	25 Marhc-2 April 1998
51.	Shri Vivek Malhotra Project Consultant Sanskriti New Delhi	USA & UK	To meet his counterparts to design, define & write the programme & courses for an arts management training Institution in India	28 March - 8 May 1998
52-53.	Smt. Vijaylakshmi Nagaraj Chairperson AWIC 1998 Congress Publicity Committee Indian BBY Smt. Kusumlata Singh Member Executive Committee of AWIC Indian BBY	Italy	To attend the Bologna International Children's Book Fair	28 March - 6 April 1998

Outgoing Visitors During the Period April 1999- March 2000

1.	Shri Amarnath Head Artiste	Thailand	To participate in the project Cultural Road: The show case of total wisdom organised by the National Cultural Commission	26 March - 6 April 1999
2.	Shri Pramod Kumar Sharma Manager Cum Interpretor	Thailand	-do-	
3.	Shri Bodh Singh Head Artists	Thailand	-do-	
4.	Shri Shanti Swaroop	Thailand	-do-	

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Prof. Zafar Imam Professor, Soviet/CIS studies School of international Studies JNU, New Delhi	Bangladesh	For lecture cum seminar tour to Dhaka & Chittagong Universities	5-22 April 1999
6.	Mr. Pulak Dutta (Painter) Eminent Artist Shantiniketan, West Bengal	Sri Lanka	To participate in an Exhibition organised on the occasion of the birth anniversary of George Keyt	15-20 April 1999
7.	Prof. Vinod S. Dubey University, Deptt of English Bhagalpur University, Bihar	Singapore	To attend & present a paper at the SEAMEO REIC (South East Asian Ministers of Education Organisation Regional Language Centre)	19-21 April 1999
8.	Prof. Kedarnath Mishra Retired (Prof of Deptt of Philosophy, BHU, Varanasi	Israel	For giving lecture & seminars at Tel Aviv & Hebrew Univ. Israel	29 April - 30 May 1999
9.	Ms. Lipi Biswas Shantiniketan, West Bengal	Malaysia	To participate in an International Conference on Languages Literatures & Cultures: Inter-Literatures & Culture: Inter-connections In the new millennium organised by the University of Putra Malaysia	8-14 May 1999
10.	Ms. Sonali Nag Arulmani	Malaysia	-do-	
11.	Dr. Vidya Niwas Mishra Sanskrit Scholar, Varanasi	USA	To participate in international Conference on the theme "Sarira", Aspects of Embodiment in Indian Arts & Cultures organised by Univ. of California Santa Cruz, USA	14-16 May 1999
12.	Mr. Sandip Ray Film Maker, Calcutta	USA	-do-	
13.	Mrs. Purnima Chaudhary Thumri Exponent, Varanasi	USA	-do-	
14.	Ms. Madhuri Santanam Sondhi Ex-Fellow Indian Council of Philosophical Research, Bangalore	USA	To present a paper on "Gandhi & Mallik, Nonviolence & Abstention as ethakol strategies for a peaceful world" organized by International Society for the comparative studies of civilizations 28th annual Meeting held at St. Louis Missouri USA	16 May- 2 June 1999
15.	Ms. Latika Katt Sculptor, New Delhi	Australia	To visit the Institute of the Arts Canberra, School of Art Australian National University Canberra to give lecture/workshop & to exhibit her works	18 May- 30 June 1999

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Dr. (Ms.) Shali Mayaram Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur	Isarel	To attend the workshop on Problem releting to processes & modes of farming in narrative poetry & visual arts held at Jerusalam	20-30 May 1999
17.	Prof. Sachidanandan Sahai Prof. & Head, Deptt. of Ancient Indian & Asian Studies, Magadh University, Bodh Gaya Bihar	Thalland	To work on the project entitled "King Chulalongkern's visit to India"	20 May - 20 June 1999
18.	Mr. Sushil Kumar Artist, Delhi	Poland	To participate in International Performance Art Festival New faces & Arts in Asia being organised by the Biuro Wystaw Artykyeamch (The Bureau of Artistic Exhibition) Grodzka Gallery Dublin	25-29 May 1999
19.	Smt. Maya Krishan Rao Renowned Kathekali Dancer New Delhi	UK	To reherence & perform "Depart" for LIFT (London International Festival of Theatre)	29 May - 6 June 1999
20.	Ms. Nita Thakare Artist, Vadodra, Gujarat	France	To participate in an International French Patchwork exhibition "Quilton Sud" (Quilt in South) in France	2-5 June 1999
21.	Ms. Jasleen Dhamija New Delhi	Malaysia	To attend International ikat weaving forum in Kuching Serawak organised by the society Atalior Sarawak	11-16 June 1999
22.	Ms. Bina Rao, Hyderabad	Malaysia	-do-	
23.	Shri B.R. Bhargava Former Dy Secy, Sangeet Natak Akademi (Drama) New Delhi	Germany	To give lectures at the Folk wang Hochschule Akademy in Essan, Germany	14 June 1999
24.	Prof. Anil Sarkar General Secretary Asiatic Society, Calcutta	Germany	To attend an International Conference on two Issuse "Fundamentalism versus Tolerance" & Nuclear Issues in South Asia, organised by Humboldt University	17-19 June 1999
25.	Prof S. M. Michael Director, Institute of Indian Culture, Centre for the Research in Society Culture & Religion, Mumbai	Germany	-do-	
26.	Shri Surjit Patar Punjabi Poet Ludhiana, Punjab	Colombia	To participate in the IXth International Poetry Festival held in Madellin	18-26 June 1999
27.	Mrs. Ruby Palchoudhuri Hony. Gen. Secretary Crafts Council of West Bengal Calcutta	UK	To attend & participate in the "Uncut Cloth exhibition & Education Programme" to be held at the Paisley Museum & Art Galleries	19 June - 20 October 1999

1	2	3	4	5
28.	Shri Vijay Kowshik Stained Glass Artist, Delhi	Hungary	To work with the renowned Hungarian artist & restorer Mr. Lasslo Hafter & to Silde shows, lectures on Rehindranath Tagore	30 June - 30 August 1999
29.	Dr. Mohammed Nawaz Khan Eminent Metta Poet Saharanpur, UP	Mauritius	On the occassion of ki-a-milled celebration organised by the Islamic Cultural Centre, Mauritius	30 June- 10 July 1999
30.	Dr. Vasant G. Gadre Prof. Centre for Spanish Studies JNU, New Delhi	Spain	To deliver lectures on "India's Unity in Diversity" at the University of Madrid	3-12 July 1999
31.	Ms. Sajal Kshirsagar Artist, C/o National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai	Sri Lanka	To participte in the third International artists camp organised by George Keyt Foundation	5-15 July 1999
32.	Ms. Anita Dube Artist, New Delhi	USA	To curate an exhibition of contemporary Indian Art as part of the 14th Los Angeles International Biennial Art International	10 July- 21 August 1999
33.	Ms. Pushpmala N. Artist, Bangalore	USA	-do-	
34.	Mr. Jatin Das Painter, New Delhi	Israel/Egypt	To work for a Joint Artists workshop with Mr. Manasha Kudishman, an eminent artist & to give lectures at Maulana Azad Center for Indian Culture Cairo	26 July - 24 August 1999
35.	Shri N.S. Harsha Artist, Bangalore	Australia	To participate in the "Asia Pacific Trennall of contamporary art".	3 August- 10 November 1999
36.	Prof. Som Dutt Battu Musicologist, Gurgaon	Kenya	To act as adjudicator in the "Kenya Music Festival	5-10 August 1999
37.	Shri Nand Kumar Nair Kathakali Exponent, Trivandrum, Kerala	Poland	To attend lecture cum workshop organized by Tandava the Deptt. of Drama & Theatre of the University of Lodz.	18 August- 21 Sept. 1999
38.	Shri H.K. Kaul Director, Delhi Library Network, New Delhi	Thailand	To attend 65th International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) Council Conference	20-28 August 1999
39.	Shri K.L. Nandan Writer (Hindi) New Delhi	Hungary/Germany/ UK	To translate his book on Amrita Sher Gill in Hungarian & English to deliver Lectures at "Indisches Kulturinstintut at Frankfurt" & to attend 6th Vishwa Hindi Sammelan at London	28 August- 19 Sept 1999
40.	Prof. Anuradha Kapur National School of Drama New Delhi	USA	To give lecture at Centre for South Asian Studies Deptt of Dramatic Arts & South & South East Asian Studies, University of California Berkeley	5-18 Sept. 1999

1	2	3	4	5
41.	Prof. K.N. Pandita Jawahar Nagar, Jammu	Tajakistan	To participate in the 1100th Anniversary of the State of Samanic	6-11 Sept. 1999
42.	Prof S.A.H. Abidi Deptt. of Persian, Univ. of Delhi	Tajakistan	-do-	
43.	Prof. A.K. Maurya Director, Indo Russian Education Centre, Univ. of Delhi	Russia	To participate in the Annual Yasnaya Polyana Writers meeting & to present a paper on "Experiments with Truth" Tolstoy Gandhi & Modern Indian Literary Heroes	3-12 Sept. 1999
44.	Ms. Arpana Caur Painter, New Delhi	USA	To visit New York for her solo show in Bose Pacia Modern Gallery	13-23 Sept. 1999
45.	Shri Mrinal Sen Film Director & Rajya Sabha, MP New Delhi	Germany	On the occasion of the Mrinal Sen's Retrospective, organized by the Freunder Deutschen Kinemathok, in collaboration with Indian Cultural Centre, Berlin	26 September- 5 October 1999
46.	Shri Kartar Singh Duggal Eminent Scholar & Rajya Sabha, MP New Delhi	USA	To give series of lectures at different Museums/Universities to mark the 500th Anniversary of the founding of the Khalsa Panth	29 September- 25 October 1999
47.	Ms. Nishtha Jain Film & Television Institute Pune, Maharashtra	USA	To attend Chicago International Film Festival & Screening of Ms Jain's Award Winning Diploma Film, "Jam Invalid", at the Chicago Institute Film Festival	6-21 October 1999
48.	Dr. (Mrs.) Indu Awasthi Scholar, New Delhi	Malaysia	To participate & present paper at the first International Conference/Seminar on Ramayana and Mahabharata organized by the International Association for Tamil Research, Deptt of Indian Studies of Univ. of Malaya	21-24 October 1999
49.	Shri A.V. Subramanian Scholar, Chennai	Malaysia	-do-	
50.	Ms. Saryu Doshi Hony. Director, NGMA Mumbai	New York	To participate in a Conference on "Role of Art in the Education of Children" and to give lectures	11-13 November 1999
51.	Dr. Madhavan Palat Hony. Counsellor IGNCA, New Delhi	Austria	To participate in a Symposium on Political, Historical and Cultural overview of the last 50 years being organized in commemoration of 50th years of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between India and Austria	21-24 November 99
52.	Dr. Brahma Chellaney Centre of Policy Research New Delhi	Austria	-do-	

1	2	3	4	5
53.	Prof. R.K. Jain JNU, New Delhi	Austria	To participate in a Symposium on Political, Historical and Cultural overview of the last 50 years being organized in commemoration of 50th year of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between India and Austria	21-24 November 99
54.	Qari Mohmmad Abdul Samad Hyderabad	Malaysia	To participate in the 41st International Al-Quran Assembly in Kuala Lumpur	23-28 November 99
55.	Dr. Mridul Kirti Scholar, Meerut (U.P.)	Miami (USA)	To participate in a Conference on "Tulsidas and his works"	26-28 November 99
56.	Shri Sheikh Salem Ahmad New Delhi	Miami (USA)	-do-	
57.	Prof. Abdul Kalam Qasmi Department of Urdu Aligarh Muslim University	Myanmar	To participate in the Mushaira devoted to compositions of Bahadur Shah Zafar	4-9 December 99
58.	Shri Iqbal Siddiqui Urdu Poet Lucknow	Myanmar	-do-	
59.	Dr. (Smt.) Kapila Vatsyayan Academic Director IGNCA, New Delhi	Bangladesh	To participate in the Sanskrit Theatre "Natyotsab" organized by Centre for Asian Theatre and High Commission of India in Dhaka	1-9 December 99
60.	Shri B.V. Karanth Theatre Expert	Bangladesh	-do-	
61.	Shri M.K. Raina Theatre Expert	Bangladesh	-do-	1-5 December 99
62.	Shri Bansi Kaul Theatre Expert	Bangladesh	-do-	
63.	Dr. Ram Gopal Bajaj Director, NSD New Delhi	Bangladesh	-do-	
64.	Prof. Veer Bhadra Mishra Professor & Head Civil Engineering Institute of Technology, Varanasi and Adhaksh of Sankat Mochan Foundation, Varanasi	Sweden	To deliver lectures on Ganga Action Plan and Pure Ganga Project and to a video film "Festivals of Banaras" produced by Dr. Marc Katz, an Indologist and Associate Professor of History and Religion at Karistad University	25 December 99- 9 January 2K
65.	Shri Raghu Rai Eminent Photographer	Dhaka	To participate in a Photographic Symposium and a workshop	10-15 February 2K
66.	Dr. Satyadev Tripathi	Mauritius	To participate at the World Bhojpuri	24 February 2K
67.	Dr. Prakash Udal, Bhojpur Distt		Convention	
68.	Dr. Aunesh Neerun			
69.	Smt. Malini Awashti			

1	2	3	4	5
		Outgoing Visitors During the Period April-August 2000		
1.	Shri Raj Mohan Gandhi eminent Scholar/Philosopher	Tehran	To finalise agenda and details of seminar on "Dialogue Among Civilization" between India and Iran	16-28 April 2K
2.	Shri J.N. Dixit (Retd.)	Cairo	To participate in a Seminar organized	5-8 May 2K
3.	Lt. Gen. B.K. Nayar (Retd.)		by National Centre for Middle East	
4.	Lt. Gen. Satish Nambiar (Retd.)		Studies Cairo & United Services	
5.	Maj. Gen. Afsar Karim (Retd.)		Institution of India	
6.	Rear Adm K.R. Menon (Retd.)			
7.	Air Omda N.S. Singh (Retd.)			
8.	Visit of 2 Scholar to Turin a. Ms. Koshalya Walli (Sanskrit Scholar) b. Mr. Samir Dutta (Sanskrit Scholar)	Italy	To participate in the 11th World Sanskrit Conference organized by CESMEO International Institute for Advanced Asian Studies	3-8 April 2K
9.	Shri Bahauddin Dagar Musician (Rudraveena)	London	To participate in the School of Sound Seminar held at Royal Institute of British Architect, London	12-15 April 2K
10.	Shri Ranbir Singh Vice-President, IPTA	Paris	To attend a Congress of International Theatre Association at Marseilles	14-21 May 2K
11.	Shri J.N. Dixit (Retd. IFS)	Poland	To deliver lecutre on India's Foreign Policy & Security perception on the Eve of 21st Century	14-17 May 2K
12.	Prof. Devendra Kaushik & Dr. Jayantar Kumar Ray Scholar	Trinidad & Tobago	To deliver lecture at Univ. of West Indies during 155th Anniversary of India's Arrival day	19-31 May 2K
13.	Dr. Satyavrat Shashtri Scholar Ms. Sushmita Banerjee Artist	Hungary	To particiapte in the Conference on the Solr Dynasty and Old Hungarian Tradition	2-4 June 2K
14.	Dr. Sushil Ahmad Farrooqu Naathkhan	Mauritius	To participate in the Eid-Milad-Un-Nabi Celebrations	14-28 June 2K
15.	Dr. Kailash Vajpeyi Eminent Poet	Colombia	To participate in the 10th International Poetry Festival held in Medellin	23 June-2 July 2K
16.	Dr. Lokesh Chandra MP	China	To participate in the 2000 International Conference on Dung-Huang Studies	27 July-3 August 2K
17.	Two Craftsmen a. Shri Jai Prakash b. Shri Kalinga Maharana	Canada	To participate in the Exhibition "India-The Living Arts"	19-31 July 2K 2-14 August 2K

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Shri J.N. Dixit (Retd. IFS)	Poland	To deliver lecture on India's Foreign Policy & Security perception on the Eve of 21st Century	14-17 May 2K
		Outgoing Visitors (1998-99)		
1.	Smt. Mrinalini Mukherjee Singh Painter New Delhi	Sweden	To participate in an exhibition of contemporary Indian art at Gothenburg	25 March - 2 April 1998
2.	Shri Sunil Das Painter Calcutta	French	To exhibit his works at Galerie Grewal Mohanjeet	31 March-21 April 1998
3.	Dr. R.C. Agrawal Director, Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi	Uzbekistan	To explore possiblities of a joint archeological excavation Project on a pre-Islamic site in Uzbekistan	1-10 April, 1998
4.	Shri R.K. Verma Assistant Archaeologist Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi	Uzbekistan	-do-	-do-
5.	Dr. Maneesha Tikekar Prof. of Political Science University of Bombay Bombay	UK	To give talks at various Universities & Colleges in Ohio on social and political process in Independence India	4-20 April, 98
6.	Dr. Saleem Jayalakshmi Carnatic Musician, Chennai	South Africa	To attend the International Carnatic Music Conference at Durban	10-12 April, 98
7.	Prof. S. Shanmuga Sundaram Principal, Govt. College Adyar, Chennai,	South Africa	-do-	-do-
8.	Dr. Ramachandra Guha Scholar, Bangalore	USA	To participate in lecture Series planned at the Centre For South Asian Studies, University of Edinburg.	23 April to 6th May, 98
9.	Prof. Mrugank G. Joshi Painter, Mumbai	France	To deliver lecture on "Appreciation of Indian Art" And to hold exhibition of his Paintings at the venue of the "Perspective Asienne in Paris and Marseille"	26 April to 15 May, 98
10.	Shri Suresh Chabrra Director, Film & TV Instt.	Portugal	To participate in the festival of Indian Films	28 April to 28 May, 98
11.	Shri Amar Nath Sehgal Sculpture, New Delhi	Switzerland	To deliver the sculpture "The Captive"	24-29 April 98

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Prof. Swapan Majumdar Director (Culture) Rabindra Bhavan, Visva Bharati Shantiniketan	Sri Lanka	To deliver lecture on some aspects of Tagore's works at the Indian Cultural Centre on Tagore's Birth Anniversary	5-9 May 98
13.	Shri Biren De Painter, New Delhi	Sweden	In connection with the contemporary Indian art Exhibition	10-13 May, 98
14-16.	3-Member Team Sh. Bhupatlal Pandhi Magician Smt. Chandra Pandhi, Assistant Magician Ms. Parul Pandhi Assistant Secretary	UK	To participate in the VII World Deaf Magicians Festival held in London	14-29 May,98
17.	Prof. M.L. Sondhi Distinguished Academician, New Delhi	USA	To deliver lectures and to hold discussion in the Centre for Strategic and International Studies Washington D.C. and the Centre for the Advanced Study Of India, University of Pennsylvania	May-June, 98
18-19.	Smt. & Sh. Satish Gujral Painter, New Delhi	Australia	To exhibit his paintings in Sydney Melbourne	June-August, 98
20.	Sh. Sunil Gangopadhyaya Author, Calcutta	UK	To speak at the Nehru Centre, London under its series "Meet the Author"	June-July, 98
21.	Shri S.K.N. Nair National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi	Switzerland	To participate in the Seminar "Sustainable Energy in India (1998-2018) organized by the Modern Asia Research Centre in Geneva	8-9 June, 98
22.	Prof. R.R. Krishnan Chairman Centre for East Asian Studies School of International Studies JNU, New Delhi	Republic of Korea	To participate in a Symposium "India since Independence Towards 21st Century as part of 50th Anniversary of Independence Celebrations" organized by the Korean Society for Indian Studies	8-15 June, 98
23.	Sh. Ramakant Rath Poet, Orissa	Colombia	To participate in the VII International Festival of Poetry held in Commemoration Of the Centenary Celebrations Of the University	12-22 June, 98

1	2	3	4	5
24.	Sh. Partha Nath Mukherjee Director, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai	China	For a series of lectures orgaised by Peking University in commemoration of the Centenary Celebrations of the University	14-20 June, 98
25.	Sh. Neeraj Goswami Painter, New Delhi	France	To participate in a series of exhibitions held in Paris	15-30 June, 98
26.	Prof. S.R. Kidwai Professor of Urdu Centre Of India Langauages School of Languages, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	Germany	To deliver lectures on Ghalib at the South Asia Institute University of Heidelberg	15-20 July, 98
27.	Prof. S.P. Ganguly Chairperson, Centre of Spanish Studies, School of Languages JNU, New Delhi	Argentina	To give series of lectures, talks and meetings with academicians.	22 June -2 July, 98
28.	Shri S.C. Malik Prof. Research Scientist in Anthropology Affiliated to the Nehru Memorial Museum & Library	USA	To participate in the 14th International Congress of Anthropological & Ethnological Sciences held in Williamsburg. Virginia	25 June - Aug. 98
29.	Shri Mani Kaul Film Director, Mumbai	Portugal	To participate in the Festival of Indian Films	30 June-4 Junly, 98
30.	Sh. Syed Abdul Aziz Zafar Masjid Shahi Khwaza Peer, New Delhi	Mauritius	To participate in the Prophet Muhammad's Birth Anniversary Celebrations organised by the Islamic Cultural Centre, Port Louis	3-16 July, 98
31.	Dr. N.S. Prabhu Former Prof. Of Applied Linguistic Bangalore University Bangalore	South Africa	To attend the Annual Conference of the South African Association of Applied Linguistics at the University of The North.	7-9 July, 98
32.	Prof. K. Sudha Rao Head. Higher Education National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi	Australia	To participate in the Conference entitled "Winds of Change: Women and the Culture of Universities" organised by the University of Sydney	9-19 July, 98
33.	Dr. Sunil Kothari Dance Critic & Scholar Calcutta	USA	To participate in the Dance Critics Association Conference in New York	11-13 July, 98
34.	Shri A.N. Ram Retired Diplomat, New Delhi	Kenya	To participate in Seminar "India-Kenya Relations- Vision 2000"	13-16 July, 98

1	2	3	4	5
35.	Sh. Amit Mitra Secretary General, FICCI New Delhi	Kenya	To participate in Seminar "India-Kenya Relations-vision 2000"	13-16 July, 98
36.	Shri Mangiesh Dabral Poet-Writer New Delhi	Mauritius	To participate in week-long Sammelan organised by the Hindi Speaking Organisations	17-23 July, 98
37.	Ms. Gagan Gill Poet-Writer New Delhi	-do-	-do-	-do-
38.	Dr. A. Karunakaran Vice-Chancellor Tamil University Thanjavur	UK	To participate in the Nineteenth South Asian Languages Conference (SALA XIX) held at the University of York	18-20 July, 98
39.	Dr. D.P. Pattanayak Chairman Indian Institute of Applied Languages & Sciences, Bhubneswar Orissa	-do-	-do-	-do-
40.	Shri Jayarajan Chairman Folkland- International Centres For Folk & Culture Trivandrum	Germany	To attend the 12th Congress of the International Society for the Folk Narrative Research held at Gottingen	26-31 July, 98
41.	Dr. Prof. Leela Omchery Musician, Delhi	Kenya	To participate as Adjudicator in the Annual Kenya Music Festival held in Nairobi	30 July -4 Aug. 98
42.	Prof. Lallan Prasad Vyas Chairman International Vishwa Sahitya Sanskriti Sansthan, New Delhi	Trinidad & Tobago	To participate in the International Conference on Ramayana	31 July - 3 Aug. 98
43.	Prof. (Smt.) Indira Goswami Delhi University, Delhi	-do-	-do-	-do-
44.	Dr. Satkari Mukhopadhyaya Co-ordinator Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts New Delhi	-do-	-do-	-do-
45.	Retd. Justice Shri A Abdul Hadi Adyar, Chennai	Sri Lanka	Guest Speaker to give lectures in functions organised by Sri Lanka Islamic Centre as a part Of Meela-de-un-Nabi Celebrations	5-13 Aug. 98

1	2	3	4	5
46.	Prof. Vidya Niwas Mishra, Scholar Varanasi	Suriname	To participate in the Tulsidas Birth Anniversary Celebrations	6-8 Aug. 98
47.	Prof. Vishnu Kant Shastri Scholar, Calcutta	-do-	-do-	-do-
48.	Dr. Vashpal Jain Member, Sastha Sahitya Mandal, New Delhi	-do-	-do-	-do-
49.	Smt. Annanda Patni C/o Sastha Sahitya Mandal New Delhi	-do-	-do-	-do-
50.	Prof. (Dr.) Laxmi Narayan Dubey International Foundation Of Indian Languages & Culture Sagar (MP)	USA	To participate in the International Conference for Vedic Studies at the University of California	7-9 Aug. 98
51.	Dr. Madan M. Sankhder IPSA Study Group, Delhi	-do-	-do-	-do-
52.	Prof. R Balasubramaniam Chairman Afro-Asian Philosophical Association, New Delhi	-do-	-do-	10-16 Aug. 98
53.	Prof. Bhuvan Chandel Centre for Studies in Civilizations, New Delhi	-do-	-do-	-do-
54.	Prof. Pranab Kumar Sen Calcutta	-do-	-do-	-do-
55.	Dr. Ramakant Sharma Angiras Deptt. of Sanskrit Punjab University Chandigarh	-do-	-do-	-do-
56.	Smt. Nirmala Deshpande Member of Parliament Rajya Sabha	Switzerland	To participate in the "World Philosophers Meet 98- Second Parliament of Science Religion and Philosophy"	14-22 Aug. 98
57.	Ms. Jayanti Sen Calcutta	Japan	To participate in the 7th International Animation Festival Hiroshima 98	20-24 Aug. 98
58.	Prof. Pushpa Khanna New Delhi	USA	To participate in the 25th Silver Jubilee International Congress on Art of Communications held at New Orleans	30 Aug-6 Sept. 98

1	2	3	4	5
59.	Shri Sanjay Dhar Centre Director Indian National Trust For Art & Culture Heritage (INTACH), New Delhi	USA	To attend a Summer Workshop in Infrared Reflectography at the Strauss Centre for Conservation at Harvard University Art Museum	Aug. 98
60.	Sh. Tapas Sen Calcutta	UK	To attend an International Symposium on Film Television And Theatre Lighting Colloquium in Bradfort, UK-Showlight 93	1-9 Sept. 98
61.	Prof. Abdul Gafoor Noorani Constitutional	Czech Republic	To participate in the 15th European Conference	8-12 Sept. 98
62.	Shri Ashok Vajpeyi Vice-Chancellor Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University	UK/France/ Germany/Austria Italy/Netherlands	To meet fellow poets, visit literary and artistic institutions and establish direct contact with Hindi scholars	8-29 Sept. 98
63-65.	Three Hindi Poets Shri Som Thakur, Agra Smt. Indu Jain, Delhi Shri Hullar Muradabadi Moradabad	UK	To participate in a Kavi Sammelan	11-13 Sept. 98
66.	Shri Rustom Barrucha Scholar	Indonesia	To participate in the International Art Summit	15-25 Sept. 98
67.	Prof. Ananda Lal Reader in English Yadavpur University Calcutta	USA	To participate in Conference on Rabindranath Tagore at University of Connecticut	18-20 Sept. 98
68-69.	Shri Mohd. Saleem Pasha Veg. Dye Printer	Thailand	To participate in the Summer Workshop being organised By the Ministry of Industrial Promotion	20-30 Sept. 98
	Mrs. Jaganda Rajappa Resource Person Crafts Council of India Chennai			
70.	Mrs. Geeti Sen Jawaharlal Nehru Fellow Art Historian and Critic New Delhi	France/UK/ Austria	Lecture tour to Interact with counterparts	22 Sept - 3 Nov 98
71.	Mrs. Savita Singh Deputy Director (Programmes) Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti New Delhi	Kyrghyzstan	To participate in a International Conference on Idea of Tolerance & Resolution of Conflicts in Central Asia	26 Sept - 3 Oct. 98

1	2	3	4	5
72.	Prof. Ramanath Tripathi Former Professor of Hindi University of Delhi Delhi	Mauritius	To praticipate in the Ramayana Conference	2-9 Oct. 98
73.	Prof. Vachaspati Upadhyaya Vice-Chancellor Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth New Delhi	-do-	-do-	-do-
74.	Shri D. Ebenezer Artist Chennai	Sri Lanka	To participate in Artists' Camp	5-14 Oct. 98
75.	Shri Utpal K. Banerjee Consultant and Advisor on Informational Technology	Venezuela	To participate in a Seminar "India: Its Universal Contribution to the Independence Thinkers" organised by the University of Los Andes, Merida	8-9 Oct. 98
76.	Prof. M. Alam Professor Centre for Persian & Central Asian Studies JNU, New Delhi	Uzbekistan	To attend and present a Paper at the Amir Khusrau Seminar organised by the Tashkent State University for Oriental Studies	8-9 Oct. 98
77.	Ms. Rongsenla Chairman Tribal Art and Textile Museum Society Dimapur, Nagaland	Australia	To attend the 18th General Conference of the International Council of Museums (ICOM 98) held at Melbourne	8-30 Oct. 98
78.	Shri Jayant Mahapatra Poet Cuttack	Sri Lanka	To participate in the National Conference on Commonwealth Literature and Langugage Studies organised by the Univ. of Peradeniya	10-12 Oct. 98
79.	Shri M.N. Ashish Ganju Architect New Delhi	UK	To present a lecture on his works on urban and rural development and participate in workshops	22 Oct - 15 Nov. 98
80.	Shri C.V. Ranganathan Retired Diplomat New Delhi	China	To participate in Seminar on Tan Yun-Shan Centenary being organised by China Association for International Friendly Contact	24 Oct - 6 Nov. 98
81.	Shri Paresh Maity Painter Calcutta	France	To participate in a collective exhibition of Indian artists at Galerie Grewal Mohanjeet, Paris	1-8 Nov.

1	2	3	4	5
82.	Prof. Amiya Kumar Dev Vice-Chancellor Vidyasagar University Midnapore, West Bengal	Greece	To attend the Second International Congress of Comparative Literature organized on the theme of "Identity and Otherness in Literature, 18th-20th Centuries" By the National Hellenic Research	3-17 Nov. 98
83-84.	Ven Karunananda Mahathero President of Jagat Jyoti Vihar Sabha, New Delhi and Ven Pragyatisse Bhikku Buddha Vihara Mahabodhi Society of India New Delhi	Sri Lanka	To participate in the International Buddhist Conference	9-15 Nov. 98
85-87.	Three scholars Sh. Ashok Mitran Tamil Writer Chennai Prof. Rukmani Bhaya Nayyar English Writer New Delhi Sh. Kandasamy Tamil Writer Chennai	Sri Lanka	To participate in the Indo-Sri Lanka Writers' Colloquium	13-18 Nov. 98
88.	Ms. Shobha De Writer Mumbai	UK	To launch her book "Selective Memory at the Nehru Centre and a deliver series of lectures	20-28 Nov. 98
89-90.	Ms. Bani Biswas Alpana Expert Calcutta Ms. Sarala Chelvaraj Rangoli & Kolam Expert Chennai	UK	To participate in the Megha Artisans' Mela being organized in Birmingham	23-30-Nov. 98
91-93.	3-Member Delegations Shri A.P. Venkateshwaran Former Foreign Secretary Prof. Rajendra K. Jain Associate Professor Centre for American and West European Studies JNU, New Delhi Sh. Pal Panandikar Director General Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi	Hungary	To participate in the seminar "Indo-Hungarian Relations. Retrospect and Prospects	26-29 Nov. 98

1	2	3	4	5
94.	Hafiz Qari Mohammed Naseeruddin H. No. 16-9-710 Near Noor Masjid Old Malakpet Hyderabad-500036	Malaysia	To participate in the 40th International Al-Quran Reciters Assembly in Kaula Lumpur	30 Nov-9 Dec. 98
95.	Sh. Jogan Chowdhury Painter Calcutta	France	To participate in collective exhibition of Indian artists at Galerie Grewal Mohanjeet Paris	7-28 Dec. 98
96.	Prof. Mushirul Hasan Professor of History Jamia Millia Islamia New Delhi	Mauritius	To attend and present a paper In the conference on Decolonisation held at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute Port Louis	8-16 Dec. 98
97	Sh. Narendra Panjwani City Editor Bombay Times Mumbai	USA	To chair the Indian Studies at the Centre for South Studies at University of Berkeley	14 Jan -May 99
98.	Ms. Anjolie Ela Menon 8 Small Anqutan 2 Nizamuddin East New Delhi	France	To participate in a collective Exhibition of Indian artists at Galerie Grewal Mohanjeet Paris	16-23 Jan. 99
99.	Prof. Aparna Basu Retired Professor of History Delhi University	Mauritius	For preparation of BA Degree programmes as well as planning of research in the Field of history at Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Port Louis	19-23 Feb. 99
100-105.	6-Member Delegation Dr. Varsha Das Prof. S.S. Bhattacharya Prof. N.N. Jha Shri H.K. Dua Shri S.K. Singh Shri M. Varadarajan	Israel	To participate in the Second India-Israel Colloquium "India and Israel, Social/ Culture & Worldview"	3-10 March 99
106.	Dr. (Mrs.) Shashi Prabha Kumar Reader Department of Philosophy University of Delhi Recipient of Shankar Award)	Trinidad & Tobago	To attend and present paper in Xth International Conference on Vedanta	8 March - 4 April 1999
107-108.	Two kite experts Shri Jamaluddin Shri Mukhtar Ahmad Jama Masjid Delhi	Bangladesh	To participate in the International Kite Festival	18-26 March 99

Statement-IV

Indian Council for Cultural Relations

Out going cultural delegations 2000-2001 Future Projects with Tentative Itineraries

S. No.	Countries	Name of the Group	Period	Particulars of the Visit
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Myanmar Laos Malaysia Singapore Philippines	Folk Dance Group Sri Idagunji Mahaganapati Yakshagani Mandali Keremane x 10, Karnataka	13-29 August, 2000	To give Performances on the Occasion of India's Independence Day Celebrations & other Performances.
2.	UK	*Ms. Roshan Date (Kathak) x 1, Pune (T.G.)	16 August - 7 Sept. 2000	To participate in project "Navagraha" a celebration of Diwali in the Millennium at the invitation of 'Nilmani Kathak Kendra. Center for Indian Classical Dance in Leicester, U.K.
3.	Egypt Turkey	CGH Police Cultural Club Group led by Shri Atamjeet Singh X 12	22 August - 20 Sept., 2000	To participate in the "Ismailia International Folklore Festival" in Cairo.
4-6.	Uzbekistan Kyrghyzstan Turkmenistan	(I) Shri Rajendra Prasanna (Shehnai & Flute) x 5, Delhi. (II) Ms. Manjari Chaturvedi (Kathak to Sufi Singing) x 10 (III) 12-Member Bhangra/ Giddha Group "Rangla" Punjab Cultural Youth Club, Led by Shri Tehal Singh, Punjab.	26 August - 10 Sept., 2000	To give performances to coincide with the Celebrations of 3000th Anniversary of OSH city and to participate in the Cultural Festival in Connection with the 500th Anniversary of Bairam Khan in Turkmenistan.
7.	Germany and Region	Ms. Meera Das (Odissi) X 5 Orissa	1 Sept- 2 October, 2000	To give performances
8.	Saudi Arabia Syria Qatar Kuwait UAE	Ms. Kiran Segal (Odissi) X 5, Delhi	2 Sept., -20 Sept., 2000	To give performances
9.	USA	*Ms. Padma Talwalkar (Vocal) X 3	5 Sept - 24 Oct., 2000	For performances on the US University Circuit.

1	2	3	4	5
10.	USA	*Shri T.K.S. Swaminathan and Ms. T.K.S. Meenakshi Sundaram Nadaswaram) x 5, Chennai	9 Sept.,- 24 Sept., 2000	To participate in a cultural Programme of 'Navratri Festival of Indian Music and Dance for the New Mellennium Being organised by the Music Department Wesbeyan University.
11.	USA	* Contemporary Theatre led by Shri Ratan Thiyam x 7, Imphal	17 Sept. - 30 Oct., 2000	Invitation Received from Asia Soceity, New York for Performances of "Utra Priyadarshini".
12.	USA	* Bharati Shivaji (Mohiniattam) X 5	17 Sept., Onwards	To give performances at the Invitation of Indo-American Cultural and Regional Foundation, New Jersey.
13.	Finland Germany Ireland Spain Hungary	Kohinoor Langa (Rajashtani Folk Dance Group) X 10	21 Sept., - 29 Oct., 2000	To participate in the Helsinki Festival - 2000 and Performances in Region
14.	Iraq Egypt Turkey	Ms. Aloka Kanungo (Odissi) x5	22 Sept., - 04 Oct, 2000	To participate in the "Bosra Festival" in Syria and "Babylon Festival" in Iraq.
15.	USA	* "Sarjan" Odissi Dance Group led by Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra x5, Orissa	26 Sept., - 26th Nov., 2000	To give performances at the Invitation of Centre for South Asian Arts, Palo Alto, California, USA.
16.	Mexico	Sachin Shanker Ballet x 12, Mumbai	1-18 Oct., 2000	To participate in the Cervantino Festival (4-22 October, 2000) & Performances in Region.
17.	Gulf Region	(I) Shri Irshad Khan (Sitar & Surbahar) X 3	October, 2000	To participate in the Music Festival in Bahrain and performances in Region.
18.	Gulf Region	Karagam/Dummy Horse Folk Group (Chennai) x 10.	October, 2000	To participate in the International Festival for Folklore in Oman and Performances in Region
19.	Netherlands	*Lalgudi GJR Krishnan (Violin) X 4, Chennai (T.G.)	6-15 October, 2000	To give Performances at the invitation of Royal Tropical Institute
20.	Southern Africa	Ghulam Waris and Ghulam Sabir (Qawwali) X 6	December, 2000	To give performances
21.	Middle East Region	12-Member Gujarati Folk Music & Dance Group of "Aavishkar", Ahmedabad	January, 2001	To give performances on the Occasion of India's Republic Day Celebrations.
22.	Australia & New Zealand	Chhau Dance Group X 10	March, 2001	

[Translation]

Development of Fishermen Villages

2686. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fishermen villages developed during the Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise; and

(b) the number of villages developed till date in the country particularly in Bihar under the Ninth Five Year Plan a' ongwith the targets fixed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The relevant information on the number of villages developed during the Eighth and Ninth Plan is being collected from the States, and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Farakka Barrage

2687. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Farakka Barrage Authority undertake maintenance of barrage gates on regular basis; and

(b) if so, the details of maintenance work undertaken alongwith the name of the organisation entrusted for this work and expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) and (b) Maintenance works of gates of Farakka Barrage Project is a regular feature, which includes changing of rubber seal, bearings, rope, repair of hoist system including electrical fitting, greasing, oiling of moving parts, painting and cleaning. Presently special repair of gates of Farakka Barrage Project is under progress by two companies namely M/s. NPCC Ltd and M/s. Joseph & Co. Ltd. An amount of Rs. 53.3 lakh and Rs. 74.84 lakh has been paid to these agencies respectively during the last three years *i.e.* 1997-98 to 1999-2000, which include mobilisation advance also.

[Translation]

Seed Village

2688. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to set up seed villages for the production of pulse seeds and oil seeds in Rajasthan is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the manner in which the farmers are likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Under National Pulses Development Project and Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) being implemented in the State of Rajasthan seed village Programme is an important component for the production of quality seeds of Pulses & Oilseeds in the compact area of land in the village. Under this programme an assistance of Rs. 500/- per qtl. is being provided to the States for the production of quality seeds of Pulses & Oilseeds crops with a view to ensure timely availability of seeds and to reduce the handling cost. The component of seed village scheme has been under implementation for a long time.

Fertility of Land

2689. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fertility of the drought prone areas is bound to decline;

(b) if so, the efforts made to increase the fertility of such areas during the last two years; and

(c) the progress made in this regard during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The soils of drought prone areas are, in general, low in organic carbon content and low in available nutrient content. These soils mostly belong to arid eco system regions marked by long, dry spells with very low cropping intensity.

(b) Generally, the fertility of soils improves with improvement in moisture availability to the soil. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is advocating Integrated Nutrient Management with greater recycling of organic resources to build up soil fertility.

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing various land based programmes namely:

(i) Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP) and Flood Prone Rivers (FPR).

(ii) National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas.

(iii) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas and

(iv) Reclamation of Alkali Soils, to minimise soil erosion/land degradation which ultimately result into enhanced fertility/productivity in the rainfed/ catchment areas of the country. In addition to the above, the State Governments implement their own Plan Schemes for improving fertility of such areas in their States.

(c) During the last two years, an area of 17.80 lakh ha. has been treated/developed under the various Schemes of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation at a total cost of Rs. 681.5 crores.

[English]

Establishment of Passport Offices

2690. DR. V. SAROJA:
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some more passport offices in the country;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Parliament, a new passport office should be centrally located, should consider the existing nearby offices and should get an average of 50,000 applications per annum over a period of three years. In view of the continuing shortage of staff and the norms recommended by the Standing Committee Government does not propose to open any new passport offices at present.

[Translation]

Hazardous Industrial Units

2691. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hazardous Industrial Units in the country alongwith the number of children below the age of 14 years working in these Units, State-wise, separately; and

(b) the steps taken to rehabilitate these working children alongwith the safety measures taken with regard to Hazardous Industrial Units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children in occupations and processes listed in the schedule to the Act. State wise position regarding the number of working children identified in hazardous occupations as per the affidavit filed in December, 1999 in the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Writ petition No. 465 of 1986 of M.C. Mehta Vs. State of Tamil Nadu and others is given in the attached statement.

As per provisions of the Factories Act, 1948 employment of children below 14 years of age is prohibited in factories. As such, no child below 14 years of age can be employed in any factory including hazardous units. Information on violation of provisions of the Factories Act is not centrally maintained.

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 major activity under NCLP is running special schools/centres for rehabilitation of children withdrawn fro work through non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health care, stipend etc. Under the Scheme of grant-in-aid, funds are released to Voluntary Organisations, on the recommendation of the concerned State Government, for taking up action oriented projects for the benefit of children withdrawn from work.

Statement

The number of children working in hazardous Occupations as on 30.6.99.

	Name of State/UT	No. of Child Labour Hazardous Occupations
	1	2
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	7769

1		2
3.	Arunachal Pradesh*	—
4.	Assam	92
5.	Bihar	24879
6.	Chandigarh U.T.	0
7.	Dadra & N. Haveli U.T.	0
8.	Daman & Diu U.T.	0
9.	Delhi U.T.	0
10.	Goa	35
11.	Gujarat	1417
12.	Haryana	6
13.	Himachal Pradesh	83
14.	Jammu & Kashmir*	—
15.	Karnataka	1634
16.	Kerala	1081
17.	Lakshadweep U.T.	0
18.	Madhya Pradesh	11259
19.	Maharashtra	1023
20.	Manipur	0
21.	Meghalaya	246
22.	Mizoram	0
23.	Nagaland	0
24.	Orissa	23761
25.	Pondicherry U.T.	0
26.	Punjab	91
27.	Rajasthan	3026
28.	Sikkim	0
29.	Tamil Nadu	10118
30.	Tripura	11
31.	Uttar Pradesh	24120
32.	West Bengal	254
	Total	110915

[English]

Incentives to States

2692. SHRI M. CHINNASAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to launch any scheme to provide incentives to such State Governments, which are enhancing the water storage capacity in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (c) The Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme during 1996-97 for accelerating implementation of ongoing irrigation projects including those, which are enhancing water storage capacity.

Rs. 3,835 crore of Central Loan Assistance has been provided to the States under the programme. The launch of this programme has helped in mobilizing the dormant projects and speed up the construction works on others. The programme has helped in creation of additional potential of 280.673 (Th. ha.) in 1st year, 502.882 (Th. ha) in the 2nd year and 273.781 (Th. ha) in the 3rd year. All the projects included under AIBP will help in creation of total potential of 126.3 Lakh ha. on completion.

The funds were released in the form of Central Loan Assistance (CLA) on matching basis. Considering the poor financial position of the States, funding pattern under AIBP was revised in 1997-98 and 1999-2000. According to the latest revised funding pattern with effect from the current financial year, the CLA is being released to the Special Category States comprising the NE States, hilly States of J&K, H.P. and Sikkim as well as Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts of Orissa in 3:1 (Centre: States) ratio, whereas, the ratio is 2:1 for other General Category States. In addition, all major projects (both ongoing and new) of the Special Category States are also being provided CLA in 3:1 ratio.

Indian Help for Curbing Activities of Guerillas

2693. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI E. AHAMED:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nepal Government has sought India's cooperation in controlling the activities of Maoist Guerillas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANGA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has assured the Government of Nepal of its full cooperation in preventing misuse of the open border by terrorists, criminals and other undesirable elements.

Linking of Rivers

2694. SHRI D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO:
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated any Action Plan to link major rivers as recommended by the K.L. Rao Committee to solve the problem of certain areas facing problem of floods while other areas registered perpetual drought; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) There is no Committee under the name of K.L. Rao Committee. However, Dr. K.L. Rao proposed Ganga Cauvery Link which was examined by the Central Water Commission and found to be grossly under estimated. Besides the proposal also required a large block of power and was devoid of my flood control benefits. However, the erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) and Central Water Commission have 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 utilization of water resources. The Government of India has established National Water Development Agency as an Autonomous Society in July, 1982 to carry out the water balance and other studies of National Perspective Plan.

[Translation]

Schemes for Child Labour

2695. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) details of the steps taken or likely to be taken to eradicate the child labour in Bihar;

(b) whether the Government of Bihar has prepared any concrete programme in this regard;

(c) whether the World Bank or any other financial institution is providing aid to the Government of Bihar for Integrated Child Development Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) As per information received from the State Government of Bihar, following steps have been taken to eradicate child labour in Bihar:—

(i) As per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgement in writ petition No. 465/86 dated 10.12.96, a survey on child labour was conducted according to which 24,879 child labour were identified in hazardous industries and 34,929 in the non-hazardous industries.

(ii) Bihar Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation Rules, 1995 has been enacted. Bihar Child Labour Commission Act, 1996 has also been made.

(iii) Under section 17 of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, all DM's/DC's/SDO's/C.O.'s/Cricle Inspectors/Gram Panchayat Supervisors and Block Co-Operative Extension Officers have been declared as "Inspectors" in addition to the officers of Labour Department.

(iv) Directions have been issued for strict implementation of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. 334 and 234 prosecutions have been launched during the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively.

(v) All DM's/D.C.'s were directed to ensure employment to one adult member of the family of the child withdrawn from hazardous industry in JRY/IRDP/DWACRA Employment Guarantee. Scheme/Nehru Rojgar Yojna etc.

(vi) District Level Standing Child Labour Committee have been set up in each district under the chairmanship of Distt. Magistrate.

(vii) Under the scheme of NCLP, 8 NCLPs are under operation at Nalanda, Saharsa, Jamui, Pakur, Dumka, West Singhbhum, Sahebganj and Gawhwa.

(viii) Constitution of Bihar Child Labour Commission for the eradication and rehabilitation of Child Labour.

Bihar Child Labour Commission has been given responsibility to recommend measures regarding eradication and rehabilitation of Child Labour.

(c) and (d) No such aid is being provided to the State Government of Bihar under I.C.D.S.

[English]

Smuggling of Maids

2696. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any case of smuggling of maids of Gulf countries by illegal labour exporting and other agencies has come to the notice of the Government during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to impose a ban on such maids being sent to the these countries; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Sporadic complaints regarding cheating of intending emigrants are received against the agencies engaged in the business of recruitment of Indian maids for overseas employment. While some of the agencies against whom the complaints are received, are registered with the Govt. under the Emigration Act, 1983, others are operating unauthorisedly. Complaints generally relate to collection of service charges in excess of the amount provided for under the rules, collection of money from the intending emigrants but not actually sending them for overseas employment, sending some of the workers to the other countries against non-existent jobs and in some cases changing the terms and condition of employment of the workers on reaching the alien land, to their disadvantage. During the last three years, the number of such complaints received by the Govt. was as under:

From: Year	No. of Complaints
1997	91
1998	122
1999	163

With a view to curbing the activities of unauthorised agents, detailed guide-lines have been issued to the State Governments for issue of necessary instruction right upto the police station level for keeping strict vigil on the activities of agents and registration of cases against them.

(c) and (d) The ban on deployment of housemaids and male domestics in Kuwait was imposed by the Government in view of the complaints relating to harassment, non-payment/delayed payment of wages etc. The ban on deployment of male domestics has since been lifted. The question of lifting the ban or otherwise on deployment of housemaids in Kuwait can be considered only after Government is assured that such deployment would be as per the terms and conditions of employment.

Indo-Nepal Extradition Treaty

2697. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new Indo-Nepal extradition treaty is on the anvil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for which it has been required to change the modalities of existing extradition treaty; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The question of updating the Extradition Treaty of 1953 between India and Nepal was discussed during the visit of a delegation led by Shri Kamal Pande, Home Secretary,

Government of India, to Nepal from July 4-7, 2000 for Home Secretary-level talks.

(b) to (d) During those discussions, the two sides agreed on the need for updating of the existing bilateral extradition arrangements in keeping with the requirements of their law enforcement agencies and the changed nature of crimes. It was agreed that the experts of the two sides would meet shortly to hold discussions on a draft of the revised bilateral extradition arrangements and submit its report to the two Governments at an early date.

[Translation]

Trade Base Agro Product

2698. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified potential areas for successfully conducting the trade based on agro products in food processing industry in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the names of trades for which possibilities have been explored in the country, location-wise; and

(c) the number of persons likely to get employment under these trades and the total capital required in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) Although no specific study relating to these aspects has been carried out, the production data available from the statistical records and from the general studies broadly it is possible to identify at macro-level the potential for development of area specific industries utilizing the available agro-horticultural raw material.

(b) The potential for processed food sector in the country is immense in view of the abundance of the agro-horticultural produces. Based on the raw material availability in the particular region, the scope for setting up of food processing units in each region is as under:—

Eastern Region-litchi, mangoes, tomato, chikkoos, banana etc.

Northern Eastern Region-pineapple, passion fruit, orange, banana, ginger, etc.

Western Region-grapes, mangoes, oranges, potato, onion, garlic etc.

Northern Region-Apple, potato, tomato, hops etc.

Southern Region-Mangoes, banana, gherking, tapioca, tomato etc.

(c) As per the Working Group Report on the Formulation of 9th Five Year Plan for Food processing Industries, with an investment of Rs. 28,250 crores, it is estimated that around 2 million persons can get employment. The employment generation potential of the food processing sector is much more than other sectors.

Per Hectare Production

2699. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several parts of the country are still lagging far behind in the matter of per hectare production;

(b) if so, the details of the production per hectare, State-wise;

(c) whether in most parts of the country, per hectare production is still decreasing despite incurring more expenditure than required;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the area of irrigated land is also decreasing;

(f) if so, the State-wise position of the irrigated land during the last three years; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the area of irrigated land in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The State-wise details of expected yields rates i.e. production per hectare of rice, whet, pulses and oilseeds for the year 1999-2000 vis-a-vis those of 1997-98 and 1998-99 re given in the statement. It can be seen from the statement that the yield rates in some States are better than those of others. In fact, the inter-State differentials in yield rates always prevail, for yield rates depend on a large number of factors such as agro-

climatic conditions, farm size, timely and optimal application of quality inputs, managerial/entrepreneurial capabilities of farmers, development and adoption of package of improved practices besides level of investment.

(c) and (d) It can be seen from the attached statement that while yield rates of production of rice and wheat are generally increasing in a large number of States, it is fluctuating in case of pulses and oilseeds.

Further, ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) lays due emphasis on enhancing and sustaining the crop productivity under different eco-system through adoption of improved cultivators, efficient input use and integrated pest management practices.

(e) and (f) The net irrigated area during three years viz 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 was 53.00 million hectares, 53.40 million hectares and 55.14 million hectares respectively. It is, thus, seen that the area of irrigated land is increasing.

(g) The Government accord a high priority to creation of irrigation potential and its optimum utilisation. With a view to ensuring early completion of irrigation projects, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) was launched. Central Loan Assistance under AIBP is also provided for minor irrigation projects of north-eastern region, hill States and drought prone districts of Orissa. The other steps taken to extend irrigation benefits to more areas include promotion of better water management practices, installation of sprinkler and drip irrigation systems in water scarce and drought prone areas, conjunctive use of surface and ground water. Further, to reduce the gap between the irrigation potential created and utilised, Command Area Development Programme is being implemented for systematic development and management of command areas of irrigation projects to optimise agricultural production for bringing sustainability.

Statement

State-wise Yield Rates of Rice, Wheat, Pulses and Oilseeds for the year during 1997-98 to 1999-2000

(Kg/hectare)

	Rice			Wheat			Pulses			Oilseeds		
State/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	2431	2781	2686	545	670	600	330	487	532	548	827	558
Assam	1359	1345	1451	1300	1010	1012	547	545	516	549	474	460
Bihar	1395	1301	1352	2337	1992	2061	731	764	789	737	699	790
Gujarat	1550	1633	1483	2373	2427	1923	685	735	588	1312	1308	620
Haryana	2800	2239	2386	3660	3916	4167	888	827	633	712	1279	1071
Himachal Pradesh	1397	1423	1395	1700	1700	1266	361	366	514	479	516	389
Jammu & Kashmir	1992	2179	2339	1620	1530	1515	564	575	897	680	677	718
Karnataka	2374	2529	2397	473	819	688	295	398	369	551	702	666
Kerala	1975	1891	2135	—	—	—	798	788	793	792	738	722
Madhya Pradesh	834	1013	1191	1573	1794	1823	655	709	739	917	912	992
Maharashtra	1621	1664	1681	898	1289	1227	364	644	607	646	991	964
Orissa	1380	1212	1122	1320	1189	1333	364	357	361	452	460	435
Punjab	3465	3152	3347	3853	4332	4697	683	654	688	1129	1193	1088

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Rajasthan	1164	1223	1265	2501	2487	2540	600	526	364	746	886	924
Tamil Nadu	3050	3443	3247	—	—	—	413	463	430	1476	1579	1410
Uttar Pradesh	2148	1958	2176	2495	2510	2660	830	835	874	581	710	813
West Bengal	2243	2255	2257	2206	2117	2187	688	621	826	761	778	944
All India	1900	1928	1962	2485	2583	2707	567	622	612	816	944	852

*-Based on advance estimates as on 29.06.2000

[English]

Agricultural Land

2700. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a vast area of agricultural land is yet to be made cultivable in Goa;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial assistance provided by the Union Government for the above purpose; and

(c) the total area of agricultural land brought under cultivation in Goa with Union Government assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is about 55,680 ha. of agricultural land which need to be developed for agriculture purposes in the State of Goa. Uptil now an area of about 19,138 ha. has been brought under cultivation with the financial assistance of Rs. 1251 lakhs released by the Government of India under the following programmes namely:

(i) Package programme for Development of Cashew.

(ii) Integrated Development of Tropical and Arid Zone fruits.

(iii) National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas and.

(iv) Western Ghat Development Programme.

[Translation]

Schemes for Bidi Workers

2701. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE:
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Bidi workers in the country State-wise;

(b) the details of the various schemes introduced by the Government for the welfare of these workers; and

(c) the number of beneficiaries of these schemes, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) A statement indicating the number of beedi workers, State-wise, is attached in the Statement-I.

(b) Government is implementing various welfare schemes under the Beedi Workers Welfares Fund, in the fields of Health, Housing, Social Security, Education and Recreation for the benefits of beedi workers and their dependents. A list of such schemes is attached in the given Statement-II.

(c) Data regarding number of beneficiaries is not maintained State-wise. A list indicating the number of beneficiaries Region-wise, during the year 1999-2000 is attached in the given Statement-III.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Total No. of Beedi 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	4,97,758
	Total	44,11,275

Statement-II

A. Health

1. Static-cum-Mobile/Static Allopathic and Static Ayurvedic Dispensaries.
2. Scheme for Reservation of Beds in T.B. Hospitals.
3. Scheme for Domiciliary Treatment of beedi workers suffering from T.B.
4. Scheme for Treatment of Beedi Workers suffering from Cancer.
5. Scheme for Treatment of Beedi Workers suffering from Mental Diseases.
6. Scheme for Treatment of Beedi Workers (including Gharkhata Workers) suffering from Leprosy.
7. Grant of Financial Assistance to Beedi Workers for purchase of Spectacles.
8. Maternity Benefit Scheme for Female Beedi Workers.
9. Scheme for payment of Monetary Compensation for Sterilisation to Beedi Workers.
10. Re-imbursement of expenditure as financial assistance to Beedi Workers in respect of Heart Diseases.
11. Re-imbursement of expenditure as financial assistance to Beedi Workers in respect of Kidney Transplantation.

B. Social Security:

1. Group Insurance Scheme.

C. Housing:

1. Integrated Housing Scheme.
2. Grant of subsidy to Co-operative Societies of Beedi Industry for construction of worksheds and godowns.

D. Education:

1. Award of Scholarship to the Children of Beedi Workers (including Gharkhata Beedi Workers).
2. Composite Scheme for Financial Asssitance to the School going children of Beedi Workers for supply of one set of dress, slates, note books and text books.
3. Payment of incentives on passing final University/ Board examinations from High School onwards.
4. Scheme to provide incentive/financial assistance of Re. 1/- to female children of Beedi Workers, on the basis of attendance in schools.

E. Recreation:

1. Establishment of Audio-Visual Sets/Cinema Vans/ Exhibition of Films.
2. Organising sports, games, social and cultural activities for Beedi Workers.
3. Holiday Home Scheme for Beedi Workers.
4. Supply of T.V. Sets to the Beedi Workers Industrial Co-operative Societies.
5. Establishment of Community Hall in Beedi Workers Housing Colony with colour T.V. Set.

Statement-III

Name of the Region	No. of Beneficiaries
Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh)	364469
Bangalore (Karnataka & Kerala)	963856
Bhilwara (Gujarat & Rajasthan)	304090
Bhubaneshwar (Orissa)	487095
Calcutta (West Bengal & Assam & Tripura)	1233263
Hyderabad (Tamil Nadu & Andhra Pradesh)	1293949
Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh)	985382
Karma (Bihar)	882157
Nagpur (Maharashtra)	318265

[English]

Employment Opportunities Under PMRY

2702. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for providing employment opportunities under Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) during last three years till July, 2000;

(b) the number of persons benefited as against the target fixed, State-wise;

(c) the amount sanctioned/released for providing employment and other assistance during last three years and current year till July 2000; and

(d) the States which have achieved the physical targets during said period?

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 statement-I showing State-wise target fixed and the persons benefited for the last three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana as reported by the Reserve Bank of India is enclosed.

(c) The statement-II showing the budget allocation and the amount released for subsidy, training and entrepreneurial development etc. during the last three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and for the current year i.e. 2000-2001 (upto 31/07/2000) under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana is enclosed.

(d) The statement-III showing names of the State/UTs which have achieved the allocated target for the year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 based on the reports received from the Reserve Bank of India is enclosed.

Statement-I

State-wise target fixed and number of persons benefited under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for the last three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000.
(As reported by Reserve Bank of India on 02.08.2000.)

Sl. No.	States/UT	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Plan Target (Nos.)	Disbursement by banks (Nos.)	Plan Target (Nos.)	Disbursement by banks. (Nos.)	Plan Target (Nos.)	Disbursement by banks. (Nos.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Northern Region							
1.	Haryana	4200	4925	4150	5736	4150	3845

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Himachal Pradesh	2300	2009	2300	1917	2450	1690
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	1300	1969	1300	835	1300	772
4.	Punjab	4500	7934	4500	8068	4250	6622
5.	Rajasthan	8200	9681	8150	10026	8050	7339
6.	Chandigarh	600	114	100	75	500	42
7.	Delhi	4700	755	4700	506	4850	502
North Eastern Region							
8.	Assam	6700	7437	6700	5425	6400	2176
9.	Manipur	100	658	1000	393	1000	40
10.	Meghalaya	300	377	300	201	300	107
11.	Nagaland	250	335	250	39	200	20
12.	Tripura	650	211	650	105	560	41
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	150	178	125	166	100	22
14.	Mizoram	200	334	200	34	200	1
15.	Sikkim	100	58	100	45	100	38
Eastern Region							
16.	Bihar	21500	12139	20500	8205	21800	5388
17.	Orissa	6800	4903	6700	2906	7100	569
18.	West Bengal	23000	4017	23000	2615	22800	1758
19.	Andaman & Nicobar	100	61	100	76	75	92
Central Region							
20.	Madhya Pradesh	15400	22231	15400	19054	15800	10765
21.	Uttar Pradesh	25800	31476	25800	34830	26000	29110
Western Region							
22.	Gujarat	8400	7110	8300	10670	8300	9615
23.	Maharashtra	21300	30514	21250	26352	21800	20956
24.	Daman & Diu	50	23	25	21	25	16
25.	Goa	600	251	600	301	500	380
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	50	67	25	28	50	25
Southern Region							
27.	Andhra Pradesh	17100	20556	17100	15092	16800	9757
28	Karnataka	11000	14021	10950	12791	11100	7418

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
29.	Kerala	16000	11542	16000	11756	16000	10026
30.	Tamil Nadu	18500	12745	18400	11289	17000	9142
31.	Lakshadweep	50	40	50	31	20	19
32.	Pondicherry	500	308	500	319	500	206
	Not Specified	12	—	—	6	—	—
	All India	221312	208979	219225	189850	220080	138499

*Disbursement May go up.

Statement-II

The Budget Allocation and the Amount Released under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana during the last three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and during 2000-2001 (upto 31.07.2000)

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Year	Budget Allocation	Funds released
1.	1997-98	95.00	94.86
2.	1998-99	135.50	135.50
3.	1999-2000	190.00	190.00
4.	2000-2001 (upto 31.07.2000)	201.00	30.00

Statement-III

States which have achieved the Allocated target for the Year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

(Based on the Reserve Bank of India Report)

Sl. No.	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000*
1	2	3	4
1.	Haryana	Haryana	Punjab
2.	Jammu & Kashmir	Punjab	Uttar Pradesh
3.	Punjab	Rajasthan	Gujarat
4.	Rajasthan	Madhya Pradesh	—
5.	Assam	Uttar Pradesh	—
6.	Meghalaya	Gujarat	—
7.	Nagaland	Maharashtra	—
8.	Arunachal Pradesh	Karnataka	—

1	2	3	4
9.	Orissa	—	—
10.	Mizoram	—	—
11.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—
12.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—
13.	Maharashtra	—	—
14.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—
15.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—
16.	Karnataka	—	—

*Provisional

Abolition of Child Labour

2703. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sent any communiqué to the Chief Ministers of all the States regarding maintaining regular dialogue for monitoring the progress regarding abolition of child labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the State Governments thereon and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure abolition of this social evil;

(d) whether the Government have received any item bound programme from the State Governments in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the child labour is likely to be abolished from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A communiqué dated 19.2.2000 has been sent to Chief Ministers of all the States. The communiqué, inter-alia, requests taking of decisive and convergent action to release children from work and secure their rehabilitation by pooling resources of various developmental programmes; initiating steps for setting up a State Level Authority with representatives from all concerned Departments for coordinated action towards the elimination of child labour and gearing up the enforcement machinery under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, Factories Act, Mines Act, Motor Transport Workers' Act, Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, etc.

(c) to (f) Government of India has been implementing two schemes for rehabilitation of child labour, namely the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) and the scheme of Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations. 93 NCLPs are currently under implementation in 11 child labour endemic States for rehabilitation of 1.9 lakh children. Government has approved the continuance of the scheme of NCLP for the duration of the Ninth Five Year Plan and expansion of number of projects upto 100.

Under the scheme of Grant-in-Aid, funds are released to the Voluntary Organisations, on the recommendations of the concerned State Government, for taking up action oriented projects for the benefit of working children. Over 60 projects are currently under implementation under the scheme of Grant-in-Aid.

The above two schemes are continuing in the year 2000-2001 also. Government is committed to the goal of eradication of Child labour in all its forms. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, gradual, sequential approach has been adopted to withdraw and rehabilitate child labour.

Income Ceiling for OBC Reservation

2704. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the determination of creamy layer among OBCs to exclude them from reservation benefits is done on the basis of gross annual income which was fixed at Rs. 1 lakh and above in 1993;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to revise this income limit in view of the hike in the salary of the employees and the substantial increase in the price index; 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) As per one of the existing criteria, son (s) and daughter (s) of OBCs having gross annual income of Rs. 1 Lakh or above for the period of three consecutive years are to be excluded from the reservation benefits.

(b) and (c) The proposal for revision of the income criterion mentioned in part (a) above in under examination in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in consultation with other Ministries/Departments/Commissions concerned.

Repatriation of Indians

2705. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Indians were repatriated from Saudi Arabia recently who were employed illegally over there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of Indians who are yet to be repatriated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Saudi Government had announced an Amnesty period from April 20, 2000 to July 2, 2000, for overstayers and violators of the residence permit rules, during which they could either get their residential status regularized or leave the country to avoid penal action. The Indian Embassy in Riyadh and Consulate General in Jeddah issued Emergency Certificates to 7048 Indian nationals, who wished to leave Saudi Arabia under the Amnesty Scheme.

(c) It is estimated that approximately 4500 illegal residents have already returned to India and the Saudi authorities are gradually permitting the remaining persons to leave, after verifying that no charges or claims are pending against them.

[Translation]

Setting of FPI

2706. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total subsidy and other facilities provided to entrepreneurs for setting up of food processing industries in the country;

(b) the type of food processing industries which are viable and economically beneficial for Maharashtra;

(c) whether any detailed study has been conducted by the Union Government in regard to Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) Department of Food Processing Industries under Plan schemes provided financial assistance in the form of grant and soft loan to Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), Cooperatives, Private Industry, Public Sector Undertakings, Human Resources Development (HRD) and Research and Development (R&D) institutions for the development of processed food industries amounting to Rs. 177.11 crores during 8th Plan and Rs. 90.65 crores till 31st March, 2000 during the 9th Plan.

(b) As per the production figures of agro-horticultural produce, there is potential for setting up food processing industries based on grapes, mangoes, banana, potato, onion & other vegetables, meat & poultry, fish, milk grain & cereals etc., in Maharashtra.

(c) and (d) Although the Department has not conducted such a study, financial assistance has been provided in the Maharshtra Fisheries Development Corporation and Maharashtra Industrial & Technical

Consultancy Organisation for undertaking studies and surveys for assessing the potential for setting up food processing industries in the State of Maharashtra.

Committee on Governors

2707. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:

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

(a) whether in a conference of the Governors of States held on July 13, 2000 it was decided that a high-level Committee of Governors be constituted for investigation of cases relating to gross irregularities in the implementation of programmes meant for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and non-utilisation of funds earmarked for them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said Committee has been constituted;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) In the conference of Governors held on 12th and 13th July, 2000, it was decided to constitute a Committee of Governors for recording their views and reflection on the implementation of Welfare programmes meant for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(b) to (e) The matter is under consideration.

[English]

Recognition of Informal Sector

2708. SHRI SAHIB SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recommendations of International Labour Organization (ILO) regarding Informal Sector Employment in India;

(b) the percentage of labour in Informal Sector in Metropolitan Cities namely Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta, Bangalore, Ahmedabad and Kanpur etc.;

(c) whether the Government propose to recognise and formalise labour forces to improve the economy of the country; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) A national workshop on the strategic approach to job creation in the urban informal sector was jointly organised by the ILO, Ministry of Labour and the Institute of Labour Development in February, 2000 in which it was concluded that decent work conditions in the informal sector can be achieved in India by enforcing minimum labour standards, promoting enterprise and entrepreneurship development and imparting skill training. The Conference also concluded that with an appropriate policy, it should be possible to provide social protection to many more workers in the informal economy compared to today and organisation of workers in the informal sector can create the conditions for lending a voice to workers in the informal economy.

(b) These figures are not maintained separately for metropolitan cities.

(c) and (d) Workers both in the formal and informal sectors in India, enjoy the right to form associations and bargain for their wages and rights through laws and regulations. Workers can register their associations under the Trade Union Act, 1926 of India. However, most of the workers in the informal sector remain unorganised for various reasons such as seasonal nature of their work, fragmentation of the activities, lack of awareness and inadequate unionisation. Recently trade unions are increasingly taking steps to make their organisations more relevent and responsive to the informal sector. There are, however, no legal restrictions on their unionisation.

Flood Control

2709. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI TARUN GOGOI:
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that several districts of Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and particularly of West Bengal are severely affected by the devastating flood, excessive soil erosion and water logging caused by Ganga, Brahamaputra and their several tributaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation from any Member of Parliament of West Bengal in this regard;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon;

(e) whether any long term and short term measure have been taken by the Government to control the regular flood in above States; and

(f) if so, the special additional funds provided by the Government to above such State during the current financial year to control the flood menace?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Flood Problem in Assam: The flood prone area of Assam is nearly 31.5 lakh ha out of total geographical area of 78.5 lakh ha. This consists of 28 lakh ha flood prone area in Brahmaputra Valley and 3.5 lakh ha in Barak Valley. There are 30 identified pockets of drainage congestion in the State. The districts generally affected by floods are Dhemaji, Golaghat, Jorhat, North Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Dhubri, Darrang Morigaon, Goalpara, Nalbari and Barpeta.

Flood problem in West Bengal: The State of West Bengal has a geographical area of about 88.75 lakh ha out of which 26.5 lakh ha is flood prone. West Bengal is affected by devastating flood, excessive soil erosion and water logging caused by Ganga/Padma and its tributaries like Mahananda, Punarbhaba, Bhagirathi, Hooghly, Mayurakshi, Ajoy, Damodar etc. The most frequently affected districts are North and South Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, Burdwan, Birbhum, Midnapore, Howrah, Hooghly and North and South 24 Parganas.

Flood problem in Bihar: The flood prone area of Bihar is nearly 42.6 lakh ha out of the total geographical area of 173.88 lakh ha. Bihar is affected by devastating flood, excessive soil erosion and water logging caused by rivers Bagmati, Adhwara, Kamla Balan, Kosi, Mahananda, Punpun, Sone, Ghagra, Ganga, Gandak and Burhi Gandak. The districts generally affected by floods are Muzaffarpur. West Champaran, East Champaran, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Saran, Gopajganj, Darbhanga, Samstipur, Madhepura, Saharsa, Supaul, Madhubani, Purnea, Araria, Kishanganj, Katihar Begusarai, Khagaria, Bhagalpur, Sehebaganj, Pakur, Patna and Jehanabad.

Flood problem in Uttar Pradesh: Uttar Pradesh has a geographical area of 294.41 lakh ha out of which 73.4 lakh ha is liable to floods. The main rivers that cause floods in Uttar Pradesh are Ghagra, Ganga, Gandak, Ken, Rapti, Betwa, and Yamuna. The districts generally affected by floods are Khiri, Gorakhpur, Gonda, Sidharthnagar, Kushinagar, Sant Kabirnagar and Bharaich.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Flood Control is a State subject: Planning execution and maintenance of flood management works is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Centre renders technical, catalytical and promotional assistance. In response to the representations from the Members of Parliament, the Central Government has requested the State Government of West Bengal to take appropriate action as desired by the Hon'ble M.Ps. from the State Plan funds.

In addition, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for taking up anti erosion measures in some of the critically affected reaches has been formulated by the Central Government. The Planning Commission and the Expenditure Finance Committee have already cleared the scheme.

(e) and (f) State Governments have been undertaking location specific schemes as per requirement. The State Government of Assam has undertaken a number of flood control schemes in the flood affected areas of the State under Central assistance. Brahmaputra Board has undertaken the construction of Harang Drainage Development Scheme in Barak Valley to remove the Drainage congestion in that area. Brahmaputra Board has prepared Master Plans for Brahmaputra and Barak Basins and sent the same to the State Government of Assam and other concerned States for implementation. The Master Plans emphasize both short term and long term measures to control floods in the region. State Government of West Bengal and Farakka Barrage Project Authority are implementing the recommendations of the Expert Committee to prevent the soil erosion problem in the Ganga-Padma river system. Ganga Flood Control Commission renders technical assistance as and when requested by the State Government of West Bengal.

An amount of Rs. 20.00 crore have been earmarked in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for State Government of Assam during the current financial year to undertake flood control and anti erosion schemes in the State.

An amount of Rs. 30 crore has been earmarked for the State Government of West Bengal in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for flood management/anti erosion

measures during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002. In the current financial year, an amount of Rs. 2.52 crore has been provided for flood management/anti erosion work through Farakka Barrage Project Authority. In addition to this, an amount of Rs. 17.50 crore has been earmarked in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Farakka Barrage Project Authority for undertaking anti erosion schemes in Malda and Murshidabad districts during the 9th Plan period.

Outlay of Rs. 5 crore, Rs. 2 crore and Rs. 1 crore have been provided in the current financial year for the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely (i) Flood Protection works in Kosi and Gandak rivers (ii) Flood Proofing Programme in North Bihar and (iii) Raising and Strengthening of existing embankments along Lalbakeya, Kamla, Bagamti and Khando rivers respectively in Bihar State.

In addition to this an amount of Rs. 39.50 crore and Rs. 20.00 crore have been earmarked for Bihar and Uttar Pradesh respectively in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002.

[Translation]

Minimum Support Price

2710. YOGI ADITYA NATH:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to provide remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any measures to declare minimum support price and bonus timely and give it wide publicity;

(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.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (e) The Government announces each season the minimum support prices (MSP) for major agricultural commodities so as to provide incentives to the farmers to increase production and productivity. The MSPs include not only cost of production, but also a reasonable margin of profit to the farmers. All efforts are made to announce timely the MSPs. After announcement by the Government, wide publicity is given to the MSPs fixed by the Government through media, like T.V. Radio, Newspapers, etc.

[English]

Clearance to Irrigation Projects

2711. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for the clearance of Yellampalli, Polavaram, Dummugudem and Ichampalli irrigation projects of the State;

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

(c) the time by which the proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (c) Only the detailed project reports of Polavaram Project and Ichampalli Irrigation Project have been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. These projects have not yet been cleared as clearance of any project is linked with many factors such as its techno-economic viability, resolution of inter-State issues and obtaining clearance from environment and forests angle etc.

[Translation]

Milk Schemes

2712. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of milk schemes being run by the Union Government in the country;

(b) the steps taken to provide the benefits of these schemes to each village in the country;

(c) whether the Government contemplate to introduce any new milk scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the places where these schemes are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The Union Government is implementing the following schemes:—

(i) Integrated Dairy Development Project (IDDP) for Non-Operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas.

(ii) Assistance to Cooperatives.

Under Operation Flood (OF) (1970-96) about 84,289 cooperative societies have been established and covering 106.08 lakh farmers who are the members of these village dairy cooperatives.

The areas which were not covered under OF and which are hilly and backward, are being covered under the scheme Integrated Dairy Development Project (IDDP). The scheme Assistance to Cooperative aims to provide financial assistance to potentially viable Unions/ Federations.

(c) and (d) Implementation of any new scheme is not being contemplated at this stage.

Hathni Kund Barrage

2713. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of Hathni Kund in Yamuna Nagar district of Haryana has since been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the barrage is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The agreement for the construction of Hathni Kund Barrage and its appurtenant works was signed with the construction company on September 19, 1996, the Hathni Kund Barrage was formally dedicated to the Haryana State on July 9, 1999 through the scheduled date of completion was by the end of September, 1999.

(c) Does not arise.

Ash from Power Plants

2714. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fully ash emanating from power plants is providing to be helpful in increasing the agricultural production;

(b) if so, whether any test in this regard have been conducted;

(c) the extent of increase in agricultural production in percentage as a result thereof; and

(d) the quantity of fly ash that emanates from various thermal power plants in the country every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K SATYANARAYANA RAO). (a) Preliminary studies carried out by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under the Government of India on the use of fly ash in agriculture show that it has potential of being helpful in increasing crop production.

(b) and (c) The ICAR have conducted short term studies on crops, such as, bajra, mustard, wheat, rice and groundnut where yield increase has been observed. The Department of Science and Technology under the Govt. of India, is also implementing a Mission Project on fly ash. Under this Project, with the use of fly ash, an average increase in crop yields of the order of 15-25% has been observed. Fly ash also contains toxic/heavy metals which may affect that soil health adversely in the long run. The results of long term studies under the Mission Project will, therefore, help in understanding the overall effect of fly ash on crop yields and soil productivity.

(d) The production of fly ash from various Thermal Power Stations in the country during 1998-99 was estimated to be around 80.0 million tonnes.

[English]

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme

2715. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to include horticulture produce and fruits under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS);

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount allocated by the Government for implementation of the NAIS for the year 2000-2001, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) envisages coverage of cereals, millets, pulses, oilseeds and annual commercial/horticultural crops. It does not cover perennial horticultural/fruit crops for the time being because of their longer life span, as compared to the annual crops. However, insurance policies covering personal crops like apple and other horticultural/plantation crops are available with subsidiary companies of the General Insurance Corporation of India.

(c) An amount of Rs. 100.00 crore has been earmarked for implementation of NAIS during 2000-2001. Under the scheme funds are released to the implementing Agency and as such, no State-wise allocation has been made.

Starvation Deaths

2716. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of starvation deaths occurred in the country during the last one year, State-wise and recently in Kerala; and

(b) the reasons therefor alongwith the steps proposed to be 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) and (b) No report on starvation deaths during the last one year has been received from any State Government including Kerala.

Food Parks

2717. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Parks are proposed to be established initially in Indore and Ratlam Districts in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the grants provided by the Government for infrastructure development;

(c) whether more than hundred private Agro Based Industries will come up after establishment of the Food Parks;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the criteria for selecting the districts of the same region of the State for establishing such parks;

(f) whether the Government also proposed to set up Food Park in the Jabalpur district in future; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) Department of Food Processing Industries received a proposal from the Directorate of Commerce & Small Scale Industries, Madhya Pradesh for setting up a Food Park in Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh. The proposal was incomplete in may respects and has been referred back to the concerned Department for completion.

(b) to (d) Assistance is provided under the Plan Scheme for setting up such parks to create common facilities in the form of uninterrupted power supply, cold storage/ice plant/warehousing facility, effluent treatment plant, quality control and analytical laboratory and major processing facility like fruit concentrate/pulp making unit etc., so that the high capital intensive common facilities could be used by the down stream secondary processor to manufacture higher value added products with lesser investments. These estates/parks can be set up by PSUs/ Joint/Assisted/Private Sector/NGOs/Cooperatives. The assistance provided is up to Rs. 400 lakhs.

(e) The selection of site for setting up the estate/ park is decided by the promoter organization depending on various factors which may include availability of land, raw material, power, water supply, and other infrastructure facilities.

(f) and (g) No such proposal has been received.

Poultry Products

2718. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a representation from the Tamil Nadu Poultry Farmers'

Welfare Association highlighting the plight of the broiler industry because of the removal of Quantitative Restrictions on poultry products; and

(b) the steps being taken to save the Indian broiler industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The following steps have been taken:

(i) The custom duty on import of poultry meat has been enhanced from 35% to 100% to protect the broiler domestic producer.

(ii) Ministry of Commerce has formulated various schemes under which financial assistance is provided for poultry products for export promotion and market development of poultry products and air freight subsidy on export of hatching eggs.

(iii) Department of Food Processing Industries is implementing a scheme for Development of Poultry and Egg Processing under which financial assistance is provided to Cooperatives, Non Government Organisations, Public Sector Undertakings, Joint Sector Projects and Private Sector.

Vacant Posts of SC/ST

2719. SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINAGI:
SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Forum of SC/ST MPs' in the representations submitted to the Prime Minister on 17.12.1996, 1.9.1997 and 23.7.1998 have demanded posting of adequate number of persons belonging to the SCs/STs as Officers in important posts/assignments in all Deptts. under GoI;

(b) if so, the details of the number of posts of Professors and equivalent thereof in Agricultural Universities/Deemed Universities and their affiliated educational institutions receiving aid from Central Government and number of SCs/STs persons working against such posts as on 1.1.1996 and their percentage as compared to the total posts;

(c) the number of persons appointed to such posts from 1.1.997 onwards and number of SC/ST persons among them and their percentage as compared to total such appointments; and

(d) the nature/composition of the Committees/Boards which select persons for such posts and provisions made for associating persons belonging to the SCs/STs on such Committees/Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No such representations have been received in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

National Statistical Commission

2720. SHRI KRISHNAMARJU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Statistical Commission has given any interim or preliminary report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the recommendations or report is likely to be submitted by the National Statistical Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The National Statistical Commission has been constituted on 19th January 2000 and it is expected to submit its report to the government within a period of twelve months from the date of its establishment.

[Translation]

Nawada and Upper Sakari Irrigation Projects

2721. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board propose to complete the pending rain water harvesting irrigation project, viz. Nawada and Upper Sakari Jalashay Yojana in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the time by which the work on these projects is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) and (b) As per information available in the Ministry of Water Resources, there is no project by the name of Nawada in Bihar. However, Tilaiya Dhadar Project benefiting Nawada district has recently been accepted by the Advisory Committee, subject to certain conditions. The Upper Sakari Reservoir Project was accepted by the Advisory Committee in 1984, with certain observations. However, the State Government has submitted a modified report in 1998 which has been examined and comments have been sent for necessary compliance. Being a State subject irrigation projects are planned, investigated, implemented and funded by the State Governments as per their own priorities. The commencement of work can, however, be undertaken after necessary statutory clearances are obtained by the State Government.

[English]

Kidnappings of Indian Fishermen

2722. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of recent kidnappings of Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan authorities;

(b) if so, whether these incidents are occurring often;

(c) if so, the steps taken to secure their release; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Government has received no reports of kidnapping of Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan authorities.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

External Aided Irrigation Schemes/Projects

2723. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects relating to irrigation, water resources, modernization of canals and ground water conservation are being implemented in the country with external assistance;

(b) whether the work on these schemes have been completed or going on as per their target date;

(c) if not, the number out of them suspended alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) whether some projects out of them are likely to be completed during 2000-2001 in the country, particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (f) Twenty externally aided projects relating to Irrigation, water resources modernization of canals and ground water conservation are being implemented in the country of which one project each in Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Manipur, Orissa and Rajasthan is likely to be completed in 2000-2001. There is one ongoing project in Madhya Pradesh which is targeted to be completed in February, 2003. All the projects are going on within their target dates and none of the projects has been suspended. Status of the projects is indicated in statement attached.

Statement

S. No.	State	Name of the Project	Donor Agency	Date of Commencement/ completion	Total Cost of the Project (Rs. Crores)	Amount of Assistance Million	Utilization up to 30.06.2000 Million	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	(i) AP-III Irrigation Project	World Bank	03.06.1997 31.01.2003	1889.78	US $325.00	US $85.164	Ongoing

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		(ii) APERP (Irrigation Component)	World Bank	30.01.1999 31.03.2004	932.60	US $142.00	US $50.00	Ongoing
		(iii) Modernisation of KC canal project	JBIC-Japan	25.01.1996 26.03.2003	1033.74	Yen 16049.00	Yen 1642.42	Ongoing
		(iv) APWELL Irrigation Project	Nehterlands	14.11.1994 14.11.2002	73.00	NLG 37.00	NLG 19.58	Ongoing
2.	Gujarat	(v) Hydroplus Fusegate System	France	10.12.1998 31.12.2000	40.28	FF 34.74	FF 0.00	Likely to be completed in 2000-2001
3.	Haryana	(vi) Haryana Water Resources Consolidation Project	World Bank	06.04.1994 31.12.2000	1858.00	US $258.00	US $152.80	Likely to be completed during 2000-2001
4.	Kerala	(vii) Community Irrigation Project	Netherlands	15.12.1993 30.06.2000	16.32	NLG 6.175	NLG 2.805	Proposed for extension
		(viii) Kerala Minor irrigation Project	EEC	21.05.1992 31.12.2000	60.00	ECU 11.80	ECU 2.770	Likely to be completed 2000-2001
5.	Maharashtra	(ix) Maharashtra Minor Irrigation Project	Kfw-Germany	31.12.1998 31.12.2006	115.79	DM 45.00	DM 0.00	Ongoing
6.	Madhya Pradesh	(x) Rajghat Canal Project	JBC-Japan	12.12.1997 05.02.2003	523.41	Yen 13222.00	Yen 1592.60	Ongoing
7.	Manipur	(xi) Ground Water Exploration Project	France	20.11.1998 31.12.2001	2.94	FF 4.53	FF 0.00	Ongoing
8.	Orissa	(xii) Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project	World Bank	05.01.1996 30.09.2002	1409.00	US $290.90	US $133.74	Ongoing
		(xiii) Rengali Irrigation Project	JBIC-Japan	12.12.1997 05.02.2003	510.90	Yen 7760.00	Yen 1922.13	Ongoing
		(xiv) Lift Irrigation Project	Kfw-Germany	19.02.1993 31.12.2000	119.55	DM 50.00	DM. 38.30	Likely to be completed in 2000-2001

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		(xv) Orissa Minor Irrigation Project	EEC	03.07.1995 31.12.2004	50.80	ECU 10.70	ECU 0.465	Ongoing
9.	Pondicherry	(xvi) Modernisation of Tank Irrigation system	EEC	21.02.1997 21.02.2004	32.84	ECU 6.65	ECU 0.72	Ongoing
10.	Rajasthan	(xvii) Sidhmukh & Nohar Irrigation Project	EEC	10.06.1993 31.12.2000	186.00	ECU 45.00	ECU 32.74	Likely to be completed in 2000-2001
11.	Tamil Nadu	(xviii) Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project	World Bank	22.09.1995 31.03.2002	815.00	US $282.90	US 94.75	Ongoing
12.	Uttar Pradesh	(xix) Bundel-khand Water Resources Management Project	Netherlands	12.06.1996 31.05.2001	6.00	NLG 3.087	NLG 1.35	Ongoing
13.	Multi-State	(xx) Hydrology Project	World Bank	22.09.1995 31.03.2002	725.00	US $142.00	US $46.20	Ongoing

Agriculture Development Scheme

2724. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment regarding the delay in agricultural development and in the administrative set-up governing agriculture schemes;

(b) if so, the details of the outcome thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) The actual production of foodgrains and many other agricultural commodities in the first three years of the Ninth Plan was lower than the Plan targets. The Government proposes to switchover from schematic mode to macro management to improve efficiency of resource use and optimise the productivity of available resources.

[English]

Bill for Workers of Unorganised Sector

2725. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a bill for the workers of unorganised sector; and

(b) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to introduce a bill for the category of unorganised workers as a whole. However, the Government have enacted a number of labour laws for protection of the interests of labour including unorganised labour. Some of these laws are. The Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, the Inter-State Migrant Workman (Regulation of Employment and

Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, the Beedi Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1976, the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess, 1996 etc. Workers engaged in iron ore, manganese ore, chrome ore, limestone, dolomite and mica mines, cine workers and beedi workers 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 large number of workers engaged in specific activities like handloom weavers, rikshaw pullers, etc. Improvement in quality of employment and conditions of work of workers in the unorganised sector has been and continues to be a matter of prime concern for the Government. It is the endeavour of the Government to extend legislative protection to more and more workers in the unorganised sector.

The Government has also constituted the Second National Commission for Labour. This terms of reference of the Commission inter-alia include suggestion for formulation of an umbrella legislation to provide social security to the unorganised workers.

[Translation]

Closing down of a unit of RAPP

2726. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to shut down the first unit of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant; and

(b) if so, 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) Does not arise.

[English]

To set up FPI in Gujarat

2727. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of the proposals given clearance for setting up of food processing industries in Gujarat during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): Most of the Food Processing Industries are delicensed and entrepreneurs do not require an Industrial Licence for setting up such industries. The Department of Food Processing Industries under its Plan Schemes provide financial assistance in the form of grant and soft loan to Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Cooperatives, Private Industry, Public Sector Undertakings, Human Resources Development (HRD) and Research and Development (R&D) Institutions for the development of processed food industries.

Financial assistance provided for setting up food processing projects in the State of Gujarat during the last 3 years is given as under:—

(Amount Rs. in lakhs)

1997-98	25.00
1998-99	75.00
1999-2000	206.00

Sapura Irrigation Project

2728. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sapura Irrigation Project in Orissa has not been completed so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to complete the project expeditiously; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (d) The reference is presumably to Sapua and Badjore integrated medium irrigation project of Orissa which inter-alia envisages construction of earthen dam across Sapua Nallah and have not been completed so far. Irrigation being a State subject irrigation projects are executed by the State Governments themselves as per their priorities and out of their own resources. The project is likely to be completed beyond IX Plan.

[Translation]

Office of S.S.C. at Patna

2729. SHRI MOHD. ANWARUL HAQUE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a regional office of the Staff Selection Commission in Patna;

(b) if so, the time by which the same office is likely to be set up; 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) Does not arise.

(c) Each Regional Office of Staff Selection Commission (SSC) caters to the requirements of two or more States/UTs. The Central Regional Office of the Commission at Allahabad caters only to the States of U.P. and Bihar. In view of this and the financial constraints, it has not been possible to open a separate Regional Office at Patna.

Production of Rice

2730. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated for research in rice production during the last three years;

(b) whether a continuous study is conducted to produce the quality of rice and also to increase the production in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The rice research activity at national level is undertaken by the two Institutes namely, Central Rice Research Institute (Cuttack) and Directorate of Rice Research (Hyderabad) including 51 centres of All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Project spread over various agro-ecological zones of the country. The details of the funds allocated to this activity during last three years are as under:

Year	Funds allocated (Rupees in lakhs)
1997-98	1581.05
1998-99	2151.60
1999-2000	2454.51

(b) and (c) Continuous studies are being conducted to produce quality rice and also to increase rice production in the country. Concerted efforts have been made to improve the quality of grain and combine that with high grain yield, resistance to disease and pests and other desirable traits. Consequently, high yielding varieties, having medium or fine grain quality, have been developed. Improved packages of crop production and protection technology have been made available through research for increasing rice production in the country.

(d) Question does not arise.

Assistance of World Bank

2731. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of projects submitted for financial assistance from the World Bank under National Agriculture Technology Project (NATP);

(b) the total number of projects approved by the World Bank under NATP;

(c) details of the number of project submitted by the G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology and the number of these projects approved by the World Bank under NATP; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) There is only one project funded by the World Bank entitled National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP).

(b) So far, the total number of sub-projects as approved by competent expert committees constituted by the ICAR under NATP project is 416.

(c) and (d) The G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology had submitted 78 sub-projects for funding under NATP. The ICAR has approved 56 of these sub-projects as indicated in the attached statement.

Statement

List of sanctioned sub-projects for GBPUA&T, Pantnagar under NATP as on August, 2000

Sr. No.	Agro ecosystem	Mode	Title of the Sub-Projects	PI name & Address	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Hill & Mountains	IVLP/ TAR	Hill zone of U.P., GBPUAT, Ranichauri	Dr. M.C. Nautial, GBPUAT, Ranichauri	29.09
2.	Irrigated	IVLP/ TAR	GBPUA&T, Pantnagar	Dr. K.S. Sekhar	28.27
3.	Arid	PSR	Identification and evaluation of medicinal plants for control of parasitic diseases in livestock	GBPUAT, Pantnagar (UP)	34.56
4.	Hill & Mountains	PSR	Development of IPNS for Vegetables and fruit Production Systems.	Dr. R.V. Singh, GBPUA&T (Ranichuri) 249199 (UP)	89.90
5.	Hill & Mountains	PSR	Aquaculture management in cold waters evaluation of masher fishery potential and its farming feasibility for conservation in Himalayan Region	Dr. A.P. Sharma, GPUA&T, Ranichuri Campus, UP	29.53
6.	Rainfed	PSR	Identification of research gaps in intercropping systems under rainfed conditions in India	GBPUAT-Pantnagar	0.63
7.	Rainfed	PSR	Improvement of roti making quality and shelf life of grain sorghum	Dr. G.K. Garg, GBPUAT, Pantnagar	103.60
8.	Rainfed	PSR	Processing of millets for value addition and development of health foods	GBPUAT, Pantnagar	23.62
9.	Rainfed	PSR	Strengthening of research on Integrated Management of Blast of finger millet (Eleusine coracana Gaertn).	GBPUAT, Ranichuri	40.36 379.84
10.	Irrigated	PSR	Development efficient Complementary practices for zero and reduced tillage systems for establishing wheat after rice	Dr. Y. Singh GBPUA&T, Pantnagar (UP)	46.69
11.	Irrigated	PSR	Analysis of productivity changes and future source of growth for sustainable Rice-wheat Cropping System	GBPUA&T, Pantnagar (UP)	7.14
12.	Irrigated	PSR	Characterization and mapping of rice, wheat system; its changes sustainable Rice-wheat Cropping System	GBPUA&T Pantangar (UP)	10.63
13.	Irrigated	PSR	Characterization and mapping of rice wheat system: its changes and constraints to system sustainability.	GBPUA&T, Pantnagar (UP)	10.63
14.	Irrigated	PSR	Fertility evaluation and soil test based integrated fertilizers recommendations	GBPUA&T, Pantnagar (UP)	19.87
15.	Irrigated	PSR	Organic matters recycling and enrichment	GBPUA&T, Pantnagar (UP)	16.31
16.	Irrigated	PSR	Nitrogen management and simulation modeling for different water availability situations	GBPUA&T Pantnagar (UP)	14.85

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Irrigated	PSR	Development of new tillage and crop residue management practices in machine harvested areas as an alternate to burning	GBPUA&T Pantnagar (UP)	21.01
18.	Irrigated	PSR	Development of adaptable IPM in Rice Wheat Cropping system	GBPUA&T, Pantnagar (UP)	16.94
19.	Irrigated	PSR	Fisheries Management in the lentic water system; stocking of reservoir with fish seed	GBPUA&T, Pantnagar (UP)	24.32
20.	Irrigated	PSR	Breeding designer Brassicas	GBPUA&T, Pantnagar (UP)	27.30
21.	Irrigated	PSR	Development of Insect pest and disease Resistance superiors varieties cabbage and cauliflower	Dr. Hari Har Ram GBPUA&T, Pantnagar (UP)	16.53
22.	Irrigated	PSR	Breeding multicut forage sorghum hybrids and varieties with enhanced nutritional quality	Dr. Rameshwar Singh, GBPUA&T Pantnagar (UP)	34.37
23.	Irrigated	PSR	Bailing densification and storage of grasses/fodders/crop residues	Dr. M.L. Verma,	17.48
24.	Irrigated	PSR	Impact of pesticides on soil-biota and non targeted organisms in rice-wheat cropping system.	Dr. L.M. Pant, GBPUA&T Pantnagar (UP)	17.45
25.	Irrigated	PSR	Sustainable high production of indigenous and cross breed in rural household	Dr. R.J. Sharma, GBPUAT, Pantnagar (UP)	25.93
26.	Irrigated	PSR	Manipulation of rumen micorbial ecosystem for improving the utilization of straws and stovers	Dr. Anil Kumar, GBPUA&T Pantnagar-263145 (UP)	32.83
27.	Irrigated	PSR	Development and validation of simulation models to predict the long term consequence of different tillage and residue management strategies,	Dr. R.P. Tripathi, GBPUAT; Pantnagar	30.11
28.	Irrigated	PSR	Quality improvement of bread and durum wheat Dr.	T.B. Singh, GBPUA&T, Pantnagar	35.29
29.	Irrigated	PSR	Evaluation of locally available feed and fodder's improvement their quality and formulation of complete economic rations in Rice-Wheat production System	Dr. V.D. Goel GBPUA&T	21.11
30.	Irrigated	PSR	Urban and peri urban System of milk production through use concentrate based feeding system	Dr. D.P. Tiwari GBPUA&T Pantnagar (UP)	39.15
31.	Irrigated	PSR	Improvement in Productivity and Development of Suitable Production System in Litchi	GBPUA&T Pantnagar (UP)	37.93
32.	Irrigated	PSR	Network Project on Genetic evaluation and improvement of sesbania (Dhencha) and Crotolaria (Sunhemp) for green manuring	GBPUA&T Pantnagar (UP)	26.53
33.	Irrigated	PSR	Improving Reproductive Efficiency of Cattle and Buffaloes under Rice-Wheat Agro-Ecosystem	GBPUA&T Pantnagar (UP)	22.66
34.	Irrigated	PSR	Tillage technique to enable timely planting of sugarcane after wheat harvest	Dr. Vivek Singh, GBPUAT Pantnagar	21.08

1	2	3	4	5	6
35.	Irrigated	PSR	Management of Inter crops in autumn planted Sugarcane	Dr. Prem Pal Singh, GBPUA&T, Pantnagar	16.34
36.	Irrigated	PSR	Diagnosis survey for study of sugracane based production system constraints	Dr. S.P. Singh, GBPUA&T, Pantnagar (UP)	7.18
37.	Irrigated	PSR	Enclusion of causes and mechanism of iron chlorosis in Sugarcane	GBPUA&T (Pantnagar)	39.73
38.	Irrigated	PSR	Weed management in sugarcane based cropping system	GBPUA&T (Pantnagar)	16.4
39.	—	CGP	Biochemical and molecular mechanism of resistance against isoproturon in phalaris minor	Dr. D.P. Singh GBPUA&T (Pantnagar)	26.04
40.	—	TOE	Agricultural Communication	GBPUA&T (Pantnagar)	143.06
41.	—	TD	Strengthening of DEE at GBPUA&T (Pantnagar)	GBPUA&T (Pantnagar)	9.99
42.	—	TD	ATIC at Pantnagar	GBPUA&T (Pantnagar)	43.57
43.	—	TD	Maghera Po. Garampani (Nainital)	GBPUA&T (Pantnagar)	26.63
44.	—	MM	III-41: Diagnosis of Parasitic disease of domestic animals	D.C.L. Sharma	48.46
45.	—	MM	III-18: Germplasm Inventory, Evaluation and Gene Banking of Freshwater Fishes	Dr. U.P. Singh /I.J. Singh	20.21
46.	—	MM	III-35: Weather based animal disease forecasts	Dr. M.C. Sharma	12.35
47.	—	MM	III-6: Development of Hybrid-Crops (Maize)	Dr. Warsi	22.18
48.	—	MM	III-15: Veterinary Diagnostics for Prevalent and Emerging Diseases	Dr. S.K. Garg	27.57
49.	—	MM	III-36: Prototype Manufacturing of Agricultural Implements	Dr. S.D. Chhabra	126.57
50.	—	MM	III-31: Mechanization of Rice-Wheat Cropping System for Increasing the Productivity	Dr. T.P. Singh	56.49
51.	—	MM	III-6 Development of Hybrid-Crops (Rice)	Dr. M.P. Pandey	19.74
52.	—	MM	III-19: Production of superior males through embryo transfer Technology	Dr. S.N. Maurya	21.27
53.	—	MM	III-11: Quality Assurance and Monitoring of Food from Livestock and Poultry	Dr. S.P. Singh	41.05
54.	—	MM	III-7: Isolation of Plant Genes and Promoters for Developing Transgenic Crop Plant Resistant to Insect Pests	Dr. N.K. Singh	49.73
55.	—	MM	III-13: Animal Genetic Resource Biodiversity	Dr. R.B. Prasad	24.02
56.	—	MM	III-34: Animal Health Information System Through Monitoring and Surveillance	Dr. V.D.P. Rao	20.04

Abbreviations

(i) IVLP — Institutional Village Linkage Programme
(ii) TAR — Technology Assessment Refinement
(iii) PSR — Production System Research
(iv) MM — Mission Mode
(v) TOE — Team of Excellence
(vi) CGP — Competitive Grants Programme
(vii) TD — Technology Dissemination

[Translation]

Bansagar Dam

2732. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an inordinate delay in the completion of Bansagar Dam and the construction cost has increased 6 times;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (c) The Bansagar Dam was originally estimated to cost Rs. 91.31 crore. The latest revised cost of the project is Rs. 1151.44 crore. The completion date of dam was deferred from time to time due to non availability of sufficient funds from beneficiary States and delay in rehabilitation and resettlement works. The dam is scheduled to be completed by June 2002.

[English]

Purchase by KVIC

2733. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new system of net indenting is better than the previous one;

(b) how much stock Khadi and Village Industries Commission maintain at any point of time, give details value-wise during the last three years;

(c) the names of the organisations from whom KVIC make various purchases; and

(d) the details of the organisations to whom KVIC sell its products?

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) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) maintains the stock as per requirement and indents of the purchasing institutions. The details of sotcks for last three years are as under:—

31st March, 1998	Rs. 21.31 crores
31st March, 1999	Rs. 11.93 crores
31st March, 2000	Rs. 14.47 crores

(c) The KVIC makes purchases from a large number of registered institutions, cooperatives and individuals etc. A list of such Organisations from whom the KVIC purchases cotton is given in the statement attached.

(d) The KVIC sells its products to general consumers and also to various Organisations. The details of buyers are not maintained centrally.

Statement

List of Organisations from whom KVIC makes cotton purchases:—

1.	Bangalore:		Karnataka State Co-op MKT Federation Ltd., Hubli
2.	Chennai:	(1)	The Tiruputtur Tq. Co-op MKT Soc. Ltd.
		(2)	VC Vartharjan
		(3)	Sri Santhalakshmi Mills (P) Ltd.
		(4)	M. Rathinaswamg
		(5)	C. Chinnaiswamg
		(6)	Yesh Cotton
3.	Ambala:	(1)	Satyanarian Ramctander
		(2)	Dhannanal Mulkraj
		(3)	Mohta Trading Co.
4.	Ahmedabad:		Through Sanstha Sangh Federation
5.		(1)	Julja Cotton Ginning Pressing Factory
		(2)	Prabhuram Viribhan Co.

(3) Amt Traders

(4) Balaji Cotton

(5) Jay Giriraj Trading Co.

(6) Sardar Vallbhbhai Patel Group Co-op Co. Cotton Sales Ginning Pressing Society.

(7) Sitapur V. Co-op Soc. Virangarh

(8) Rambhai Gagabhai Hiriji

(9) Ambica Industries Hirji

(10) Kirti Corporation

(11) Eastern Fibre Industries Ltd.

5. Bhopal:

(1) Tikamsa Dulichand Hatural Fibres Ltd.

(2) Agarwal Cotton Trading Co.

(3) Alfaviston vston overseds (I) Ltd.

(4) Shri Ilathaji Cotton Merchant.

(5) Santhlal Sangh

(6) Chhaganlal Krishanlal

Excess Tax on Farmers

2734. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has prepared any estimates concerning the farmers being taxed negatively;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to help these farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Central Loan Assistance

2735. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Flood and Erosion Control Schemes taken up by States in their plan or under Central Loan Assistance can be converted into fully Central assistance schemes;

(b) if so, whether Government of Assam have asked for conversion of such schemes into Central assistance schemes; and

(c) if so, the number of such schemes requested for conversion into Centrally funded schemes during the last three years?

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 AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The Government of Assam requested the Planning Commission in November, 1991 for treating the Central Loan Assistance for flood control works in Brahmaputra Valley in Assam as 90% grant and 10% loan, on the pattern of Central Plan Assistance to special category States. The Ministry of Finance informed that it would not be possible to accede the request of the State Government as such facility has been extended only for block grants and loans for State Plans for special category States and not for any specific Central Plans Schemes. Again, in April, 1998 the Government of Assam had requested to covert Central loan assistance into 100% Central grant. The State Government was advised to pursue the matter with the Ministry of Finance.

[Translation]

Documentary for Publicity

2736. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received by the Central Water Commission and the National Hydro Electric Corporation for producing documentaries for publicity during the last three years alongwith the name of the persons from which these proposals were received;

(b) the number of proposals cleared and rejected out of them alongwith the reasons for rejection in each case; and

(c) the reasons for not framing model rules for producing documentaries for the purpose of publicity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Central Water Commission has not received any proposal for producing the documentaries for publicity during the last three years.

The National Hydro Electric Power Corporation (NHPC), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Power, has maintained a panel of the following leading film producers whose services have been utilized in the last three years for making documentary films:

1. M/s Cine Pulse
2. M/s Lens View
3. M/s Point of View Communication
4. M/s Indian Television
5. M/s Chankya News & Features
6. M/s Defination Films
7. M/s Twenty Four Frames
8. M/s Shreyansh Films
9. M/s Images INC

A number of unsolicited offers were received in the NHPC in the form of introductory letter from the film producers for making documentary films, which are not processed. The empanelled film makers are engaged by the NHPC for making documentary films. The terms and conditions for making of documentary films are finalized by observing all codal formalities.

[English]

Provident Fund

2737. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers in the Peerless Company are getting Provident Fund as per the order of Colcotta High Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to the EPF authorities there are 4445 members of the Provident Fund.

Review of ESIC

2738. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee has been set up to review the Employees States Insurance Corporation;

(b) if so, the recommendations given by the Committee so far; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Recently Government had set up a Committee under Chairmanship of Sh. S.R. Satyam to study the working of E.S.I. hospitals. The Committee submitted its report to the Government on 14/1/1999. The report of the Committee has been referred to the ESIC for taking necessary action. The recommendations of the Committee regarding enhancement of the ceiling on expenditure on medical care from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 600/- per insured person per annum, issue of photo-identity cards to IPs and family members, creation of medical posts as per the prescribed norms, enhancement of in-house capabilities of ESI hospitals, introduction of Health Record Booklet for each beneficiary, non-reservation in favour of small scale industries for supply of medicines, multi-level quality control checks, deterrent penal action for supply of sub-standard drugs, purchase of medicines in strip packs, adequate delegation of powers to facilitate local purchase of medicines, uniformity in OPD timings etc. have been accepted for implementation.

Coconut Crop as a Tree-Top Oilseed

2739. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether coconut crop has been declared as a tree-top oilseed;

(b) if so, whether the entire benefits available to the oilseed crops are available to coconut;

(c) if not, details of the benefits available and those not available to coconut;

(d) whether the Government are likely to consider making all benefits available to coconut; and

(e) 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) Coconut was declared as an oilseed of tree origin in October, 1990. The declaration also states that since it is of tree origin, it should not be treated like annual oilseeds. The intention of the declaration was to emphasise the importance of coconut as an oilseed for price support operation. Government continue to treat coconut as an oilseed of tree origin and provide support for coconut development and fix Minimum Support Price for milling copra and ball copra. Accordingly, the Government of India is regularly fixing minimum support price for milling copra as well as for ball copra of fair average quality. The price fixed for the season 2000 for procurement of milling copra is Rs. 3250/- per quintal and that of ball copra is Rs. 3500/- per quintal.

The Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses is supporting 9 oilseeds viz. groundnut, soyabean, sunflower, sesamum, castor, nigerseed, rapeseed-mustard, safflower and linseed under Oilseeds Production Programme covering an area of 267.12 lakh ha. with an annual allocation of Rs. 109.10 crores as compared to the annual allocation of Rs. 20 crores for the development of coconut in an area of 19.10 lakh ha. Therefore, the annual investment of Government of India works out to Rs. 110.00 per hectare for coconut and Rs. 40.83 per hectare for annual oilseed crops which are covered under Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses. Thus it is clear that Government of India provides adequate support for all the relevant activities for development of coconut through Coconut Development Board which is higher than the support provided to oilseed crops through Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses.

(d) and (e) Coconut Development Board under the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Development of Coconut Industry in India" with a financial outlay of Rs. 105 crores during the 9th Plan period which, inter alia, include production and distribution of planting material; expansion of area under coconut; integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement; technology demonstration; market promotion and statistics; information technology. An amount of Rs. 20 crores has been provided during the current year 2000-2001 for implementation of above schemes with the object of increasing production and productivity of coconut, product diversification and by-product utilisation.

Akhupada Barrage

2740. SHRI JAGANNATH MALLIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals from a Member of Parliament and from the Chief Minister of Orissa to initiate flood control measures, repairs of Canals and modernisation of Akhupada barrage, across the river Baitarani;

(b) if so, whether any financial assistance has been sought in these proposals; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (c) No proposal for Flood Control Measure in Baitarani River Basin has been received in Central Water Commission. However, modernisation of 19,700 hectares out of the total command of 32,700 hectares of Baitarani Irrigation System is already included under World Bank assisted ongoing Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project.

[Translation]

Panchkhero Reservoir

2741. SHRI NAGMANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of houses for the oustees of Panchkhero reservoir has been started on the land allotted for the purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which and where the affected people of Orkosa and Jataha villages are likely to be rehabilitated?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (d) Irrigation being a State subject, the rehabilitation and resettlement of people affected by construction of the irrigation projects is done by the concerned State Government. The required information is not maintained at the Centre.

[English]

Dairy Development

2742. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes being implemented in the country for milk production by Union Government;

(b) the funds allocated under each scheme during Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the funds earmarked for Dairy Development through these schemes during Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying in Government of India is supplementing the efforts of State Governments by implementing various plan schemes for increasing the milk production and to improve the status of the dairy industry in the country. The schemes are as under:—

(i) National Project on Cattle Breeding.

(ii) Assistance to States for Fodder Development.

(iii) Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases.

(iv) National Project on Rinderpest Eradication.

(v) Assistance to co-operatives.

(vi) Integrated Dairy Development Project.

(b) and (c) A Statement indicating budget allocation during 8th and 9th plan period on various schemes for increasing the milk production is enclosed.

Statement

Budget Allocation during 8th and 9th Plan period on various schemes for increasing the Milk Production

Sl. No.	Particulars	8th Plan Allocation	9th Plan Allocation
1.	National Project on cattle Breeding		
	i. Ext. of Frozen Semen Tech & PTP	19.75	320.00
	ii. National Bull Production Programming	19.75	82.20
2.	Assistance to States for Fodder Development	19.75	50.00
3.	National Project on Rind. Eradication	96.13	48.00
4.	Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases	40.00	119.00
5.	Integrated Dairy Development Project	200.00	250.00
6.	Assistance to Cooperatives	100.00	150.00
	Total	495.38	1019.20

Non-Payment of Dues

2743. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether statutory dues amounting to Rs. 1800 crore representing the Provident fund, ESI, gratuity, bonus, workmen's compensation of public sector employees have not been paid;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with reasons for non-payment of the dues to them; and

(c) steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Based on provisional information received from some of the major Ministries/Department having administrative control of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) the outstanding statutory dues of workers amounted to Rs. 1736 crore as on 31.3.2000. Provident Fund accounted for the maximum dues of workers followed by Pension, Gratuity, ESI and bonus.

The main reason for non-payment of these dues is paucity of funds resulting from recurring losses.

(c) The government is of the view that the sick CPSUs that are viable should be revived on priority basis and payment of dues of workers should be part of the revival package. However, if some CPSUs cannot be revived they should be allowed to close down after payment of all outstanding dues of workers. An attractive Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS)/Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) has also been formulated by the Government to further protect the interest of workers.

[Translation]

Support Price of Linseed

2744. SHRI KHEL SAI SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh to announce the support price of linseed for the year 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the minimum support price are likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India received a proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for fixing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of linseed last year. The case was examined and found not feasible to agree to the proposal for various reasons, inlcuding the fact that the production of linseed is localised in nature and MSPs are being fixed for the commodities having All India importance in terms of area of production.

Mahi Irrigation Project

2745. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahi irrigation project in Jhabua district, Madhya Pradesh was undertaken with the assistance of World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been delay in the completion of the project;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Climate Observation Satellite

2746. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated long term programme to study specific processes related to earth;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the role of ISRO therein;

(c) whether the Government propose to commission climate observation satellite in the near future;

(d) if so, the details and objectives thereof; and

(e) the manner in which it is likely to be helpful to mankind?

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) The programmes commissioned invclve extensive use of space borne platforms and the ground based observations. One of the major programmes if ISRO is the remote sensing of the environment and the earth using space borne platforms, addressing processes related to earth with direct relevance to applications inland resources, hydrology, meteorology, oceanography and atmosphere. Long term studies of the specifc processes taking place on earth are being carried out under the Geosphere-Biosphere programme and climate research studies such as Extended Range Monsoon Prediction.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is planned to: (i) launch METSAT and INSAT-3A satellite missions, which will provide continuous meterological data over our region and help in tracking cyclones (ii) INSAT-3D mission to have a vertical humidity sounder and a VHRR for providing data for climate modelling (iii) A joint study with the French Space Agency, CNES, to have a satellite mission known as Megha-Tropiques, towards studying the convective systems that influence the tropical climate and weather.

(e) These will enable better understanding of the climate and weather, specific to the tropical region in which India is located.

"India-Russia Ties"

2747. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been reached between India and Russia to extend the period of Integrated-Long-Term-Programme (I.L.T.P.) by another ten years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India and the Russian Federation have mutually agreed to extend the Integrated Long Term Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology by another ten years. A draft of the Agreement extending the Programme by another ten years is currently under discussion between the two sides.

[Translation]

Indian help sought for Terrorism/Drug Trafficking

2748. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uzbekistan has sought help of the Union Government to deal with terrorism;

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

(c) whether the countries of Central Asia have also help of the Union Government to deal with terrorism and drug trafficking; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) The issue of combating terrorism and drug trafficking has figured in discussions with Uzbekistan and other countries of the Central Asian region. With Uzbekistan, it has been agreed to support each other's initiatives towards building up of an international consensus for combating terrorism and also for providing close cooperation between the enforcing agencies and other competent bodies in prevention, suppression and investigation of acts of terrorism, organised crime and crimes connected with cultivation, production and illegal trade of drugs.

Management Studies

2749. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Management Studies are being conducted by the Ministry in various areas to improve the systems and procedures of Government functioning on regular basis;

(b) if so, the details of such studies conducted during each of the last three eyars;

(c) the impact of these studies in promoting efficiency and work-culture in administration;

(d) the areas likely to be targeted for study in the next few years in the wake of rationalisation and restructure of Ministries/Departments due to globalisation of Indian economy;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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 AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the Management Studies conducted during the last three years are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) The observations/recommendations made in the Management Studies are sent to the respective Ministries/ Departments for implementation. This Department undertakes impact studies in respect of certain Studies to assess the extent of implementation of the observations/ recommendations made in the Management Studies. There is no doubt that the observations/recommendations are made with a view to promote efficiency by reducing delays, improving coordination amongst various public and staff dealing agencies, creating a healthy work culture etc. However, it is not feasible to quantify the improvements effected as a result of implementation of the recommendations in the Management Studies.

(d) to (f) The agenda for management studies is drawn up on the basis of specific problems of administration which are either referred to the Department by a Government organisation or selected by it *suo moto* as part of its annual action plan and in the context of its overall priorities. The areas targeted for future studies in the wake of rationalisation and restructuring of Governmental processes and procedures are: recruitment rules, financial procedures, appointments to senior positions, vigilance procedures, service litigation etc.

Statement

Management Studies conducted by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

1997-98

— Study on Restructuring the Government and Workforce Size Control following the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission. The study covered the Ministries of Human Resource Development, Industry, Rural Development and Power.

— Study on the organisational aspects of Government of India Stationery Office, Calcutta.

— Availability of Educational Loan from Banks.

— Study on effectiveness of the Centralised Accident and Trauma Services in Delhi.

— Study on Court cases against the Government in Central Board of Excise and Customs.

— Study on Monitoring of Government Aided NGO Projects.

— Review of educational qualifications prescribed for various Group B and C posts in the Central Government, recruitment to which is done through open competitive examinations conducted by the Staff Selection Commission.

— Review of procedure for the conduct of Clerks Grade Examination by Staff Selection Commission.

1998-99

— Scheme of Urban Micro-Enterprises under Nehru Rozgar Yojana-An Evaluation study report.

— Study Report on vigilance set up in Central Public Sector Undertakings.

— Study Report on the procedure for adoption of children in India.

— Impact of decentralisation of ad-hoc purchases of Directorate General, Supplies and Disposal.

1999-2000

— Procedure for Refund of Security Deposits of Individual Emigrants-An Impact Study.

ESIC

2750. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether insured persons under ESIC get financial help for heart and cardiac problems;

(b) if so, whether the ESIC extend financial help for operations and surgery for insured persons;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of patients benefited from the ESIC facility with cardiac problems in Andhra Pradesh in 1999-2000;

(e) whether there is any scheme to have a Super Speciality hospital built by the ESIC in Andhra Pradesh; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On receipt of sanctions from the concerned State Government advance payment/re-imbursement is made in respect of the entitled beneficiaries for treatment of Cardiac problems in the recognised medical institutions.

(d) There were 25.573 Cardiac patients who had benefited from ESI facility in Andhra Pradesh. Out of these cases 660 were treated in super speciality hospitals by way of super speciality tests/operations.

(e) and (f) The responsibility for administration of medical care under the ESI Scheme vests in the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Keeping in view the cost-effectiveness the Government of Andhra Pradesh has made tie-up contractual arrangement for providing super speciality treatment to ESI beneficiaries with Usmania Hopital, Gandhi Hospital, Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences, Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences etc. There is no proposal from the State Government for construction of a Super Speciality Hospital in Andhra Pradesh.

Herbs and Medicinal Plants

2751. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the rare herbs and medicinal plants found in Uttarakhand hills have gone or are going to be extinct due to exploitation and smuggling;

(b) if so, the annual estimated loss due to such activities; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government for the development of such plants and herbs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) No survey has been conducted about the extinction of rare herbs and medicinal plants in the Uttarakhand hills and the loss of revenue occurring thereof. However, keeping in view the vast wealth of medicinal plants in different parts of the country and their increasing demand, need was felt to conserve them for judicious utilisation. Wild life Sanctuaries, National Parks, Biosphere Reserves and Botanical Gardens are being used for the conservation of such plants. A Central Sector Scheme on Development of Medicinal and Aromatic plants is being implemented since the VIII Plan by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. Under this Scheme assistance is being provided for setting up herbal gardens and nurseries for medicinal plants as well as area expansion and demonstration in farmers fields. Besides, a scheme for providing Central Assistance for Development of Agro-Techniques and Cultivation of Medicinal Plants used in Ayurveda, Sidda, Unani and Homoeopathy is being implemented by the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy.

Second National Commission

2752. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representatives of major trade unions have decided not to participate in any of the meetings of the Second National Commission of Labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the members of the Second National Commission of Labour were selected without consulting the above said major Trade Unions;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the step taken by the Government to redress the grievances of these Trade Unions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (e) The decision to set up the Second National Commission on Labour (NCL) was taken by the Government on 24.12.1998 when the composition and terms of reference of the Commission were finalised. The resolution formally setting up the Commission was issued on 15.10.1999. The details of the members of the Second National Commission on Labour alongwith the organisations they represent are given in the statement enclosed. The Members have been selected keeping in view the representation to be given to Government, industry, labour etc.

As per the conclusions of the 35th Session of the Standing Labour Committee held on 6.2.1999, the Employers' and the Employees' Organisations were requested to make available their views. Since, the terms of reference as well as composition had already been

decided, the views received will be forwarded to Commission for consideration views received will be forwarded to Commission for consideration while formulating their views on various issues.

In the meantime, a letter dated 27.05.2000 jointly signed by six Trade Unions viz. CITU, AITUC, AICCTU, UTUC, UTUC (LS) and TUCC had been received which while drawing attention to their various contentions have regretted that the Trade Unions represented by them would not join any Committee or Sub-committee of the Second National Commission on Labour at any stage. The Chairman, NCL has taken up the matter with the six Trade Unions to clear any apprehension/misunderstanding that those unions may have been harbouring as regards the functioning of the Second National Commission on Labour and requesting them for their cooperation. One of the Trade Unions, namely, UTUC (LS) have replied that they would like to respond to the questionnaire after some more time and interact with the Commission.

Statement

Names of Members of the Second National Commission on Labour and the organisations they represent

1. Shri Ravindra Varma,
Chairman, Gandhi Peace Foundation,
Rouse Avenue, New Delhi.

2. Dr. B.R. Sabade,
Executive Director,
Institute of Small Business and Industry,
Pune-411009
Centre for Business & Industry, Pune-411009
Honorary Secretary, Poona Divisional Productivity Council, Pune-411009
President, Entrepreneurs International,
Pune-411009

3. Shri Sunil Shashtri,
Associated with various Bodies like
Chairman, Lal Bahadur Memorial Foundation,
Vice President of Lal Bahadur Shashtri Sewa Niketan and Chairman of full fledged Institute of Management in Memory of Late Prime Minister at Lucknow etc.
1 Moti Lal Nehru Place,
New Delhi-110011

4. Shri Sudharshan Sarin,
National President, Laghu Udyog Bharati,
1E/11, Swami Ram Tirath Nagar,
Jhandewalan Extension,
New Delhi-110055

5. Shri G. Sanjeeva Reddy,
President INTUC,
6/B, LIGH, Barkatpura,
Hyderabad-500027

6. Shri Jitendra Vir Gupta,
Retired Chief Justice of Punjab & Haryana High Court
211, 18-A, Chandigarh,

7. Smt. Ela R. Bhatt
Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)
Bhadra in front of Lokmanya Tilak Bagh,
Ahmedabad-380001

8. Shri Arvind R. Doshi
President, The Employers' Federation of India,
Chairman, Premier Auto Electric Ltd.,
Vice Chairman, Premier Automobiles Ltd.
4th Floor, A-Block, Shivsagar Estates,
Worli, Mumbai-400018

9. Shri Hasubhai Dave
BMS, All India General Secretary,
Third Term 1999 (Nagpur),
Chairman, Central Board for Workers' Education, Nagpur

10. Shri N. Sanyal,
Member Secretary, IAS (OR:79)

Life in Universe

2753. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian scientists have decided to launch an unique project to probe extra-terrestrial life in the universe;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Space Research Organisation have started this project in collaboration with other institutes in the country and has decided to collect air samples from various altitudes in the atmosphere; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed and the findings 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) Yes, Sir. Indian scientists have launched a Project to probe (i) the presence, (ii) the nature and (iii) the terrestrial or extra-terrestrial origin of micro-organisms in the earth's atmosphere in the altitude belt of 20-40 kilometers.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The experimentation and analysis of results is likely to take about two years.

PIO Card Holders

2754. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any novel scheme for the foreign citizens of Indian origin to take up employment in India without seeking prior permission from the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of PIO card holders who are seeking employment in India; and

(d) the number of persons out of them provided with the jobs so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Holders of the Persons of Indian origin card (PIO Card) are entitled to take up employment in India without obtaining an employment visa. They do not require any separate permission from the Government of India, unless specified in the recruitment conditions for the job.

(c) and (d) Since PIO Card holders do not need separate approval for obtaining employment in India, information about the number of jobs taken up by them is not available. However, the number would be very small as the total number of PIO Cards issued till date is about 700.

Imports of Crops

2755. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether imports are discouraging Indian farmers from growing oilseeds;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether any strategy is being mooted out to meet the situation; 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) In view of large import of edible oils triggered by depressed prices of oil in the international Market, the market prices of some oilseeds like Soyabean, Sunflower, Rapeseed and Mustard were prevailing below the Minimum Support Price (MSP) declared by Government of India during the year 1999-2000 and therefore, Government in order to protect the interest of oilseed growers, had instructed the NAFED to carry out the purchase operation of oilseed produce on Minimum Support Price.

(c) and (d) The Central Government is encouraging the cultivation of oilseeds in the country by providing various incentives by way of subsidies on various critical inputs under Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) which is being implemented in various States in the country. Moreover, the Government of India has been announcing the Minimum Support Price of oilseed crops every year well before the sowing season of oilseed crops and NAFED is the central nodal agency to carry out the purchase operations of oilseeds grower's produce on the MSP in case the market prices of oilseeds fall below the Minimum Support Price.

Modernisation of Indian Agriculture

2756. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any action plan for modernisation of Indian Agriculture to enhance agricultural production and productivity of various crops in irrigated and rainfed areas through upgrading Agricultural Institutional Network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) established in Maharashtra so far, location-wise alongwith the impact thereof;

(d) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra to set up more KVK in Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the decision of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) In order to enhance agricultural production and productivity in different production systems including rainfed and irrigated, various action plans have been formulated by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through its institutes and State Agricultural Universities. These include improvement/management of Food and Horticultural Crops; Natural Resources; Livestock and Poultry; Fish Production and Processing; Agricultural Engineering and related Technology; Social Sciences and Policies; and Technology Assessment, Refinement and Dissemination.

(c) The ICAR have established 23 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) in Maharashtra. The locations of the KVKs are indicated in the statement attached.

The activities of the KVKs include frontline demonstration, on-farm testing, training of farmers and extension personnel.

During 1999 the activities of the KVKs were as follows:

- 1441 training programmes benefiting 0.21 lakhs farmers, 0.08 lakh rural youths and 0.04 lakh extension personnel;
- 427 extension programmes benefiting 0.37 lakhs farmers and extension personnel;
- 1868 frontline demonstrations covering 698 ha; and
- publication of 168 extension literatures and popular articles.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The establishment of more KVKs in the country including Maharashtra will depend on the availability of additional resources.

Statement

Locations of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Maharashtra

1. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Selsura, Wardha
2. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Paithan Road, Aurangabad
3. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Shirgaon, Ratnagiri
4. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Agril. Res. Station, Dhule
5. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Y.C. Maharashtra Open University, Nasik
6. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bhagyanagar, Prabhani
7. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, P.O. Talasadi, Kolhapur
8. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jalgaonn, Jamod, Buldana
9. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ghartkhed, Amravati
10. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Durgapur, Amravati
11. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, HIG Colony, Near ITI, Nanded
12. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, 51, Railway Lines, Solapur
13. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Karda, Risod, WASIM
14. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Poip Adarsh Krishi, Sindhudurg
15. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gokhle Education Society Kosbad Hill, Thane
16. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Satpura Vikas Mandal Pal, Raver, Jalgaon
17. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Adarsh Colony, Village-Ambajogai, Beed
18. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kalavade, Karad, Satara
19. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Agril. Development Trust, Sharda Nagar, Baramati, Pune
20. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Babhleshwar, Shrirampur, Ahmednagar
21. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vasant Dada Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana, Sangli
22. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Marathwada Sheti Sahayya Mandal, Jalna
23. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Central Cotton Research Institute, Nagpur

Admission of SC/ST Students

2757. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee headed by the Prime Minister recommended for ensuring admission of students from SC/ST community to the fullest extent of the quota of seats reserved for this community in all the educational/ academic institutions in the year 1993;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the number of seats, offered in different faculties/ disciplines in the Gandhi Labour Institute, Ahmedabad in (1) Pre-Graduation (2) Graduation (3) Post Graduation level courses during each of the last three years;

(d) the number of students from SC/ST community got admission in the above referred courses in different faculties/courses including their percentage as compared to the total seats during each of the last three years;

(e) whether above recommendation is being implemented satisfactorily; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Major and Medium Dams

2758. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major and medium dams at present in the country along with total water storage capacity created as a result thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether several major dams are still under construction; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the expected total water storage capacity of each of them?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (c) As per information available regarding dams with storage above 10 million cubic metre (M. cum), there are 811 dams completed with total storage of 173728.82 M. cum. and 303 dams under construction with total storage of 75422.51 M. cum. Statewise details giving break-up of the number of dams and corresponding storages are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Particulars (States)	Completed Projects		Projects under construction	
		Live storage MCM	Number	Live Storage MCM	Number
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24851.42	74	7123.27	26
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	—	—	—
3.	Assam	Nil	—	1054.32	3
4.	Bihar	4660.93	46	4352.73	27
5.	Goa	44.30	1	674.45	2
6.	Gujarat	14919.07	104	7248.38	24
7.	Haryana	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Himachal Pradesh	13806.44	3	109.55	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—
10.	Karnataka	21556.07	41	3013.31	21
11.	Kerala	4617.81	23	21633.14	8
12.	Madhya Pradesh	18580.13	109	12918.88	45
13.	Maharashtra	22095.71	155	124.58	90
14.	Manipur	396.50	1	124.58	3
15.	Meghalaya	697.96	4	—	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	—	—	1220.00	1
18.	Orissa	14286.77	42	3304.63	14
19.	Punjab	24.75	2	2344.00	1
20.	Rajasthan	8323.15	94	1591.48	17
21.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	6719.51	46	36.55	3
23.	Tripura	312.00	3	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	16347.36	59	7057.56	17
25.	West Bengal	1475.15	3	—	—
26.	Pondicherry	13.79	1	—	—
	Total in M. cum. in Cubic km.	173728.82 173.73	811	75422.51 75.42	303

Note: Projects have a live storage capacity of 10 M. Cum. and above only are included. An additional live storage capacity of 3 Cubic Km. (approx) is estimated to be created through medium projects each having a capacity of less than 10 M. Cum. thus making total live storage capacity of 177 cubic km. in completed Projects.

Alleged Sex Slavery

2759. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 1000 women from Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa are trapped into sex slavery in Britain each year;

(b) if so, the Government's assessment about the number of Indian women trapped into sex slavery in Britain and other West European countries, America and Gulf countries during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(c) the names of the Indian States from which these women come from; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a)

Government have seen a press report to this effect in the Indian Express of 31st May, 2000;

(b) Government has no reports of any Indian woman having been trapped into sex-slavery during the relevant periods in Britain or any other West European country. This year, one case (involving an Indian woman) has been reported from United Arab Emirates and another case, involding three Indian women has been detected in the U.S.A.

(c) Kerala (one woman) and Andhra Pradesh (three women).

(d) These are isolated instances. Preventive vigilance is exercised by the concerned authorities.

Training Facilities to Women

2760. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Directorate General of Employment & Training provides training facilities to women in the country to create more avenues for their employment;

(b) if so, the number of women benefited during each of the last three years State-wise; and

(c) the details of such institutions in the country, State/Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the direct control of the Directorate General of Employment & Training one National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) and 10 Regional Vocational Training Institutes (RVTIs) for women have been set up. These Institutes provide training in Basic, Advanced and post advanced levels including training in Instructional skills.

The location of these Institutes and the number of women benefitted/trained during last three years in NVTI/ RVTIs are given in the attached statement.

Statement

No. of trainees trained in National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) and Regional Vocational Training Institutes (RVTIs) under DGE&T, Ministry of Labour

Institute and Location	Trainees trained in		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
NVTI Noida, Uttar Pradesh	399	432	553
RVTI Mumbai, Maharashtra	142	149	212
RVTI Bangalore, Karnataka	206	439	1231
RVTI Trivandrum, Kerala	134	148	178
RVTI Hissar, Haryana	25	212	505
RVTI Calcutta West Bengal	44	48	163
RVTI Tura, Meghalaya	23	23	22
RVTI Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh	89	108	143
RVTI Indore, Madhya Pradesh	42	52	127
RVTI Vadodara, Gujarat	14	63	92
RVTI Jaipur, Rajasthan	91	146	457

Employees Stock Option Scheme

2761. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched Employees Stock Option Programme (E.S.O.P.);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) total number of employees who have opted this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The guidelines for Employees' Stock Option Programme (ESOP) were issued by the Government on 28th January, 1998. The scheme envisages offer of an allocation of share of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to its employees. The PSUs have been given the flexibility to evolve enterprise specific schemes and to incorporate changes suiting their own requirements without altering the basic structure/character/ objective of the scheme. The administrative Ministries are to decide suitable monitoring mechanism to monitor the implementation of the scheme. There is no centralised monitoring of the total number of employees who have opted for this scheme.

Study on FPI

2762. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted or propose to conduct a study to review the progress in the implementation of various food processing units sanctioned during VIII Plan and first three years of Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of food processing units sanctioned during the above period, State-wise;

(d) the progress of these projects; and

(e) the action plan formulated by the Government to strengthen this sector in consultation with State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government entrusted a study to National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) to review the performance of projects funded by Department of Food Processing Industries during the Eighth Five Year Plan and first year of the Ninth Plan. The Study was based on field survey of 122 units selected from five areas of operation mainly production, training cold storage, R&D and laboratories.

(c) and (d) Although, more than 600 projects were funded by the Department during the Eighth Five Year Plan and first year of the Ninth Plan, the study findings accounted for 378 units, the State wise details of which are given in the statement. From the 122 units surveyed it was observed that 57% of the projects were completed. In the case of production units the completed units accounted for 55%, for food processing training centres 60%, for cold storage 63% for R&D 38% and for laboratories 60%.

(e) The Government provide financial assistance for various developmental and promotional activities to strengthen the food processing sector. The State Governments are associated in these activities through a system of Nodal Agencies and by sharing of information in various for a such as seminars, workshops etc. Further, to monitor the physical progress of the projects assisted by the Government and also to ensure that the funds are properly utilised Monitoring Committees have been consituted at the National and the State level.

Statement

State/ Union teritory	Cold Storages	Food Processing Centre	Infrastructure	R&D	Production	Laboratory	Nodal Agencies	Packaging	Report writing	Misc.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andhra Pradesh	1	3	3	2	5	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Arunachal Pradesh	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	1	15	—	—	11	2	1	—	2	6
Bihar	—	10	2	2	2	—	1	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	1	—	1	5	—	3	—	—	—
Delhi	10	7	4	5	2	4	1	2	1	2
Gujarat	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	4	2	2	—	9	—	—	1	—	—
Karnataka	1	4	1	1	2	4	4	5	6	2
Kerala	2	3	—	1	28	—	—	—	—	3
Madhya Pradesh	—	3	—	—	2	—	1	—	2	—
Maharashtra	5	4	3	2	10	—	1	1	—	—
Manipur	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	4	—
Meghalaya	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	1	1	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
Nagaland	—	1	3	—	4	—	1	—	2	—
Orissa	3	14	3	—	6	1	—	—	1	—
Punjab	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	—	7	1	3	3	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	1	30	3	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
West Bengal	3	1	9	1	2	—	1	—	1	—
Jammu & Kashmir	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Lakshadweep	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Andman Nicobar	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total	35	114	39	20	97	12	20	9	19	13

Grand Total = 378 Units

[Translation]

Visit of Australian Prime Minister

2763. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Australia visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details of the talks held with the Indian Leaders;

(c) the outcome thereof;

(d) whether Australia has agreed to reopen its Defence Advisory Office in New Delhi;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which it is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. On July 10-11, 2000.

(b) During his visit PM John Howard met President, Vice President, Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister, Minister of Finance, Minister of commerce & Industry and Leader of the Opposition. The talks focussed on enlargement of bilateral relations although multilateral and global issues, including the problem in Fiji, were also discussed. Both sides agreed that efforts should be made to strenghten our relations, especially through increased trade and economic links and investments.

(c) Prime Minister John Howard described his visit as an attempt to bring "energy and vigour" into India-Australia relations. This outcome was substantially achieved.

(d) and (e) During an earlier visit by Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer to India in March, 2000, both sides agreed on the resumption of defence ties in principle. Subsequently, an Australian defence team visited New Delhi on 26 May, 2000 and discussed with the officials of Ministry of Defence, the modalities or resuming defence ties including by reopening the Defence Advisor's office in New Delhi.

(f) The Australian Defence Advisor's office in New Delhi (and ours in Canberra) is likely to be reopened early in 2001.

Jobs for Computer Graduates

2764. SHRI MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide registration facility in employment exchanges for the degree holders in computer sciences and computer application from various colleges in the country;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by the Government to make available employment to such qualified persons;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) As per the existing instructions of Central Government professional and executive employment offices/exchanges in the state are to register such persons. Other employment exchanges could also register such persons in their judrisdiction and send their index card to the concerned professional and executive employment office/exchange, if they are not already registered with them.

(b) and (c) The employment only sponsor candidates against vacancies and requirements notified to them by the employers.

(d) Question does not arise.

[English]

Linking of Rivers

2765. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY:
SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study with regard to linking major rivers' in the country;

(b) if so, whether the steps taken/propose to be taken to form 'Peninsular Rivers Development Agency' (PRDA) for chalking out a programme for the linking of major rivers of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (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 utilization of water resources. The Government of India has established National Water Development Agency (NWDA) as an Autonomous Society in July, 1982 to carry out the water balance and feasibility studies of National Perspective Plan. Peninsular component of National Perspective Plan inter-alia envisages inter-linkages between Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Pennar and Cauvery. Implementation of Water transfer link proposal depends on availability of funds, how soon the detailed project report are prepared and consensus is reached among the concerned States.

Evaluation of India's Foreign Policy

2766. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's foreign policy has received serious setback on many important issues;

(b) if so, whether the views of Prime Minister and other Cabinet Ministers differ on several foreign policy matters;

(c) if so, whether in this connection Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Prime Minister causing incalculable harm to foreign policy" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated June 9, 2000; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps the Government proposes to take in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise, decisions on policy matters including those on foreign affairs are the collective responsibility of the Cabinet.

(c) Government has seen the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated June 9, 2000.

(d) Conduct of foreign policy is a dynamic and continuous exercise to promote and protect our interests in the context of developments in the region and around the world. This is being done as necessary by the Government.

[Translation]

Ambedkar Projects

2767. SHRI ARUN KUMAR:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) the number of Dr. Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar projects for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes being run through NGOs in Bihar;

(b) the percentage of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes benefited through these projects in the State;

(c) the outcome of these projects; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) There is no project of Dr. Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes being run through NGOs in Bihar.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Reviving of Agricultural Farms

2768. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revive the agricultural farms lying closed in Katihar district of Bihar which were utilised for the cultivation of improved seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any new scheme has been announced/ proposed to be announced for the development of seeds; 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) to (c) The Government of India have not

received any proposal from Government of Bihar to revive the Agricultural Farms lying closed in Katihar district of Bihar.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

Closure of Sale Centres of Khadi

2769. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN:

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

(a) whether a decision is being taken for closure of sale centres for khadi at district level in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the States for which the said decision has been taken so far;

(c) the States for which the said decision is proposed to be taken; and

(d) the reasons for taking the decision for closure of these centres?

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) to (d) Does not arise.

Black Listing of NGOs

2770. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to recover the embezzled amount from the black listed N.G.Os;

(b) if so, the directions issued to State Governments in this regard;

(c) if so, the action being taken by the Union Government against the defaulting State Governments;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to black list another approximately 50 NGOs; and

(e) if so, the names of such NGOs State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Governments/UT administrations have been asked to register cases under IPC and to initiate action for recovery of funds and seize the assets created by the organizations out of the Government funds.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Based on the mandatory annual inspections as well as other suprise inspections carried out from time to time, the performance of the non Government organization is assessed. As and when adverse reports are received, the Ministry initiates action to suspend further release of grants to the organization and recover the misutilised amounts. Since this is a continuing process it is not possible to specify the number of organizations proposed to be blacklisted.

[English]

Problems of Growers

2771. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any memorandum from Kerala Government highlighting the problems confronted by the growers of coconut, rubber, coffee and arecanut;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India received a memorandum from the State Government of Kerala on the decline in the prices of coconut, rubber, coffee, arecanut and the problems being faced by the

growers of these crops. Several steps have been taken to arrest the decline in prices of these agricultural commodities. For instance, import duties have been raised on import of coconut oil and certain other edible oils; on coffee and on arecanut. NAFED has also been directed to procure copra under Minimum Support Price Scheme and they have already procured 45900 tonnes of copra. STC has been asked to procure Natural Rubber. A number of steps have also been taken to increase the domestic demand of Rubber.

SC/ST Vacant Posts in Agricultural Colleges/ Faculties

2772. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee headed by the Prime Minister recommended for ensuring admission of students from SC/ST community to the fullest extent of the quota of seats reserved for this community in the year 1993;

(b) if so, action taken thereon;

(c) the number of seats offered in different faculties/ disciplines in all the Agricultural Colleges (receiving the grant-in-aid from the Central Government) in Graduation Level Courses during the last three years;

(d) the total year-wise number of students from SC/ ST community admitted to the above referred courses in different faculties/courses including their percentage as compared to the total seats during the above period; and

(e) if so, reasons if the above recommendation is not implemented satisfactorily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (e) The information is being collected.

Schemes for Removal of Indebtedness of SC/ST families

2773. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee recommended the formulation of Scheme for removal of indebtedness of rural SC/ST families;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme launched, implemented with results achieved so far; and

(c) if not, other measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Deep Tube-Wells

2774. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in certain part of Madhya Pradesh, the sub-soil water level is receding at an alarming rate compelling cultivators to dig deep tube-wells;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to provide additional funds to the State Government to provide subsidy to the farmers for digging deep tubewells; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to spurt in tube well drilling, there has been a fast decline of ground water levels in certain pockets of all the districts. Decline in ground water levels in Malwa Plateau, Ratlam, Mandsaur, Neemuch and Ujjain Districts has been quite high.

(c) The State Government has not submitted any proposal to the Central Government for assistance for construction of deep tube wells or asked for providing subsidy to the farmers for drilling of deep tube wells.

(d) Does not arise.

Industrial Growth Centres

2775. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

(a) the total number of industrial growth centres functioning in the country particularly in Kerala and Haryana, district-wise;

(b) the functioning of these industrial growth centres;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up more such Industrial Growth Centres in the country; and

(d) if so, the locations 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) Out of the 71 Growth Centres planned throughout the country, 68 have been sanctioned by the Govermnet of India for implementation by the State Government. 26 of the sanctioned Growth Centres have begun functioning as allotment of industrial plots has commenced. These include the Growth Centres at Kannur-Kozhikode (District Kannur-Kozhikode) in Kerala and Bawal (District Rewari) in Haryana.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Loan to Educated Unemployed Persons under PMRY

2776. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated unemployed persons to whom loan was provided under Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana in Orissa during the last three years;

(b) the target set for this financial year and the reasons for not achieving the target; and

(c) the number of educated unemployed persons to whom loan is proposed to be provided under Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana during 2000-2001?

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) As per the report received from the Reserve Bank of India loans were disbursed to 8378 educated unemployed persons in Orissa for 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana.

(b) and (c) Orissa has been allocated a target of 15,500 for the year 2000-2001 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, which is to be achieved by the end of the current financial year.

Investment of PF and Pension Funds

2777. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to invest PF and pension funds in capital market;

(b) if so, the Government have taken into consideration the view point of the Labour Union and various political parties in this regard;

(c) whether various labour unions have opposed the said move; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The Central Board of Trustees, EPF has decided not to make investment of PF and Pension Funds in the Capital Market.

[Translation]

Science City

2778. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up of a science city in the field of information technolgy;

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

(c) whether the Government of Gujarat has sought any financial assistance for the purpose;

(d) if so, the amount demanded and sanctioned for the purpose; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) The Government of Gujarat has proposed to establish a Science City in Ahmedabad/ Gandhinagar. This Science City will cover vast areas of science including Information Technology to be depicted through various pavilions. For this purpos, a Society known as Gujarat Council of Science City has been set up and registered under the Society Registration Act, 1860. The proposed Science City will be completed in three phases. The estimated cost for the first phase is Rs. 91 crores. The estimates for the second and third phases are being worked out by Government of Gujarat who are also in process of allotting 250 acres of land in Ahmedabad.

The Government of Gujarat has requested Government of India to provide financial support of Rs. 51 crores as well as other technical support.

The request of Government of Gujarat for financial and technical support is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Withdrawal of Subsidy in KVIC

2779. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy given to the Khadi and Village Industries during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have taken a decision to stop subsidy to Khadi and Village Industries;

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

(d) whether about 40 lakh workers and employees are working in the Khadi and Village Industries sector and doing the job of weaving, spinning and marketing Khadi;

(e) whether all these workers and employees are likely to be rendered jobless due to this decision of the Government to stop subsidy to this sector;

(f) whether a large number of Members of Parliament have given a representation to the Prime Minister to help Khadi and Village Industries; and save the workers from being jobless; and

(g) if so, the steps taken by the Government to continue subsidy to this sector of Khadi and Village 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) During each of the last three years, details of grant, loans and subsidy provided to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir. As on 31.3.1999,. 13.85 lakhs persons were engaged in weaing, spinning and marketing of Khadi;

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Statement

Grants, Loans and subsidy provided to the KVIC during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

(Rupees in lakhs)

S.No.	Sub-Head	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
Plan				
1.	Khadi Grant	19655	15960	9470

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Khadi Loan	2098	2098	1500
3.	S&T (Khadi)	30	30	—
4.	Interest Subsidy (Khadi)*	1900	1900	1900
4.	V.L. Grant	8400	8400	5400
5.	V.I. Loan	900	900	250
6.	S&T (VI)	95	170	70
7.	Interest Subsidy (V.I.)*	500	500	500
8.	Rural Employment Generation Programme	10500	4665	1103
	Sub-Total	44078	34623	20193
	Non-Plan			
9.	Khadi Grant	2400	2400	2400
10.	Adm. Expenditure	2400	2560	2410
11.	HBA Loan	30	30	30
12.	Interest Subsidy (Khadi)*	2300	2300	2300
13.	Interest Subsidy (V.I.)*	1100	1100	730
	Sub-Total	8230	8390	7870
14.	Bank Loan (Khadi)	19962	23992	26391
15.	Bank Loan (VI)	8889	8939	9832
	Sub Total	28851	32931	36223
	Grand Total	81159	75944	64286

*The amount need not be released but book adjustment has to be made.

Water Management

2780. SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to formulate a long term strategy for water management with the participation of the State Governments as well as Private Sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) and (b) The National Water Policy adopted in 1987, as a strategy, lays stress on conservation of the resources and augmentation of the availability of water by adopting measures for maximizing retention and minimizing losses. Accordingly, the water resources projects are planned on the basis of an overall plan for the drainge basin as a whole or for a sub-basin and the individual development project are formulated by the States within the framework of such an overall plan. To meet the above objective appropriate river basin

orgnizations have been envisaged. The policy also lays emphasis on making water available to the water short areas by transfer from one river basin to another based on a national perspective.

Concerted thrust is envisaged to ensure that the irrigation potential created is fully utilized. For this purpose the command Area Development Programme has been launched by the Government. The policy also envisages involving farmers in various aspects of management of irrigation systems particularly in water distribution and collection of water rates. Emphasis has also been laid on the efficiency of utilization in all the diverse uses of water by encouraging recycling and reuse and bringing conservation consciousness through education, regulation, incentives and disincentives.

Bases on the above strategy for water management the State Governments are managing the water resources. within their respective territories.

National Commission for Cow Protection

2781. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Commission for the Protection of Cows;

(b) whether the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has made suggestions for the proposed Commission; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) There was a suggestion for setting up a National Commission on Cattle from the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. The proposal has not been agreed to in its form as it has financial and other policy implications.

[Translation]

Technology Information Centre

2782. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agriculture Technology Information Centres set up in the country, State-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred by the Union Government on these centres particularly on Kajari Agriculture Technology Centres; and

(c) the extent to which the farmers are likely to be benefited by these centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) A total of 40 Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATIC) have been sanctioned. The State-wise details are given in the attached statement.

(b) A provision of Rs. 1719.50 lakh has been made for five years for implementation of these centres. A sum of Rs. 42.575 lakh has been allocated to Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur for a period of five years.

(c) The farmers are likely to be benefited from technology products services and information available with the concerned centres through a single-windows support system of ATIC.

Statement

Distribution of ATICs in Different States by Host Organizations

S. No.	States/UTs	SAU	ICAR	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	A&N Islands	—	1	1
2.	AP	1	—	1
3.	Assam	1	—	1
4.	Bihar	1	—	1

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Delhi	—	1	1
6.	Gujarat	1	—	1
7.	Haryana	1	1	2
8.	HP	2	1	3
9.	J&K	1	—	1
10.	Karnataka	2	1	3
11.	Kerala	1	4	5
12.	MP	2	1	3
13.	Maharashtra	4	1	5
14.	Meghalaya	—	1	1
15.	Orissa	—	1	1
16.	Punjab	1	—	1
17.	Rajasthan	1	1	2
18.	Tamil Nadu	2	—	2
19.	UP	3	1	4
20.	West Bengal	1	—	1
	Total	25	15	40

[English]

Ponnani Fishing Harbour

2783. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1989 on 8th March, 2000 and state:

(b) whether the technical examination of the project report for Ponnani Fishing Harbour in Kerala referred to the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery, Bangalore, has been completed and report received;

(b) if so, the details of the results of technical examinations;

(c) if not, the time by which the technical examination report is likely to be expected;

(d) whether the sanction process for this long pending project would be expedited; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery, Bangalore has requested additional technical details from the Government of Kerala for the main components of the Project pertaining to breakwater, quays, dredging and reclamation etc.

(c) to (e) The Institute will expeditiously examine the techno-economic feasibility of the Project, on receipt of addtional technical information required from the State Government.

Setting up of Nuclear Power Plants

2784. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:
SHRI R.L. BHATIA:
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up Nuclear Power Plants in the Country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, along with the sites identified for the purpose?

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) Yes, Sir. The present nuclear power capacity is 2280 MWe including Kaiga-2 (220 MWe) in Karnataka and RAPP-3 (220MWe) in Rajasthan which commenced commerical operation in March 2000 and June 2000 respectively.

The Details of the Projects, presently planned are as under:—

State/Location	Unit	Capacity MWe
Karnataka—Kaiga	Kaiga-1 (PHWR)	220
Rajasthan—Rawatbhata	RAPP-4 (PHWR)	220
Maharashtra—Tarapur	TAPP-3	500
	TAPP-4 (PHWR)	500
Tamil Nadu—Kudankulam	KK-1	1000
	KK-2 (VVER Russian Type)	1000
Karnataka—Kaiga	Kaiga-3	220
	Kaiga-4 (PHWR)	220

PHWR: Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor.

ESI Dispensaries

2785. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU:
DR. BALIRAM:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ESI dispensaries/hospitals working in Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up new dispensaries/hospitals in some other parts of the States;

(c) if so, the details thereof.

(d) whether it is a fact that a number of ESI dispensaries/hospitals are running short of staff;

(e) if so, the details thereof, dispensary-wise/hospital-wise;

(f) whether it is also a fact that CT Scan and MRI test facilities are not available in a number of hospitals; and

(g) if so, the provision made for the employees who have to undergo these tests, alongwith the efforts being made by the Government to meet the shoratge of staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) There are 136 ESI dispensaries and 10 hospitals in Andhra Pradesh, 142 ESI dispensaries and 16 hospitals in Uttar Pradesh, 164 dispensaries and 9 hospitals in Tamil Nadu and 36 ESI dispensaries with 10 Auyurvedic wings and 4 ESI hospitals in Delhi. The ESI hospitals/dispensaries are set up generally at industrial centres and not district-wise;

(b) and (c) The ESI Corporation has planned to open one hospital each in the old city of Hyderabad, Tuticorin, Tirunveli and Ranipet. The Corporation has also planned to open 18 new ESI dispenaries in Tamil Nadu.

(d) and (e) There is shortage of 300 staff in Andhra Pradesh, 273 in Tamil Nadu, 287 in Uttar Pradesh, 935 in Delhi. As the number of ESI dispensaries/hospitals is large it is difficult to furnish unit-wise details.

(f) Yes Sir.

(g) Necessary tie-up arrangements have been made with the reputed medical institutions for providing super speciality facilities including C.T. scan and MRI tests to the beneficiaries of the ESI scheme. A revolving fund has also been set up and placed at the disposal of Regional Directors of the ESIC for making advance payment/reimbursement to the beneficiaries in respect of their super speciality tests/treatment. As regards shortage of staff in ESI hospitals/dispensaries the concerned State Governments are requested from time to time to fill the vacant posts as per the norms prescribed by the ESI Corporation.

Establishment of Human Resource Development

2786. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to promote professionalism in the agriculture sector.

(b) if so the details thereof alongwith the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal from State to establish a Human Resource Development Centre in each University to educate the farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) **(1) Through updating curricula**

- Curriculum in Agriculture and Allied Sciences completely restructured.
- Skill based entrepreneur development courses introduced.
- Rural Agriculture Work Experience programme introduced as an integral component of professional degree programmes.
- Two-year professional electives have been introduced in revised four-year Home Science Degree programme.

(2) Through vocational programmes

- ICAR Institutes and State Agricultural Universities are organizing refresher courses regularly for updating the skills of professionals and para-professionals in line departments.
- Summer/winter/short training courses are proposed to be organized at State Agricultural Universities and Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institutes for Human Resource Development in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sciences.

(3) **Through Exension Education,** Krishi Vigyan Kendras and ICAR Institutes, regular vocational training programme of short and long duration are organized to primarily train para-professionals in gardening, green house management, nursery management, sheep, goat and poultry housing and management, bee-keeping, fish hatchery management, child and women health care and management of farm implements etc.

(4) Faculty Competence Improvement: National and international training programmes for faculty members are to be organised.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Maternity/Paternity

2787. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend the Maternity Act in the light of the specific recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission on maternity/paternity which were accepted by the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Indians Languishing in Jails of Gulf Countries

2788. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians freed from the jails of various Gulf countries owing to the efforts made by the Union Government during the last three years, country-wise;

(b) the number of Indians still languishing in the jails of Gulf countries for alleged crimes; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to get the remaining Indians released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) A statement containing the information is attached.

(c) As soon as an Indian diplomatic Mission/Post is informed of the arrest of an Indian national, a request is made to the host Government for seeking consular access. An officer of the Mission/Post visits the detainee to ascertain the circumstances leading to the arrest.

Where necessary, the Mission/Post takes up the matter with the host Government for speedy and fair trial also for review of the sentence. The prisoners are normally released on completion of their sentences. In deserving cases, our Missions/Posts approach the local authorities for remission of sentences.

Statement

Indians languishing in jails of Gulf Countries

Country	Number of prisoners (July, 2000)	Number of prisoners released (w.e.f. 1.1.98) till date unless otherwise specified
Bahrain	131	334
Iran	10	Nil
Iraq	Nil	Nil
Kuwait	107	Nil
Qatar	56	300 (w.e.f. Jan., 99)
Sultanate of Oman	14	Nil
Rep. of Yemen	02	10 Last 6 Years
Saudi Arabia	768	Nil
United Arab Emirates	800	Nil
Total	1888	344

[English]

Agriculture and Horticulture

2789. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss of foodgrain due to flood and cyclone of 1999 and drought in 2000 in the country;

(b) the specific steps taken to promote agriculture and horticulture in the cyclone, flood and drought affected and drought prone areas in the States;

(c) the plan formulated during 2000-2001; and

(d) the details of the Central assistance provided to each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Despite natural calamities affecting different parts of country, the foodgrain production during this year is estimated to be 205.91 million tonnes.

(b) and (c) Various measures like concerted efforts towards technology upgradation and its induction in the farming system, timely and adequate availability of various inputs such as fertilisers and seeds and promotion of their optimal use, surveillance of pests and the remedial measures and other managerial endeavours have been taken to manage the agriculture sector effectively.

(d) During 2000-2001, Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been released to States for undertaking necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. Details of State-wise releases are at given in the statement attached.

Statement

State-wise release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2000-2001

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Central share released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	77.78
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.40
3.	Assam	15.66
4.	Goa	0.34
5.	Gujarat	131.14
6.	Haryana	15.69
7.	Himachal Pradesh	8.44
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	6.17
9.	Karnataka	13.11
10.	Kerala	17.34
11.	Madhya Pradesh	31.98
12.	Manipur	1.56
13.	Meghalaya	1.76
14.	Mizoram	0.80
15.	Nagaland	0.53
16.	Orissa	30.70
17.	Punjab	16.95
18.	Rajasthan	168.18
19.	Sikkim	2.95
20.	Tamil Nadu	18.59
21.	Tripura	1.41
22.	Uttar Pradesh	39.18
23.	West Bengal	32.13
	Total	636.79

Development of Fisheries

2790. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Fisheries Research Institute (CFRI) was set up in West Bengal to develop and protect the resources of fisheries;

(b) whether as per the Central Fisheries Research Institute (CFRI) research, that a large scale fisheries can be produced in ponds and lakes;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up Fisheries Research Centres in the country, particularly in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) was set up in the year 1947 at Barrackpore in West Bengal to provide research support for the development and conservation of fisheries, both in physical as well as biological terms.

(b) CIFRI has the distinction of developing and refining a number of time-tested technologies and management practices, suitable for different types of resources which can enhance the fish production in ponds and lakes, provided the fisheries developmental activities are planned and pursued on suggested lines.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Industrial Training Centre

2791. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Industrial Training Centres under the Department of Scheduled Caste Development yet to get permanent affiliation in Kerala; and

(b) the reasons for not giving recognition to these institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) 35 ITCs under the Department of Scheduled Caste Development are yet to get affiliation with the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT).

(b) The Standing Committees which inspected these ITCs over a period of time did not recommend the trades/ units for grant of affiliation because the infrastructural facilities could not meet the prescribed NCVT norms.

Ground Water

2792. SHRI JAGANNATH MALLIK:
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey in regard to existing Ground Water Potential for irrigation has been completed;

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

(c) the extent to which the ground water has been exploited for the purpose of irrigation, State-wise;

(d) whether there is any over exploitation of ground water in any part of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The survey in regard to the existing ground water potential for irrigation has been carried out. The total replenishable ground water resources assessed for the country is 432 billion cubic metre. The irrigation potential from the ground water has been assessed as 64 million hectare. A statement showing the replenishable ground water resources State-wise as on 01.04.1998 and utilisable irrigation potential is enclosed.

(c) A statement-II indicating the State-wise position of irrigation potential created and utilised through ground water is enclosed.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. There are certain pockets in various States where over-exploitation of ground water in excess of annual availability exists. A list of over-exploited and dark blocks in various States is given as statement-III.

(f) Water being a State subject, steps to augment ground water resources is to be taken by the concerned State Government. The steps taken by the Union Government to increase ground water level in the country include:—

(i) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control and ground water management and development.

(ii) Circulation of a Model Bill to the States/Union Territories, to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

(iii) Circulation of Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

(iv) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme on studies in artificial recharge of ground water in some 'Over-exploited' and 'Dark' blocks of the country at a cost of Rs. 25.00 crore during the IX Five Year Plan.

Statement-I

Ground Water Resources Potential as on 1.4.1998

States	Total Replenishable Ground Water Resource MHaM/Yr	Utilisable Irrigation Potential m.ha.
1	2	3
States		
Andhra Pradesh	3.52909	3.96008
Arunachal Pradesh	0.14385	0.01800
Assam	2.24786	0.90000
Bihar	3.35841	4.94763
Goa	0.02182	0.02928
Gujarat	2.03767	2.75590
Haryana	1.11794	1.46170
Himachal Pradesh	0.02926	0.06850
Jammu & Kashmir	0.44257	0.70795
Karnataka	1.61750	2.57281
Kerala	0.79003	0.87925
Madhya Pradesh	5.08891	9.73249
Maharashtra	3.78677	3.65197
Manipur	0.31540	0.36900
Meghalaya	0.05397	0.06351

1	2	3
Mizoram	—	—
Nagaland	0.07240	—
Orissa	2.01287	4.20258
Punjab	1.81923	2.91715
Rajasthan	1.26021	1.77783
Sikkim	—	—
Tamil Nadu	2.64069	2.83205
Tripura	0.06634	0.08056
Uttar Pradesh	8.53870	16.79896
West Bengal	2.30914	3.31794
Total States	43.30063	64.04514
Union Territories		
Andaman & Nicobar	—	—
Chandigarh	0.00297	—
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.00422	—
Daman	0.00071	—
Diu	0.00037	—
NCT Delhi	0.02916	—
Lakshdweep	0.03042	—
Pondicherry	0.01746	—
Total UTs	0.08530	0.00504
Grand Total	43.38593	64.05018

Statement-II

Irrigation Potential Created and Utilised Through Ground Water Upto 'VIII Plan

(Figure in thousand Ha.)

Sl. No.	States	Potential Created	Potential Utilised
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1678	1644
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	2
3.	Assam	200	142
4.	Bihar	4365	3906
5.	Goa	2	2
6.	Gujarat	1790	1707
7.	Haryana	1544	1498
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16	11
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	10	10
10.	Karnataka	788	772
11.	Kerala	142	127
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1515	1496
13.	Maharashtra	1635	1594
14.	Manipur	1	1
15.	Meghalaya	9	9
16.	Mizoram	—	—
17.	Nagaland	1	1
18.	Orissa	701	571
19.	Punjab	3384	3324
20.	Rajasthan	2049	2015
21.	Sikkim	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	1315	1312
23.	Tripura	21	21
24.	Uttar Pradesh	22634	20358
25.	West Bengal	1861	1408
	Total States	45663	41931
	Total UTs	63	62
	Grand Total	45726	41993

Source: Report of the Working Group on Minor Irrigation for formulation of IX plan Proposals

Statement-III

Categorisation of Blocks/Mandals/Taluks/Watersheds as over exploited and Dark on All India Basis

Sl. No.	States	Number of Districts	Number of Blocks/Mandals/ Taluks/ Watersheds	No. of Blocks/Taluks/Mandals/Watersheds Over-exploited		Dark	
				No.	%	No.	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
States							
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22	1104	12	1.09	14	1.27
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	—	0	0.00	0	0.00
3.	Assam	23	134	0	0.00	0	0.00
4.	Bihar	42	589	3	0.51	9	1.53
5.	Goa	3	12	0	0.00	0	0.00
6.	Gujarat	19	184	13	7.07	15	8.15
7.	Haryana	17	22	33	30.58	8	7.41
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12	69	0	0.00	0	0.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	123	0	0.00	0	0.00
10.	Karnataka	19	175	7	4.00	9	5.14
11.	Kerala	14	154	0	0.00	0	0.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	45	459	2	0.44	1	0.22
13.	Maharashtra	29	231	2	0.87	6	2.60
14.	Manipur	6	26	0	0.00	0	0.00
15.	Meghalaya	5	29	0	0.00	0	0.00
16.	Mizoran.	3	20	—	Not Assessed	—	
17.	Nagaland	7	21	0	0.00	0	0.00
18.	Orissa	30	314	4	1.27	4	1.27
19.	Punjab	17	138	72	52.17	11	7.97
20.	Rajasthan	32	238	74	31.38	20	8.47
21.	Sikkim	4	4	—	Not Assessed	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	27	384	64	16.67	39	10.16
23.	Tripura	3	17	0	0.00	0	0.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	58	819	19	2.32	21	2.58
25.	West Bengal	16	341	0	0.00	1	0.29
	Total States	470	5691	305	—	158	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Union Territories						
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	-	—	—	—	—
2.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Daman & Diu	—	2	1	50.00	1	50.00
5.	NCT Delhi	—	5	3	60.00	1	20.00
6.	Lakshdweep	—	9	0	0.00	0	0.00
7.	Pondicherry	—	4	1	25 00	—	0.00
	Total UTs	—	20	5	—	2	—
	Grand Total	—	5711	310	—	160	—

Note-Andhra Pradesh-Mandal
Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Taluks/Tehsils

[Translation]

Welfare of OBCs

2793. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to send welfare schemes particulary for OBCs;

(b) if so, the details of schemes received from State Governments for the welfare of OBCs during the last three years;

(c) the States from which such schemes are yet to be received; and

(d) the action taken by the Government on the proposals received so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) The Government of India is implementing the following schemes since 1998-99:—

(i) Pre-matric Scholarships for OBCs Student in India;

(ii) Post-matric Scholarships to OBCs Students in India;

(iii) Hostels for OBC Boys & Girls;

(iv) Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for OBCs; and

(v) Assistance to Voluntary Organizations for the Welfare of OBCs.

All the State Governments have been requested for sending proposals as per the schemes. Amount sanctioned during the last three years is given in statement-I enclosed.

In addition, National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) provides financial support to the eligible members of Backward Classes under following Schemes:—

(i) Term Loan.

(ii) Margin Money Loan.

State-wise details of loan disbursed by NBCFDC during last three years are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Funds Released and Physical Achievements during 1998-99 and 1999-2000

I. Pre-matric Scholarship for OBCs:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1998-99		1999-2000	
		Funds Released	No. of Benef.	Funds Released	No. of Benef.
1.	Bihar	84.60	10.556	Nil	Nil
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	325.00	70,000
3.	Madhya Pradesh	64.00	8,957	Nil	Nil
4.	Tripura	1.40	Nil*	100.00	46,920

II. Post-Matric Scholarships to the OBC students for studies in India

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No	State/UT	1998-99		1999-2000	
		Funds Released	No. of Benef.	Funds Released	No. of Benef.
1.	Bihar	196.50	14410	Nil	Nil
2.	Andhra Pradesh	116.00	3,259	324.26	26,151
3.	Madhya Pradesh	149.00	10,426	Nil	Nil
4.	Tripura	3.00*	Nil	55.00	4,570
5.	Karnataka	Nil	Nil	118.00	11,073

III. Hostels for OBC Boys & Girls:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1998-99		1999-2000	
		Funds Released	No. of Hostels*	Funds Released	No. of Hostels*
1.	Bihar	120.53	3 (300)	Nil	Nil
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	144.26	19 (1900)
3.	Madhya Pradesh	10.00	1 (50)	Nil	Nil
4.	Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	57.48	7 (175)
5.	Karnataka	Nil	Nil	78.26	17 (985)
6.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	20.00	1 (50)

*No. of Hostels (No. of students)

*The amount was unspent and utilized during 1999-2000.

IV. Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for OBCs

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1998-99		1999-2000	
		Funds Released	No. of Benef.	Funds Released	No. of Benef.
1.	Assam	6.78	120	Nil	Nil
2.	Kerala	3.33	40	Nil	Nil
3.	Madhya Pradesh	5.19	160	2.13	80
4.	Orissa	2.12	Nil	0.85	20

V. Assistance to Voluntary Organisations:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1998-99		1999-2000	
		Funds Released	No. of Benef.	Funds Released	No. of Benef.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11.18	240	15.82	790
2.	Assam	2.70	30	4.32	170
3.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil	0.89	50
4.	Haryana	Nil	Nil	7.33	370
5.	Karnataka	Nil	Nil	1.55	90
6.	Madhya Pradesh	8.50	210	Nil	Nil
7.	Maharashtra	27.65	1015	20.13	785
8.	Manipur	2.16	115	10.56	435
9.	Orissa	2.69	30	3.66	210
10.	Sikkim	1.73	125	Nil	Nil
11.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	0.95	50
12	Uttar Pradesh	5.59	180	25.11	1195
13.	West Bengal	1.13	80	5.66	250
14.	Delhi	1.13	80	11.02	570

Statement-II

National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation

State & Year-wise Disbursement & No. of Beneficiaries for the Last three years & Current year

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sr. No.	Name of States SCAS	Year								Cumulative Amt.	
		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001			
		DISB	Benef.	DISB	Benef.	DISB	Benef.	DISB	Benef.	DISB	Benef.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	A.P.B.C.	3186.57	37031	1648.49	92854	1433.74	26470	—		9090.23	174867
2.	A.P.G.P.	246.55	1200	0.00	0	458.85	2000	—		829.73	3876
		3433.12	38231	1648.49	92854	1892.59	28470	0.00	0	9919.96	178743
3.	Assam	0.00	0	23.99	15	76.93	56	20.60	20	182.47	558
4.	Bihar	266.36	963	990.16	1636	210.74	515	—		2010.19	5339
5.	Chandigarh	0.00	0	29.60	37	11.01	21	—		15.67	30
6.	Gujarat	704.61	1459	969.22	660	456.24	476	35.00	200	2375.07	4584
7.	Goa	5.79	13	13.17	26	19.90	27	28.44	20	77.54	115
8.	Haryana	387.45	2475	62.05	230	212.50	1234	—	—	1607.87	14387
9.	Himachal Pradesh	181.41	281	202.35	261	206.53	187	62.48	58	800.17	1249
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0	41.05	80	0.00	0	—	—	61.87	130
11.	Karnataka	798.45	2961	875.35	2450	562.87	1054	200.47	235	4549.28	30855
12.	Kerala-Art	0.00	0	105.29	125	0.00	0	—	—	105.29	125
13.	Kerala-CC	00.0	0	0.00	0	87.50	175	50.00	106	631.63	1696
14.	Kerala-W	0.00	0	149.65	420	233.62	601	—	—	963.47	3391
15.	Kerala-BC	0.00	0	680.29	1506	536.58	2329	579.08	1359	3670.04	9530
16.	Kerala-F	90.01	686	0.00	0	190.00	860	—	—	355.38	2126
	Sub Total	90.01	686	936.13	2051	1347.70	3855	629.08	1450.00	5826.81	16368
17.	M.P.-ANTA	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	—	—	1210.11	3516
18.	M.P.-BC	699.99	3499	300.14	765	287.00	574	—	—	1740.26	6832
19.	M.P.- Hastship	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	43.01	0	253	43.01	253
20.	Sub Total	699.99	3499	300.14	765	287.00	574	43.01	253	2993.38	10601
20.	Manipur-T	75.94	61	126.68	197	92.00	80	—	—	407.37	561
21.	Manipur-W	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	—	—	75.67	500
	Sub Total	75.94	61	126.68	197	92.00	80	0.00	0	483.04	1061
22.	Maha-MPH	0.00	0	0.00	0					2015.51	3681
23.	Maha-VJNT	0.00	0	0.00	0					844.12	2044
	Sub Total	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	2869.73	5625

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
24.	Sikkim	67.56	165	161.09	253	77.10	120	—	—	360.31	583
25.	Orissa	0.00	0	0.00	0	261.12	1468	—	—	454.49	2410
26.	Punjab	32.64	128	0.00	0	100.00	200	—	—	799.03	2374
27.	Pondichery	0.00	0	154.06	125	—	—	86.04	288	240.10	413
28.	Rajasthan	0.00	0	200.23	405	376.12	638	—	—	394.24	707
29.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0	641.54	2205	401.37	1330	—	—	2827.27	13163
30.	Tripura	156.94	469	384.26	1435	57.26	230	—	—	498.27	2128
31.	Uttar Pradesh	141.58	425	1360.38	4123	230.00	460	89.51	247	3241.57	14323
32.	West Bengal	0.00	0	53.89	150	609.66	1300	—	—	209.71	1092
33.	NGOs	—	—	—	40.00	40.00	15.98	373	66.96	773	
	Grand Total	7081.75	51816	9142.81	109948	7527.63	42724	1260.61	3163	42833.03	313111

Ranking of India on I.T. Front

2794. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is making efforts to become a super power in the field of information technology;

(b) if so, our present position in this field and the efforts being made by our country to compete with other countries of the world;

(c) the efforts being made to include Indian languages alongwith English in the field of information technology;

(d) the major achievements made so far in the country in this field;

(e) the amount provided for the development of information technology;

(f) the efforts being made to make the information technology useful to the public in general and to popularise it;

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to utilise the talents in this field in the country;

(h) whether the demand of Indian experts of this field is increasing in the world; and

(i) if so, the details thereof and the stand of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Information Technology Industry is the fastest growing sector of the Indian Industry. The software exports have recorded a compound annual growth rate of 60% for the last five years and was US $ 4 billion in the year 1999-2000. 13 Indian software exports (as against 20 in the world) acquired the highest quality certification level of SEI CMM Level 5. 145 Indian software companies have also acquired quality certification: ISO 9000 SEI and other quality marks. Majority of the multi-national companies operating in the area of Information Technology have either Software Development Centre or Research Development Centre. 30% of the E-Commerce starts up during the year 1999 in Silicon Valley, USA were initiated by Indians. Also 500 portals are being launched in India every month.

The Ministry of Information Technology had set up a Working Group on Information Technology for Masses. The Working Group has recently submitted its report and have made a number of important recommendations. The Working Group set a ambitious target of at least 100 million Internet connections by the year 2008 and 1 million Internet enabled IT Kisoks/Cyber Cafes to be established covering the entire length and breath of the country.

To increase the reach of IT to the Masses, the Government is setting up Community Information Centres at all the 487 blocks in the North East Region of the country including Sikkim. Such schemes will be set up in other remote areas of the country aslo.

The Government have set up 15 Software Technology Parks in the country to provide High Speed Data Communication facilities and incubation facilities to the software exporting units in different parts of the country. Few more Centres are being set up in the country.

A National Venture Fund for Software and IT Industry (NFSIT) has been set up with the cost of Rs. 100 crores to provide Venture Capital Finance to the IT Companies.

A Task Force on Human Resource Development under the Chairmanship of Minister of Human Resource Development have been set up. The Task Force among other things will give its report in a month for doubling IITs/ RECs from next academic year and tripling the intake in the next two years.

The Government has also announced a number of incentives for the growth and promotion of Information Technology business abroad. The details of these incentives are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Number of initiatives have been taken under the TDIL (Technology Development for Indian Languages) programme of the MIT. Resource centres for Indian Languages solutions at 13 Educational and R&D institutions to cover all the official languages under the constitution.

(d) The Governmental efforts and other initiatives in the private sector has resulted in the increasing availability of multilingual operating environment (for DOS, windows & Linux platforms) and applications like Word processing, spell checker, E-mail, databases, transliteration, translation support tools etc.

(e) Government's thrust is to create policy ambience to attract major investments primarily from the private sector. Government will act as a proactive facilitator, promoter and motivator.

(f) Government is launching schemes like Public Tele-Info Centres, Community Information Centres (in North East) to increase the reach of IT to masses. Other initiatives include promotion of E-Learning, E-Governance and E-Commerce.

(g) to (i) The Indian software professionals have already created their brand image in the global market. There is increasing demand of Indian IT professionals from countries like USA, Germany, Japan and Australia.

Government policy is to encourage software development and hardware manufacturing in the country by creating the necessary environment. Various measures are being taken from time to time in this regard so that there is stimulation to creation of wealth and economic growth leading to better employment opportunities within the country. This may also discourage IT professionals from migrating abroad.

Statement

Incentives to IT Sector

To encourage and promote information technology business abroad, the Government of India has abolished licensing and simplified the procedures to make them transparent. The following major steps have been taken to promote export of IT Sector.

1. To provide legal framework so as to facilitate Electronic Commerce in the country, the Government has drafted Information Technology Act. The Act provides legal framework for amongst others recognition of electronic contracts, prevention of computer crimes, and electronic filing/documents. The mechanism of digital signature has been approved to address the issues of jurisdiction, authentication and origination.
2. Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% duty.
3. Foreign Direct Investments up to 100% allowed.
4. Software Technology Parks Scheme.
5. Special Stock Option Schemes for Indian Software Companies linked with ADR/GDR offering.
6. Working Capital Finance to Information Technology and Software industry.
7. Sweat Equity has been introduced in the Companies Act.
8. Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) access up to 50% of FOB value of exports for units under Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Export Processing Zone (EPZ)/Software Technology Parks (STP) Scheme.
9. Depreciation on Computer @ 60% per annum.

10. Reduction in Custom Duty on computer and peripherals to 15%. The customs duty on all storage devices, integrated circuits, microprocessors, data display tubes and deflection components of colour monitors is @ 0%.

11. Software expempted from custom duty and excise duty.

12. Relaxation in income tax to software units under EOU/EPZ/STP Schemes.

13. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings.

14. Computer systems have been made freely importable. The donation of used computers to educational institutes, hospitals etc. have been permitted duty free from units in EOU/EPZ/STP/ Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)

15. Exemption on income from dividends on Venture Capital Fund.

16. "Business Support Centre" has been opened in "Silicon Valley" California, USA to assist small & medium enterprises in establishing strategic alliance in the US.

[English]

Modernisation of Government Offices

2795. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme with the Government to modernise its offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated to each Ministry during the last three years;

(d) whether as part of this scheme, there is any proposal under consideration to convert Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances as a model Department; and

(e) if so, the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

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 AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Plan Scheme for Modernisation of Government Offices was launched in the year 1987-1988 to provide assistance to various Ministries/Departments for modernising the functioning of operational areas, including the improvement of work environment, better lay outs, improved office aids, modernised records management etc. The Scheme is to supplement the modernisation efforts being made by various Ministries/ Departments.

In order to address as many proposals received as possible and also to encourage participation in modernisation of offices by Ministries/Departments, the scheme was recently revised. The revised scheme now requires the concerned Ministry/Department to finance a part of their proposal from their own Non-Plan Budget.

(c) A Statement indicating the funds allocated to various Ministries/Departments under the Scheme during the last three years is attached.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Statement Indicating the Funds Allotted to Various Ministries/Departments under the Plan Scheme of "Modernization of Government Offices" During the Years 1997-98, 1998-1999 and 1999-2000

Sl. No.	Ministry/Department	Funds allocated in the years (in lakhs)		
		1997-98 (in Rs.)	1998-99 (in Rs.)	1999-2000 (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Department of Supply	7.90	—	7.19

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Ministry of Surface Transport	9.04	—	21.57
3.	Department of Expenditure	8.66	3.37	7.91
4.	Department of Economic Affairs	8.81	10.00	2.16
5.	Department of Revenue	8.25	—	—
6.	Ministry of Home Affairs	18.38	20.85	6.87
7.	Ministry of Industry	7.00	—	—
8.	Ministry of Tourism	6.30	15.00	11.67
9.	Department of Consumer Affairs	5.73	1.13	4.39
10.	Department of Legal Affairs	1.55	—	—
11.	Ministry of Urban Affairs	15.77	16.26	—
12.	Department of Personnel & Training	22.32	4.57	9.44
13.	Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances	31.28	18.26	2.22
14.	Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare	—	19.52	24.90
15.	Department of Compnay Affairs	—	5.62	13.06
16.	Department of Post	—	4.82	7.31
17.	Ministry of Labour	—	2.76	—
18.	Prime Ministers' Office	—	2.80	2.35
19.	U.P.S.C.	—	2.26	12.52
20.	National Commission for Women	—	8.00	—
21.	Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion	—	—	6.81
22.	Department of Food & Civil Supplies	—	—	9.49
23.	Department of Steel	—	—	3.32
24.	Principal Director of Audit	—	—	8.80

[Translation]

Task Force

2796. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted any task force with regard to the development of small scale industries;

(b) if so, whether the said task force has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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) to (d) Question does not arise.

[English]

Ongoing Projects by KVIC

2797. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:

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

(a) whether the Government have reviewed performance of ongoing projects approved by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof as per latest review by standard norms;

(c) details of investment made by KVIC in Maharashtra during the past three years and results achieved thereunder both in terms of production and employment generation; and

(d) details of proposals from Maharashtra received and cleared during the current year so far along with tentative allocations for the State?

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 performance of individual projects is monitored by the concerned branches of the loaning banks. The Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIB) and the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) also review performance at the macro level. The Government reviews the performance of programmes as such and not that of individual projects.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The details of disbursement made by the KVIC in Maharashtra State and the performance in terms of production and employment for the last 3 years are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) As on 31.3.2000, 806 village industries projects had been financed in Maharashtra under the Margin Money Scheme by the Public Sector Banks. Sector-wise, project-wise details are not maintained centrally. During the current financial year i.e. 2000-2001 the KVIC has allocated Rs. 2.50 crores to the Maharashtra State KVIB as Margin Money advance under the Rural Employment Generation Programme. This is in addition to the bank loans sanctioned by 27 scheduled Commercial Banks through their branches.

Statement

Disbursement and Performance in Terms of Production and Employment in Maharashtra duing last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Disbursement				Production		Employment	
	KVIC		CBC					
	Khadi	VI	Khadi	VI	Khadi	VI	Khadi	VI
1996-97	348.50	1015.28	71.46	236.73	2260.42	73386.65	0.18	4.58
1997-98	43.77	333.99	—	164.24	2171.43	66933.34	0.17	3.83
1998-99	318.21	350.93	—	602.60	2454.10	90635.06	0.18	4.47

Chinese Stand on India's N-Tests

2798. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether modifications have been made by China as a result of the recent visit of high level delegations to that country with regard to their stand relating to India's insistence to maintain a reliable nuclear deterrent and the Pokharan N-Test; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The nuclear issue was not raised by the Chinese side during the recent visit of high level delegations to China. Both sides agree that differences, including on the nuclear issue, should not be an impediment to improvement of bilateral relations.

Issuance of Passports at District level

2799. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to issue passports to the applicants at the district level itself; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

IAS Officers Engaged in F.W. Programmes

2800. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some IAS officers, engaged in M/s EPOS Health Consultants, Germany, for the European Commission supported "Health and Family Welfare Programme" in India; and

(b) if so, the names of such IAS officers and the Indian consultants to the projects?

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) M/s EPOS Health Consultants, Germany, is the lead member of a consortium engaged by the European Commission for providing technical assistance to the Department of Family Welfare for implementing the European Commission assisted Health and Family Welfare Programme in India. In turn, the consortium acting on behalf of the European Commission, has engaged a team of Indian and foreign consultants for providing technical assistance to the Department of Family Welfare.

Shri Indrajit Pal, an IAS Officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, is at present working as Programme Advisor in the European Commission Health & Family Welfare Programme Office at New Delhi.

The other Indian consultants engaged in the European Commission Health and Family Welfare Programme are:

1. Shri Deepak Bhandari
2. Dr. K.B. Singh
3. Dr. Virender Sharma
4. Dr. Uma Vyas
5. Dr. A.C. Baishya
6. Shri Oommen Philip
7. Dr. Kum Kum Srivastava
8. Shri G.S. Sachdev

None of them is an IAS Officer.

Infrastructure and Technology Fund

2801. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether the study group of Planning Commission recommended for setting of infrastructure fund and technology fund for Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objectives of these two proposed funds for the SSI Sector;

(d) the time by which the fund is likely to become operational indicating the administrative authority of the fund;

(e) whether the infrastructure development scheme would cover all areas of the country with 50 per cent reservation for backward and rural areas; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the other recommendations made by the Study Group of Planning Commission for Small Scale 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) to (f) Yes, Sir. The study group of Planning Commission headed by Sh. S.P. Gupta in its interim report has recommended, inter alia, the setting up of Infrastructure Development Fund for Small Scale Entreprises (SSEs) with a corpus of around Rs. 2000 crore to help States/ UTs in creating, revamping and upgrading the industrial infrastructure. The Committee has also recommended that the Integrated Infrastructure Development (IID) scheme should cover all areas of the country iwth 50% reservation for backward and rural areas. Further the Group has also recommended making available the funds for Technology upgradation and modernisation of SSEs at concessional rate of interest as is available under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for modernisation of textile sector. These recommendations are being examined by the Government.

The other important recommendations of the study Group are raising of the corpus of the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for the tiny sector to Rs. 2500 crores, strengthening of State Financial Corporations, the enhancement of the excise exemption limit to Rs. 1 crore, the enactment of a separate Act for the growth and development of small scale sector, conducting of third census of registered small scale units and extending of greater marketing support to the small scale sector by the Government.

Media Lab

2802. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a committee to take care of attack on critical infrastructure networks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal for setting up a 'Media Lab' in the country with the help of Massachussets Institute of technology in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) financial requirement for setting the 'Media Lab'?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Government in considering to set up a high level security panel to ensure protection of information infrastructure in the critical sectors in the country on the lines of National Infrastructure Protection Centre set up in USA. However, no firm proposal in this regard has yet been drawn up.

(c) to (e) A proposal to set up Media Lab India in collaboration with Massachussets Institute of Technology, USA is under consideration. It will focus on developing technologies of the future in the field of IT such as Internet and Multimedia and aim at generating ideas and entrepreneurship of international calibre; focus on use of futuristic technologies for solving problems of Indian context; and create ambience for students, faculty, entrepreneurs, industry and users to work together in a creative environment. To consider the matter further and prepare a detailed project document, a Technical Committee and a Steering Committee have been set up.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects of Bihar

2803. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently asked the Bihar Government to submit details of expenditure to be spent on different irrigation projects which require funds for completion during 9th Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether the Bihar Government has submitted the proposal;

(c) the estimated funds required to complete the irrigation projects of the State; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to make available the funds for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The estimated cost of ongoing major and medium projects of Bihar is Rs. 8430.71 crore, of which an expenditure of Rs. 2534.64 crore has been made upto the end of VIII Five Year Plan.

(d) Being a State subject, irrigation projects are planned, investigated, implemented and funded by the State Governments as per their own priorities. Union Government has been providing Central Loan Assistance to the States under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for projects which are in advanced stage of construction and also for projects which are beyond the resources capability of the States. An amount of Rs. 219.41 crore has been released by the Union Government to the State of Bihar under AIBP upto 1999-2000.

EU Support for Fighting Terrorism

2804. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has received overwhelming support of European Union to root out cross-border terrorism and bring about peace and stability in the South-Asian Region; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The EU shares India's conviction that terrorism is a major threat to regional and international peace and security and constitute a serious violation of the rights of innocent individuals and of the integrity of States. The shared resolve of India and the EU to cooperate to prevent and combat terrorism and to meet the challenges arising from it in the regional and international context has been highlighted in the India-EU Summit Joint Declaration issued at Lisbon on 28th June, 2000. The EU has also agreed to strive with India for a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

[English]

Cultivation of Wheat, Pulses, Rice and Oilseeds

2805. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land under cultivation of wheat, pulses, rice and oilseeds in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the area out of this land brought under cultivation during 1999;

(c) whether there was abnormal increase in the areas of wheat and rice cultivation in some States; 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) The State-wise and All-India normal area under cultivation and that expected to be covered under wheat, pulses, rice and oilseeds during 1999-2000 is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) It can be seen from the annexure that there has been some increase in the area under Rice and Wheat at all India level and also in certain States during 1999-2000 compared to the Normal area.

Statement

State-wise Normal Area and Area Coverage During 1999-2000 Under Various Crops

(Area in '000 hectares)

State	Rice		Wheat		Pulses		Oilseeds	
	Normal	1999-2000*	Normal	1999-2000*	Normal	1999-2000*	Normal	1999-2000*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	3907	3905	11	10	1583	1546	2773	2557

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Assam	2467	2624	87	85	121	126	319	335
Bihar	5093	4985	2087	2119	918	889	226	219
Gujarat	646	664	659	481	892	699	2911	2780
Haryana	942	1087	2090	2314	422	150	611	538
Himachal Pradesh	84	86	371	380	35	35	19	18
Jammu & Kashmir	274	251	243	241	32	29	70	71
Karnataka	1379	1419	256	256	1757	1831	2455	2223
Kerala	387	341	0	0	30	29	16	18
Madhya Pradesh	5376	5354	4523	4639	5027	5150	6107	5924
Maharashtra	1479	1509	854	1049	3362	3605	2656	2726
Orissa	4471	4593	5	6	728	786	404	340
Punjab	2320	2604	3289	3375	88	64	195	102
Rajasthan	160	200	2640	2650	4264	2471	4202	3635
Tamil Nadu	2274	2204	1	1	730	865	1124	1067
Uttar Pradesh	5715	5933	9133	9400	2768	2667	1696	1602
West Bengal	5868	6176	362	364	218	304	504	591
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All India	43826	44924	26660	27423	23046	21358	26391	24850

*— Estimated as on 29.06.2000

Small and Tiny Enterprises

2806. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to change the definition of small and tiny enterprises;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether foreign capital will be permitted in the Small Scale Sector;

(d) whether the Small Scale Industry Sector will be linked to an inter-based definition of small and tiny industries that will be based on inflation;

(e) whether the revision in investment limit will be an annual feature;

(f) whether such changes in definition will help the Small Scale Sector; and

(g) if so, the concrete steps taken/proposed to revive and sustain the Small Scale 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) to (g) All these issues are under consideration. Foreign equity to the extent of 24% is already permitted in the Small Scale Sector.

-

Visit of German Foreign Minister

2807. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether German Foreign Minister visited India recently;

(b) if so, the issues discussed; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Mr. Joschka Fischer, Deputy Chancellor and Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, visited India on 17th & 18th May, 2000. During this visit, bilateral relations, regional issues and multilateral developments were reviewed. The visit has led to improved appreciation of the mutual interests of India and Germany and has also enhanced Germany's understanding of the implications of developments in India's neighbourhood. It was agreed that India and Germany would continue to consult each other on key bilateral and international strategic issues through the mechanism of the bilateral strategic dialogue. The discussions also led to an agreement to work togetner to combat international terrorism and its nexus with drug trafficking and illicit trade in arms. Germany and India are both candidates for permanent membership of an expanded UN Security Council. Both agree that there is a need for reform and balanced enlargement of UNSC to make it more representative and improve its ability to act and function properly.

The two sides adopted an Agenda for Indo-German Partnership in the 21st Century-A Vision Statement, which outlines steps to upgrade the relationship through enhanced political exchanges, a security dialogue, the augmentation of bilateral trade and investment, enhanced cultural exchanges and bilateral co-operation to combat international terrorism, drug trafficking and organised crime.

Water Management

2808. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the recent Worldwatch Institute report which point out that 70% of water consumed globally including diversion from rivers and under ground water is used for irrigation, 20 percent goes to industry and 10 percent for residential purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether under this report, India is heading for hydrological poverty; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet the water shortage in the country?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (d) The Report of the World Watch Institute on "State of the World 2000" does not categorically state so. However the major consumptive use of water is in irrigation sector and is of the order of 70-80% and the remaining is utilized for other uses namely, domestic, energy sector etc. In India the share of demand of water for irrigation sector is of the order of 84% at present.

The average annual Water availability in the country remains more or less fixed according to the natural hydrologic cycle. The per capita average annual water availability is reducing progressively owing to increasing population. The average annual per capita water availability may come down from about 1869 Cu.m. at present to about 1350 Cu.m. by 2025 AD at national level. This is well above the limit of 1000 Cu.m. per capita per annum, considered as scarcity condition. Therefore, even by the end of 2035 AD, India is not likely to face water scarcity situation at the national level, though uneven water availability may cause local water scarcity in some parts of the country.

The Govt. has initiated various measures like Command Area Development Programme and Water Resources Consolidation Projects to improve efficiency of irrigation water use in the country. As a long term measure National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins. Government of India is also promoting rain water harvesting through watershed management programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rain water harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Government and other

implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up pilot studies for artificial ground water recharge.

[Translation]

Indian Fishermen in Captivity

2809. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Indian fishermen are still languishing in Pak and Sri Lankan Jails;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made to secure their release?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) According to available information, 112 fishermen are held in Pakistani jails. There are 20 Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan jails.

(c) Government is in continuous contact with Pakistan through diplomatic channels for securing the earliest release and repatriation of these fishermen. Similarly, in case of Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan jails, the matter is taken up at appropriate levels in both New Delhi and Colombo and we continue to pursue it till the fishermen are released and repatriated.

[English]

Hadgarh Dam

2810. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds spent on rehabilitation and compensation to the affected persons of the Hadgarh Dam Irrigation Project, so far;

(b) the estimated funds likely to be spent for the purpose during the current financial year; and

(c) the time by which all the affected persons are likely to be rehabilitated/compensated?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (c) Irrigation being a State subject, the rehabilitation and re-settlement of people affected by construction of the irrigation projects is done by the concerned State Government. The required information is not maintained at the Centre.

Kashmir Issue

2811. SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether France has asked Pakistan to use its influence on militants and also to stop armed infiltration across the Line of Control (LoC);

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether European Union and France have been calling for peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue during their interactions with both India and Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the impact thereof in curbing militancy in Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. France has taken the position that it is necessary to bring an end to intrusions and violations of the Line of Control. In a statement issued by the French Foreign Office on 31st May, 1999, a French Spokesman stated that it would not be possible to re-establish trust between both countries unless violations of the LoC are put to an end.

(c) The European Union and France have called for a peaceful resolution of all issues between India and Pakistan on the basis of bilateral dialogue in keeping with bilateral commitments and the spirit of the Lahore Declaration. In a statement issued on 24th June, 1999, the EU Presidency called upon India and Pakistan to resume their dialogue in accordance with bilateral commitments and the Lahore Declaration. The EU, in a statement on 3rd August, 2000, said that it was appalled by the recent terrorists attacks in Jammu & Kashmir. It said that it utterly condemns the perpetrators of these attacks and those supporting them.

(d) Pakistan continues to sponsor terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir despite the position taken by the European Union and the rest of the international community.

[Translation]

Scheme for Loan to Farmers

2812. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated three point programme for making the farmers self-sufficient;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any scheme to provide loans to farmers to increase the production of foodgrains;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the farmers are likely to be benefited from this scheme?

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) and (d) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance facility to Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and cooperatives for providing loans to the farmers for crop production. Under the existing Crop Loan System of lending to the farmers, loans are provided on the basis of scale of finance for different crops which are fixed after taking into account all the requirements i.e. cost of cultivation, variations in climatic conditions etc. Under the long term financing, the State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks are providing finance to the farmers for Land Development, Minor Irrigation, Farm Mechanization etc.

(e) The Cooperative Credit Institutions are already covering 67% households in the rural area and about 99% villages. The total agricultural credit disbursed by the financial institutions during the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was about Rs. 36897 crore and Rs. 41765 crore respectively.

[English]

Savings-Cum-Relief Scheme for Fishermen

2613. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any savings-cum-relief scheme for fishermen;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of fishermen covered under the scheme State-wise;

(d) the amount contributed by the Centre towards the scheme during the past three years;

(e) whether the Government propose to extend the scheme to cover fisherwomen also who, being engaged in small scale fish distribution and processing activities are also victims of lean months particularly the monsoon months; and

(f) if so, steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DE. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Saving-cum-Relief component of the Centrally Sponsored National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen provides financial assistance to fishermen during monsoon/closed periods of fishing. Under this component a contribution of Rs. 75/- per month for eight months in a year is collected from the marine fishermen and is equally matched by a contribution from the Central Government and the State Government. The sum is distributed to marine fishermen in four instalments of Rs. 300/- each during the monsoon/closed period. In the case of inland fishermen, a contribution of Rs. 50/- per month for nine months in a year is to be collected, and matched by an equal contribution from the Central Government and the State Government. The sum will be distributed in three monthly instalments of Rs. 300/- each during the monsoon/closed period.

(c) and (d) The number of fishermen covered under this component during the last three years State-wise and the Central assistance released during the corresponding period is given in the enclosed statement.

(e) and (f) A proposal for inclusion of fisherwomen has been referred to State Governments and their detailed response is awaited.

Statement

Central Assistance Released and Fishermen covered under the Saving-cum-Relief Component of the National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen during the Last three Years, State-wise.

(RS. in lakhs)

S. No.	State	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Funds Released	No. of Beneficiaries	Funds Released	No. of Beneficiaries	Funds Released	No. of Beneficiaries
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	0.90	175	2.94	614

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Kerala	303.68	84,258	290.13	95,538	358.87	1,04,207
3.	Karnataka	17.63	4,945	30.57	10,404	46.13	13.707
4.	Onssa	0.99	—	2.60	187	—	—
5.	Pondicherry	68.83	10,038	—	—	140.76	20,170
6.	Tamil Nadu	501.46	1,17,805	393.13	1,67,045	824.76	1,82,667
7.	West Bengal	—	—	18.00	5,000	25.20	—
	Total	892.59	2,17,046	735.33	2,78,349	1398.66	3,21,365

Water/Soft Drinks

2814. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of companies floating poor quality aerated water and soft drinks;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to make it mandatory all such aerated manufacturing companies in the country to the publication of contents on the bottle;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid down on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Food Processing Industries (FPI)

2815. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated increase in number of Food Processing Industries during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH) (a) Food Processing Industries are both in the organized and unorganized sectors and as such, the information regarding number of food processing industries is not maintained Centrally.

(b) For the development of processed food sector, the Government has been taking various steps from time to time which inter-alia include:

(i) Provision of soft loan and grant-in-aid:

(ii) Inclusion of food processing industries in the list of priority sector 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 up to 100% for most of the processed food items except alcohol and beer and those reserved for small scale sector subject to certain conditions.

[English]

CPF Pension

2816. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the workers of cashew nut, coir and plantations are likely to lose their Central Provident Fund Pension as per the circular issued by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Trivandrum;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to revise this decision;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) According to available information cashew and plantation workers in Kerala generally work for 2-3 months in a year. As such these workers have not deposited contribution for most of the period in a year during which they were without wages. These cashew workers have rendered many years' such service under the old Family Pension Scheme and the same can be considered for Pension under the new Pension Scheme provided the requisite contribution is paid by the members as provided under para 9 (2A) of the Family Pension Scheme 1971. As the Employees' Pension Scheme is a contributory scheme with limited resources, it is considered actuarially desirable to recover the contribution/interest so as to ensure payment of monthly pension to the beneficiaries on a continued basis.

[Translation]

Administration work of ICAR

2817. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the benefits of research works carried out by the various Agriculture Universities/Institutions/Research Centres are not within the reach of the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the knowledge and expertise are not within the reach of farmers due to lack of communication between farmers and the said institutions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) In order to facilitate the dissemination of the benefits of research works carried out by the Agricultural Universities/Research Institutions/Centres to the farmers, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have taken up various front-line extension programmes.

The details are as follows:

(i) Establishment of 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) with the State Agricultural Universities (SAU), ICAR Institutes, Non-Government Organizations (NGO) and other institutions.

(ii) To provide a strong linkage between technology generation, assessment, refinement and dissemination, the ICAR have sanctioned for strengthening the existing Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZARS) to take the additional functions of KVK in 53 districts where there is no KVK.

(iii) Sanctioned 40 Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATIC) with the SAUs and ICAR Institutes to provide to single window support system for technology products, information and services developed by the institutions to the farmers.

(iv) A project on Technology Assessment and Refinement through Institution Village Linkage Programme (IVLP) has been launched by the Council at 70 centres of SAUs and ICAR Institutes to facilitate scientist-farmer linkage.

(v) The SAUs have their own Directorates of Extension to undertake various activities for dissemination of technology to the farmers.

(c) and (d) The knowledge and expertise on modern agricultural technology are communicated to the farmers by organising front-line demonstrations, on-farm testing, training of farmers and extension personnel through the programmes indicated above.

Protection to Rural Industries

2818. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide protection to rural industries from the invasion of foreign industrialists;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are taking steps from closure of rural industries; 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. There is an equity cap of 24% for foreign direct investment.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) For the promotion of Small Scale and Agro Industries in the rural areas, the Government is implementing various schemes/programmes viz. the Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Schemes, the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) and the National Programme for Rural Industrialisation (NPRI) etc. The Government also provides financial assistance to rural industries in the form of rebate, grants, subsidy and loan.

Besides excise duty relief is available based on the turnover.

[English]

Upper Krishna Stage-II Projects

2819. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have given its techno-economic clearance to the Upper-Krishna Stage-II Projects including Almati reservoir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the earlier estimated cost and the extent to which the cost of the project escalated due to time overrun;

(d) the extent to which the State is likely to be benefited after the completion of the projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (d) Upper Krishna Stage-II Multipurpose Project (Irrigation portion) with Almatti Dam full reservoir level (FRL) at 519.6 metres has been cleared from techno-economic angle at an estimated cost of Rs. 2849.06 crore for providing annual irrigation to an area of 226688 hectares after completion in Bijapur, Gulbarga and Raichur districts of Karnataka. The project proposal for FRL of 519.6 metres was finalized by the State Government only in May, 2000 and submitted to Central Water Commission alongwith the cost estimate. Under the circumstances assessment of the cost escalation is not feasible.

(e) As reported by the Government of Karnataka, the project will be completed within six years from the date of commencement.

MoU Between India and China

2820. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have signed the first ever Memorandum of Understanding in the area of Information Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps initiated for implementation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for cooperation of Information Technology between the Ministry of Information Technology of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Information Industry of the People's Republic of China was signed in Beijing on 17th July, 2000. The MOU is expected to promote cooperation in the following areas of Information Technology:—

(i) Computer
(ii) Enterprise Networks
(iii) Information Technology
(iv) Microeletronic Technology and integrated circuits
(v) Software and its application and products
(vi) Internet technologies and their application
(vii) Transfer of Information Technologies

(viii) Establishing manufacturing joint ventures of Information Technology equipment.

Action has been initiated for implementation of the provisions of MOU in consultation with the IT industry.

Warsaw Conference

2821. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government participated in recently concluded Inter-Governmental Conference on democracy at Warsaw;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the contributions made by the Indian delegates in the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India participated in the Ministerial Conference on the Community of Democracies held in Warsaw on June 25-27, 2000. India was one of the co-convenors of this Conference, the others being Chile, the Czech Republic, Mali, Republic of Korea, Poland, Portugal and the United States. 70 out of the 107 participating countries were represented at the Ministerial level. The Community of Democracies seeks to forge a consensus among member states committed to democracy on ways of enhancing international co-operation to support and strengthen democracy. The participating countries at the Warsaw Conference adopted a Declaration affirming their shared commitment to a set of universally-applicable core democratic principles.

(c) The External Affairs Minister led the Indian delegation. At the invitation of the Foreign Minister of Poland, the External Affairs Minister chaired one of the four Ministerial Panels, on "Sharing best practices". India played a significant role in finalising the Declaration and the final communiqué of the Conference. The Declaration rejects ethnic and religious hatred, violence; and extremism; it also lists state sponsored, cross-border and other forms of terrorism amongst transnational challenges to democracy.

[Translation]

Punpun Dargha Irrigation Project

2822. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of Punpun Dargha Morhar River Project of Bihar is lying pending with the Government for clearance;

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

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (c) The project proposals for Punpun Morhar Dardha Project have been received by the Central Water Commission from Government of Bihar in May, 2000. Clearance of the project is linked with compliance of observations of various central appraising agencies by the State Government.

[English]

Food Processing Industries

2823. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a big gap of credit ratio between agriculture and food processing sector;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to bridge the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) to (c) Access to adequate bank credit is recognized as a major constraint in the growth and development of food processing industries. Considering the demand of the industry and in view of the vast potential for growth of the food and agro based processing sector, Government has included this sector within the definition of priority sector bank lending.

The targets for lending to priority sector and its sub-sectors for Indian Commercial Banks are:—

Total Priority Sector-40% of Net Bank Credit, of which to Agriculture 18% of Net Bank Credit-Weaker Sections 10% of net Bank Credit.

No separate target within priority sectors has been fixed for lending to food and agro based processing sector.

National Calamity Relief Fund

2824. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contribution as share money to National Calamity Relief Fund (NCRF) from States has not been received;

(b) if so, the names alongwith their dues as share money as against the prescribed share, State-wise; and

(c) the action being taken by the Union Government to get the States' share to NCRF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The Ministry of Finance has confirmed that the State's contribution to National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) for 1995-2000 has been received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Extradition Pact with Thailand

2825 SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Thailand have decided to sign extradition treaty;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether both the countries have decided to improve their bilateral relations;

(d) if so, whether any agreements in this regard have been signed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A draft of Extradition Treaty was proposed to Thailand in 1993. Thereafter, two rounds of delegation level talks have been held in 1995 and 1997. However, it has not been possible to finalise the text.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Existing agreements between the two countries are:— (i) Bilateral Trade Agreement, (ii) Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, (iii) Bilateral Air Services Agreement, (iv) Cultural Agreement, (v) Maritime Boundary Delimitation Agreement, (vi) Agreement to set up Joint Commission, (vii) Agreement to set up Joint Trade Committee, (viii) Agreement on Foreign Office level Consultations.

During the visit of Thai Foreign Minister in July 2000 the following Agreements were signed in addition: (i) Agreement on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy and (ii) Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPA).

G-15 Summit

2826. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the issues discussed at the recently held G-15 Summit in Cairo;

(b) the outcome thereof;

(c) the main points raised by the Indian Delegation in the Summit; and

(d) the response of other delegate thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The Summit focussed on a variety of issues of importance to countries of the South-global developments in the 21st century and prospects of the South; impact of globalisation; poverty eradication and external debt; the importance of an equitable multilateral trading system; North-South Dialogue; enhancement of ODA; mobilisation of foreign direct investment; revamping of the international financial architecture; transfer of technology and South-South Cooperation. The theme discussed at the Retreat by the G-15 Heads of State/Government was Peace, Disarmament and Development.

(c) and (d) At the Summit, India focussed on the increasing asymmetry of and imbalances in the global economy, the increased opportunities for South-South Cooperation, the need for an affective North-South Dialogue, effective implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements, negation of any endorsement of a new WTO round, ensuring attention to the special and differential needs of developing countries under the WTO, renewed focus on tangible and effective G-15 projects, revamping of the international financial architecture, etc. India also

made a pointed reference to the scourge of terrorism, the threat it poses to peace and stability at national, regional and international levels, and its nexus with illicit arms, and called for the urgent conclusion and implementation of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

India's concerns on major issues were endorsed by the G-15 member countries and duly incorporated in the Joint Communiqué.

[Translation]

Commission for Labour Problems

2827. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to set up a Commission for giving advice with regard to labour laws, labour related problems and existing labour rules and acts;

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

(c) the names of the members of the said Commission and its terms of references?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The Government have set up a National Commission on Labour under the Chairmanship of Sh. Ravindra Varma. A copy of the Resolution dated 15.10.1999 containing the names of Members of the Commission and its terms of reference is given in the statement enclosed. The Commission will make its recommendations within 24 months i.e. by 15.10.2001.

Statement

(To be published in the Gazette of India Part I Section I)

Government of India/Bharat Sarkar
Ministry of Labour/Shram Mantralaya

Sharm Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg
New Delhi, dated the 15th Oct, 1999

RESOLUTION

No. Z-20014/8/99=Coord-The Government of India have decided to set up a National Commission on Labour consisting of following:—

Chairperson

Shri Ravindra Varma

Full time Member

1. Dr. B.R. Sabade

Part time Members

1. Shri Sunil Shastri
2. Shri Sudharshan Sarin
3. Shri G. Sanjeeva Reddy
4. Shri Jitendra Vir Gupta
5. Smt. Ela R. Bhatt
6. Shri Arvind R. Doshi
7. Shri Hasubhai Dave

Member-Secretary

1. Shri N. Sanyal
2. The terms of reference of the Commission will be as follows:—

   (a) To suggest rationalisation of existing laws relating to labour in the organised sector; and

   (b) to suggest an "umbrella" legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the un-organised sector.

While developing the framework for its recommendations, the Commission may take into account the following:—

(i) Follow up implications of the recommendations made by the Commission set up in May 1998 for review of various administrative laws governing industry;

(ii) The emerging economic environment involving rapid technological changes, requiring response in terms of change in methods, timings and conditions of work in industry, trade and services, globalisation of economy, liberalisation of trade and industry and emphasis on international competitiveness and the need for bringing the existing laws in tune with the future labour market needs and demands;

(iii) the minimum level of labour protection and welfare measures and basic institutional framework for insuring the same, in the manner which is conducive to a flexible labour market and adjustments necessary for furthering technological change and economic growth; and

(iv) improving the effectiveness of measures relating to social security, occupational health and safety minimum wages and linkages of wages with productivity and in particular the safeguards and facilities required for women and Handicapped persons in employment.

3. The Commission will make its recommendations as soon as practicable but not later than 24 (twenty four) months from the date of publication of the resolution in the Gazette of India. It may, if it deems fit, submit interim reports for any specific problem (s).

4. The Commission will devise its own procedure. It may call for such information and take such evidence as it may consider necessary. The Ministries/Departments of the Government of India will furnish such information and documents and render such assistance as may be required by the Commission.

5. The Government of India trust that the State Governments/Administrations of Union Territories, Public Sector Undertakings, Organisations of Employers and Workers and all other concerned Organisations will extend to the Commission their fullest cooperation and Assistance.

Sd/-
(Dr. L. Mishra)
Secretary to the Government of India

Z-20014/8/99-Coord New Delhi,
dated the 15th Oct. 1999

ORDER

Ordered that the resolution be published in the Gazette of India Part-I Section I.

Ordered also that a copy of the resolution be communicated to all Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, State Government/Administrations of Union Territories and all other concerned.

Sd/-
(Dr. L. Mishra)
Secretary to the Government of India

Production of Soyabean

2828. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been huge production of soyabean in Maharashtra during the year 1999 and 2000;

(b) if so, whether the soyabean growing farmers received the reasonable price for better yield;

(c) whether the National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) has formulated any scheme for the procurement of soyabean; 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) Yes, Sir. The production of Soyabean in Maharashtra State during the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is as under:—

Year	Production ('000 tonnes)
1998-99	1471.9
1999-2000	1620.0

(d) Due to prevailing depressed market prices of oilseeds, the Central Govt. instructed the NAFED to carryout purchase operation of Soyabean on the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) announced by the GOI during the year 1999-2000. The quantity of soyabean procured by NAFED under price support scheme in the State of Maharashtra during 1999-2000 is as under:—

Centre	Soyabean (Quantity in MTs)
Mumbai	61615
Nasik	1192

(c) and (d) The GOI has been announcing the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of Oilseeds including Soyabean every year well before the sowing season of oilseed crops and NAFED is the Central Nodal Agency to carryout the purchase operation on the Minimum Support Prices in case the market prices of Oilseeds including Soyabean fall below the Minimum Support Prices.

Industrial Disputes

2829. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of industrial disputes pending in two industrial tribunals of Dhanbad as per the position of 30 June, 2000;

(b) the period-wise details of the cases pending for six months and more than one year;

(c) the reasons for delay; and

(d) the steps the Government proposes to take to dispose off these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL). (a) and (b) The number of industrial disputes pending in the two Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts at Dhanbad, Tribunal-wise and period-wise as on 03.06.2000 is:—

Name of CGIT-cum-Labour Courts	Pending as on 30.6.2000	Pendency of Industrial Disputes	
		Less than six months	More than one year
Dhanbad No. 1	1406	117	1289
Dhanbad No. 2	1223	70	1153
Total	2629	187	2442

(c) and (d) Major reasons for delay and steps taken for disposal are:—

(i) Shortage of Labour Courts in States/Union Territories.

(ii) Filling up of vacancies of the post of Presiding Officers takes time.

(iii) Procedural impediments such as absence of affected parties at the time of hearing, adjournments sought by parties to file documents etc.

(iv) Expeditious steps are taken to fill up posts of Presiding Officers in Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts after observing all necessary procedural formalities.

(v) The need to reduce pendency of Industrial Disputes Cases in their Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts is also impressed upon the Presiding Officers.

Survey of BIDI Workers

2830. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study in regard to the condition of Bidi Workers;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the total number of Bidi Workers in Rajasthan including women and children and those availing of the benefits of identity card and ESI Hospitals etc.;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up a labour welfare centre and a special ESI Hospital in Ajmer; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b)Yes, Sir. Government have conducted a survey through the Labour Bureau of the Ministry of Labour on the Working and Living Conditions of Workers in Beedi Industry. According to this survey report, the percentage distribution of beedi workers by religion/caste is as under.

(a)	SC	15.2%
(b)	ST	3.3%
(c)	OBC	43.3%
(d)	Other Hindus	17.1%
(e)	Muslims	20.2%
(f)	Others	0.9%

As per the same survey, women among factory workers category constitute about 50% and among home workers category constitute about 68% of the total workers engaged in beedi making.

(c) There are approximately 1,00,000 beedi workers in Rajasthan and 70,694 beedi workers have been issued identity cards. 84 beedi workers are covered under ESI scheme in Rajasthan.

(d) and (e) A dispensary set up by Labour Welfare Organisation is already functioning at Ajmer for providing health care facilities to beedi workers and their dependents. There is any proposal to set up an ESIC Hospital at Ajmer.

[English]

Properties of Corrupt Public Servants

2831. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has urged the Government to forfeit properties acquired by corrupt public servants disproportionate to the known sources of income;

(b) if so, whether the existing laws have totally failed to check such trend; and

(c) if so, the new steps taken to root out such corruption in the country?

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 Law Commission in its 166th report has proposed enactment of a separate legislation to forfeit property acquired by corrupt public servants which is disproportionate to the known sources of income. The proposal is still at examination stage in consultation with the quarters concerned and no final decision in the matter has yet been taken. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 1944 (Ordinance No. 38 of 1944) provides for attachment of property of the accused who is alleged to have committed offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 or any conspiracy of attempt to commit offences thereof. The property can be attached by the Special Judge during the course of trial. Subsequently, after termination of criminal proceedings and conviction of the accused, the Special Judge is empowered to forfeit the property of the convicted public servant to the Government under the aforesaid Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1944.

The Government is fully alive to the need to provide clean administration and to eradicate the malady of corruption at all levels of public services. A three-pronged strategy of surveillance, prevention and punitive/deterrent action is followed by the Government in this regard. However, the drive against corruption in public services to check mal-practices in administration is a continuing process. The policies formulated in this regard are modified from time to time in order to make them more effective and responsive to the changing environment. The recent major steps initiated by the Government in this regard inter-alia, include introduction of the 'Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999' for conferring statutory status on the Commission and 'Freedom of Information Bill, 2000' to make Government more transparent and accountable to the public.

Legislation on Agricultural Labourers

2832. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated action for the enactment of a Central legislation on agricultural labourers in 1993 as recommended by Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee;

(b) if so, the status of the said legislation at present; and

(c) the reasons for not enacting the same so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The proposal for a Central legislation for agricultural labour was initiated in 1975 on the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Labour.

There are certain reservations expressed by some of the State Governments on some of the components of the draft legislation. As it is the endeavour of the Government to reach a consensus, a Conference of the State Labour Ministers was held on 18.1.2000 in New Delhi when views of the State Governments were obtained. The proposal is being re-examined on the basis of the views/comments of the State Governments.

[Translation]

N.C.L.F.

2833. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal for additional assistance from National Calamity Relief Fund from the Government of Gujarat and Bihar in respect of the rehabilitation expenditure of cyclone/hailstorms victims in 1998; and

(b) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The Government of Gujarat had submitted a memorandum seeking assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the wake of cyclone of June, 1998. The memorandum was considered in accordance with the procedure and an assistance of Rs. 55.35 crore was released to the State from the NFCR. No memorandum seeking assistance from the NFCR in the wake of cyclone/hailstorm during 1998 was received from the Government of Bihar.

Indo-Israel Ties

2834. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Israel had invited Indian experts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether both the countries propose to establish nuclear relations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether certain remarks made by him and Home Minister during their visit over there have invited criticism from certain Arab countries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof including the Government's stand thereon?

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

(c) and (d) No Sir.

(e) and (f) External Affairs Minister and the Home Minister had visited Israel separately in the month of June/July. The main thrust of these two visits revolved around improvement of India-Israel bilateral relations. There had been some inaccurate media reports which have been clarified to representatives of Arab countries by the Ministry of External Affairs. They have been assured that our bilateral relations with another country will never be developed at the cost of our traditional ties with Arab countries.

[English]

Employment for Handicapped

2835. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any new plans to generate more employment, opportunities for the physically handicapped in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) is carrying out the detailed survey of various educational and vocational training institutes for the physically handicapped;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the funds allocated for various schemes under National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) during the last three years alongwith the beneficiaries, State and Category-wise; and

(f) the number of institutions giving educational/ vocational training for physically handicapped persons in the country, State-wise particularly in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) There are a number of schemes being implemented in various parts of the country, which, inter alia, aim at providing jobs to persons with disabilities. A Statement-I is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) A Statement II-A and II-B are enclosed.

(f) The Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRCs) under Ministry of Labour evaluate the residual capacity of the handicapped persons, impart them necessary

vocational training, guidance and placement in job or self-employment according to their capability. There are 17 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRCs) functioning at Mumbai, Hyderabad, Jabalpur, Delhi, Ludhiana, Kanpur, Calcutta, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Trivandurm, Bangalore, Guwahati, Bhubneshwar, Jaipur, Vadodara, Patna and Agartala.

In addition, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is also implementing Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities under which voluntary organizations in different parts of the country, including Tamil Nadu are given grant-in-aid for, inter alia, running Special Schools-cum-Vocational Training Centres for children with disabilities.

Statement-I

Employment For Handicapped

(i) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Employment of Handicapped, the financial assistance from the Central Government to the State Governments and UT Administrations is given for running Special Employment Exchanges and Special Cells for persons with disabilities on 80% and 100% basis respectively.

(ii) The Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRCs) under the Ministry of Labour are playing an important role in providing vocational training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities Seventeen (17) VRCs are functioning in different parts of the country.

(iii) Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Particlpation) Act, 1995 provides that every appropriate Government shall apoint in every establishment such percentage of vacancies not less than 3% for persons or class of persons with disabilities of which 1% each shall be reserved for persons suffering from (a) blindness or low vision, (b) hearing impairment, and (c) loco motor disability and cerebral palsy.

(iv) The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) is providing soft loan (with additional 2% rebate on inerest for disabled women) to the persons with disabilities for taking up entrepreneurial activities.

(v) Under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities, grant-in-aid is given to voluntary organizations in different parts of the country for, inter alia, vocational training placement, income generation and gainful occupations.

Statement-II A

Projects sanctioned & Disbursement made by NHFDC for the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

Sl. No.	State	Amount sanctioned			Beneficiaries			Amount Disbursed			Beneficiaries		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25.55	—	95.15	11	71	101	25.55	22.73	113.33	11	50	122
2.	Chandigarh	—	—	8.52	—	—	18	—	—	8.52	—	—	18
3.	Goa	—	—	9.89	—	—	6	—	—	9.89	—	—	6
4.	Gujarat	—	—	94.82	—	—	180	—	—	60.02	—	—	112
5.	Haryana	—	51.91	77.92	—	147	174	—	6.00	77.68	—	10	217
6.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	14.53	—	—	17	—	—	14.53	—	—	17
7.	J&K	—	—	2.24	—	—	1	—	—	0.00	—	—	0
8.	Kerala	—	—	76.24	—	—	264	—	—	35.99	—	—	48
9.	Madhya Pradesh	—	155.41	43.84	—	411	87	—	50.00	149.25	—	130	368

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10.	Maharashtra	—	—	18.08		—	38	—	—	0.00	—	—	0
11.	Orissa	--	64.36	29.43		182	55	—	14.40	79.40	—	40	197
12.	Punjab	—	—	8.79	-	---	16	—	—	8.79	—	—	16
13.	Rajasthan	—	—	15.17	—	—	21	—	—	15.17	—	—	21
14.	Lakshadweep	—	—	2.45	—	—	4	—	—	2.45	—	—	4
	Total	25.55	312.6	497.07	11	811	982	25.55	93.13	575.02	11	230	1128

Statement-II B

Category-wise Loan Sanctioned (upto 31st March, 2000)

	Category	No. of beneficiaries
1.	Orthopaedically Handicapped	1458
2.	Mentally Retarded	228
3.	Visually Handicapped	76
4.	Hearing Handicapped	42
	Total	1804

NBCFDC

2836. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) plan to implement more income generating schemes in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme allocation of funds to each of them and beneficiaries in each State by these schemes;

(c) the details of the schemes implemented under NBCFDC in Tamil Nadu and the amount disbursed with special mention to Women Development; and

(d) the details of the SWARNIMA Scheme and the funds allocated to each State under the scheme and the beneficiaries in each State by the scheme as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBDFDC) provides financial support to the eligible members of Backward Classes through the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) under the existing income generating schemes of NBCFDC, viz. Team Loan and Margin Money Loan Schemes.

Under Term Loan scheme, NBCFDC provides loan upto 85% of the project cost subject to maximum loan of Rs. 5.00 lakhs per beneficiary Balance amount of the project cost is contributed by the SCA and the beneficiary.

Under Margin Money Loan scheme the Corporation provides 40% of the project cost subject to maximum of Rs. 2.00 lakhs per beneficiary. The balance amount is shared by the beneficiary, SCA, Bank/Financial Institutions.

State-wise details of allocation, disbursement and beneficiaries are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) Term Loan and Margin Money Loan schemes are being implemented by Tamil Nadu Backward Classes & Minorities Economic Development Corporation and amount disbursed so far is Rs. 28.57 crore out of which Rs. 3 crore has been disbursed to 11,300 women beneficiaries.

(d) SWARNIMA Schemes was launched by the NBCFDC on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of India's Independence. The details of the Scheme are given in the enclosed statement-II. State-wise details of funds allocated and beneficiaries as on 4.8.2000 under the scheme are given in the enclosed statement-III.

Statement-I

National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation

Statement of Total Amount Disbursed to States under Swarnima schemes for women as on 4.8.2000

S. No.	State Name	Amount Disbursed (Rs./Lacs)	No. of women benefitted
1.	Andhra Pradesh	202.89	1172
2.	Assam	1.35	2
3.	Bihar	73.69	185
4.	Haryana	32.77	173
5.	Himachal Pradesh	8.65	18
6.	Karnataka	14.25	300
7.	Kerala (Fishery)	50.35	621
8.	Sikkim	27	45
9.	Uttar Pradesh	26.01	97
	Total	436.96	2613

Statement-II

Swarnima Scheme

For inculcating the spirit of self-reliance among the Women of Backward Classes, the Corporation has introduced a special scheme *Swarnima for Women* the salient features of Swarnima are as under:

- The beneficiary women are not required to invest any amount of her own.
- Maximum loan limit under this scheme is Rs. 1,00,000/- per beneficiary.
- The maximum period of repayment of loan is 12 years whereas in the general loan schemes of the Corporation maximum period for repayment of loan is 10 years.
- The rate of interest from beneficiary is fixed @ 4% p.a. on loan amounting upto Rs. one lakh whereas the rate of interest is 7% in the general loan schemes.

Eligibility

The Women belonging to Backward Classes as notified by the Central/State Govts. from time to time and living below double poverty line shall be eligible for loan under this scheme.

Statement-II

National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation

Statement of Total Amount Disbursed to States under Swarnima schemes for women as on 4.8.2000

S. No.	State Name	Amount Disbursed (Rs./Lacs)	No. of women benefitted
1.	Andhra Pradesh	202.89	1172
2.	Assam	1.35	2
3.	Bihar	73.69	185
4.	Haryana	32.77	173
5.	Himachal Pradesh	8.65	18
6.	Karnataka	14.25	300
7.	Kerala (Fishery)	50.35	621
8.	Sikkim	27	45
9.	Uttar Pradesh	26.01	97
	Total	436.96	2613

Artificial Limbs

2837. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India at Rasipuram in Tamilnadu to meet the requirement of artificial limbs;

(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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India at, Kanpur supplies assistive devices manufactured by the Company throughout the country including Tamilnadu, through a well organized network of Regional Centres and dealers.

EPF Rate of Interest

2838. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated saving likely to accrue to the Government every year as a result of one percent cut in the rate of interest on Employees Provident Fund;

(b) whether Government propose to invest this saving in the share market;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the trustees of the fund had not been consulted before reducing the rate of interest on EPF;

(e) if so, how it reflects on the validity of the decision;

(f) whether any request has been received to withdraw this cut; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Interest earned on the EPF is required to be credited in accounts of the EPF subscribers. As sucht he question of gain to the Government by way of saving and its investment in the share market does not arise.

(d) to (g) Under item 8 of Schedule II of the EPF & MP Act, 1952 read with paragraph 60 (1) of the EPF Scheme, rate of interest on EPF is required to be determined by the Central Government in consultation with the Central Board of Trustees, EPF. Accordingly, the CBT in its meeting held on 25.4.2000 made a recommendation to the Central Government for crediting interest in accounts of the EPF subscribers @ 12% for 2000-2001. The recommendations of the Central Board were considered and as average earning of the EPF from April 2000 onward is around 11%, it has been decided to credit interest in accounts of the EPF subscribers @ 11% interest for the year 2000-2001. In determining the rate of interest on EPF the Central Government has also been guided by the privisions of paragraph 60 (4) of the EPF Scheme under which the Central Government is required to ensure that there is no overdrawal on the interest suspense account as a result of giving interest to the EPF subscribers. As such there is no violation of the Act/Scheme.

Loans to OBCs for Technical and Professional Education

2839. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government launched a pilot scheme called Askansha 1996 through National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation for providing loans to eligible members of the backward classes for technical and professional education;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) the number of persons benefited during the last three years, year-wise and the amount provided to them State-wise;

(d) the criteria being adopted to select the persons for such assistance and total number of applications received during 1999-2000; and

(e) the total allocation made for this scheme during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India started Education Loan Scheme through the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) during the year 1996 as a pilot project to provide financial assistance to eligible Backward Classes students pursing technical and professional courses. The NBCFDC provides financial assistance through nominated State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) and, therefore, the Education Loan is also provided through SCAs.

(b) to (d) Details of the scheme are given in the statement-I. The disbursement of loan was started during 1998-99, Rs. 4.76 lakh was disbursed to 12 students during the 1998-99 and 1999-2000. The details of amount disbursed State-wise and year-wise are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(e) The Corporation deals with proposals received from SCAs as per existing guidelines. During 2000-2001, Rs. 4.84 crore has been approved for Kerala under the Education Loan scheme for 500 students over next four years.

Statement-I

Loan to OBCs for Technical and Professional Education

Educational Loan Scheme

NBCFDC has introduced Educational Loan Scheme to provide financial assistance to the students of Backward Classes living below double poverty line for pursuing general/professional/technical course or training at graduate and higher level.

Eligibility

The applicant should have obtained admission for a course in the institute recognised by AICTE Medical Council of India as the case may be for the purpose.

Extent of Loan

Maximum loan limit per student is Rs. 75,000/- p.a. subject to maximum of Rs. 3.0 lakh for entire course correlated with actual expenses.

Rate of Interest

4.5% p.a. with a rebate of 0.5% on timely repayment.

Mode of repayment

The recovery will commence after six months of completion of course or getting employment/self-employment whichever is earlier.

The total repayment period will be 5 years in monthly instalments.

The eligible students desirous of availing loan under this scheme may contract their State Channelising Agencies.

Statement-II

National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation

Statement of State-wise and Year-wise amount disbursed and number of Students benefitted

State/UT	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		Cumulative	
	Amt. Rs.	No. of Students	Amt. Rs.	No. of Students	Amt. Rs.	No. of Students	Amt. Rs.	No. of Students
Bihar	—	—	—	—	54864	1	54864	1
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	59130	2	33210	*	92340	2
Pondicherry	—	—	11009	1	—	—	11009	1
Tamil Nadu	—	—	245345	8	72280	*	317625	8
Total	—	—	315484	11	160354	1	475838	12

*Further instalment disbursed to Students

State Domestic Product

2840. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to measure State Domestic Product and Per Capita State Income on income accrual basis, rather than on income generation basis;

(b) if so, whether remittances from abroad and from outside States are being taken into consideration while measuring State Domestic Product/Per Capita Income;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Per Capita Income of a State or District measured through the current procedures is faulty economic indicator; and

(e) if so, the corrective steps being contemplated in this regard?

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

GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The estimates of State Domestic Product (SDP) and Per Capita net SDP, known as Per Capita State Income, are complied by the respective State Directorates of Economics & Statistics (DES) following the income generating approach only. For compiling these estimates on income accrual basis, reliable data are required on income inflow and outflow from the boundaries of a State which are not available.

(d) and (e) The methodology employed in compiling the Per Capita State Income based on the currently available databases is in accordance with the recommendations of the Regional Accounts Committee (RAC) and is consistent with national and international standards. There is, however, always scope for the improvement of the various statistics. The Government has established a National Statistical Commission headed by Dr. C. Rangarajan to critically examine the deficiencies of the present statistical system with a view to recommending measures for a systematic revamping of the same, so as to improve the availability and quality of basic statistics.

[Translation]

Sick Units

2841. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether the number of small scale industrial units have increased in the country;

(b) if so, the number thereof during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(c) the number of units under small scale industries declared sick during each of the said years; and

(d) the capital which has become unproductive as non-performing assets owing to this sickness and main reasons for the said sickness?

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) Yes, Sir. The estimated number of small scale industrial units in the country during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 were 30.14 lakhs, 31.21 lakhs and 32.25 lakhs, respectively.

(c) The number of sick SSI units as at the end of March, 1998 and 1999 were 2,21,536 and 3,06,221 respectively, according to the Reserve Bank of India. The information for the period ending March, 2000 is not available.

(d) The information on capital which has become unproductive as non-performing assets owning to this sickness is not available. However, the amount outstanding in respect of these sick units as at the end of March, 1998 and 1999 were Rs. 3,856.64 crores and Rs. 4,313.48 respectively as per the estimates of the Reserve Bank of India. The main reasons for sickness are inadequacy of credit, technological obsolescence, marketing problems, infrastructural constraints, faulty planning, managerial deficiencies etc.

[English]

Fund for ESI Hospital

2842. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds sanctioned by the Union Government for opening/upgradation of ESI Hospitals/ Dispensaries in Orissa, Karnataka and Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to bring under its net some referral hospitals in Cuttack;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The amount of fund sanctioned by the ESI Corporation for upgrading/ modernising ESI hospitals/dispensaries in the requisite States is as under:—

(in Rs.)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Orissa	75,55,000/-	86,09,787/-	53,19,120/-
Karnataka	57,64,000/-	97,60,000/-	32,34,400/-
Maharashtra	16,00,000/-	—	3,36,85,000/-

(b) to (d) There is already a referral hospital namely Sri Ramachandran Bhang Medical College and Hospital at Cuttack recognised for providing specialty and super-specialty services to the ESI beneficiaries. In addition, a 100-bed ESI hospital also exists at Choudwar for providing hospitalisation facilities to the ESI beneficiaries in and around Cuttack.

Agro Based Industry

2843. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agro and rural industries set up throughout the country for the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up any agro based industry at Tiruchendur in Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details thereof; 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 details of agro and rural industries set up throughout the country are not maintained centrally.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Promotion of industries is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. The Central Government however, supplements the efforts of the State Governments by facilitating the availability of finance, raw material, technology, marketing and creation of institutional infrastructure.

[Translation]

Natural Calamities

2844. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:
SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM) has asked the Union and State Governments to devise long-term solutions for combating drought conditions in the country as drought has become a recurring feature;

(b) whether it is the outcome of bad planning and lack of planning in certain areas;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(d) whether there is a demand from the State Governments to make provisions in the Union Budget to face natural calamities;

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(f) whether the release of funds from the Natural Calamity Relief Fund (NCRF) for Tamil Nadu has been pending for the last ten years;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the said fund is likely to be released to State; and

(h) the procedure adopted for providing financial assistance to the States from NCRF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Ministry of Agriculture has not seen any such report of the National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM).

(d) and (e) There is ready allocation under the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for undertaking necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities, to which the Central and State Governments contribute in the ratio 3:1 Central share of CRF is released to the States in instalments.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) The scheme of National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) has come to an end on 31.3.2000. For 1995-2000, the releases from NFCR were decided by the National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC), a sub-Committee of the National Development Council, keeping in view the Memorandum of the State, Report of the Central Team and recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG).

Preference to Weaker Sections and Women

2845. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received from the educated unemployed youths particularly in Alwar district in Rajasthan for getting benefits under the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana during 1999-2000;

(b) the number of application rejected out of them and the reasons for delay;

(c) whether the weaker sections and women are given priority under the said scheme;

(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) 1075 applications for benefits under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana were received for the year 1999-2000 in Alwar district of Rajasthan.

(b) All the 1075 applications received for the year 1999-2000 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana in Alwar district were sponsored by the district Industries Centre Task Force Committee to the banks. No delay has been reported by the Rajasthan Government in sponsoring of the applications to the banks.

(c) and (d) The scheme envisages 22.5 per cent reservation for the Scheduled Castes/Schedules Tribes (SCs/STs) and 27 per cent reservation for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs). Preference is given to weaker sections including women.

Upper age limit has been relaxed by 10 years i.e. from 35 years to 45 years for the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes, Ex-servicemen, Physically Disabled Persons and Women under the scheme.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) & (d) above.

[English]

Acquaculture Farming

2846. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to promote fresh water acquaculture in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard during last three years;

(c) the specific steps proposed to be taken to promote acquaculture in the cyclone affected districts in that State; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes Sir. Orissa has 1,14,838.73 ha. of ponds and tanks where there is potential for promoting freshwater acquaculture in the State.

(b) Fisheries is a State subject, and the Ministry is assisting and supplementing the efforts of State Governments for developing fisheries. The "Development of Freshwater Aquaculture" is one of the Centrally Sponsored schemes being implemented by the Government of India in the State of Orissa through 30 Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs). The agencies provide a package of technical, financial and extension support to fish farmers. During the last three years, the State Government has been provided Central assistance to the extent of Rs. 120 lakhs and operational FFDAs in the State have brought 5985 ha. water area under scientific fish culture. Training has also been imparted to 4907 fish farmers/fishermen in improved practices of fish farming.

(c) and (d) Recently the above mentioned scheme has been revised, and expenditure on developmental activities will be shared on 75:25 basis between the Government of India and the State Government instead of the previous 50:50 ratio. Besides ongoing components, new components such as creation of freshwater prawn seed hatcheries, and diagnostic laboratories etc. have also been introduced to meet present day requirements. In view of the availability of large resources amenable to aquaculture in cyclone affected districts in Orissa, the State may avail more Central assistance under the Scheme to enhance the coverage for freshwater aquaculture under this programme.

[Translation]

Irregularities in ICAR

2847. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints of corruption irregularities and misuse of money have been received for the Indian Council of Agricultural Research from Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the findings of the said inquiry; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No such general complaints have been received.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[English]

I.L.O.

2848. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had represented in the 88th Session of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) held in Geneva in June, 2000;

(b) if so, the text of the statement made by the Indian representative in the session;

(c) whether in view of the statement made by the representative about the agricultural labour, the Government propose to place the comprehensive Bill for Agricultural workers before the Parliament during the ensuing session; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) A Tripartite Delegation from India attended the 88th Session of the International Labour Conference at Geneva from 30th May to 15th June, 2000. One of the Agenda items for discussion in the Conference was safety and health in agriculture which was considered by a separate Conference Committee. While considering the Report of the Committee on Safety and Health in Agriculture in the Plenary of the Conference, Minister of Labour, Government of Andhra Pradesh made a Statement from the Indian side. The text of the Statement is attached.

(c) and (d) The Minister has, inter alia, made a statement to the effect that with a view to providing social protection and welfare measures for agriculture workers in India, the Government is engaged for some time now in the task of formulating a comprehensive law for them. The consultation process is yet to be completed with a consensus on the issue. The proposed Bill would be introduced as soon as a consensus emerges in the matter.

Statement

Text of the speech made by Minister of Labour, Andhra Pradesh in ILC in June 2000

I am grateful to the President for giving me this opportunity to lend the support of our country to the cause of health and safety of agricultural workers. As you may know, we have the largest population of agricultural workers in our country, approximately 150 million, and we are committed as a nation and as a Government to their welfare, health and safety. The initiative taken by the ILO to formulate international instruments, that is a Convention supplemented by a Recommendation, on health and safety for agricultural workers is both timely and commendable. Agricultural work activities range over a very large spectrum from the most modern farms and plantations to those undertaken by small, medium-sized and marginal farmers, and even sharecroppers, squatters and indigenous people. The ILO has estimated that there are about 1.3 billion workers engaged in agricultural production worldwide, and there are about 170,000 fatal workplace casualties among such workers annually. This sector is also assessed as one of the three most accident-prone, along with mining and construction. Therefore, the need to provide protection and safety to such workers is self-evident. In developing countries, most of the holdings are small and medium-sized, and often the whole family is engaged in agricultural activities. Generally, such workers are poor, have little education, suffer from malnutrition, and are victims of chronic ill health. They also lack access to social and health care services. Many of them migrate from poor environmentally and economically disadvantaged regions to seek job opportunities in more prosperous ones. Some

of them migrate through contractors. All of them are exposed to various kinds of trauma, such as social exclusion and exploitation by ruthless employers. In India, we have about 150 million agricultural workers who generally belong to the poorest and the most disadvantaged strata of society. Their working and living conditions are covered under various labour laws such as the Workers' Compensation Act, 1923, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, the Employment Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, the Insecticides Act, 1968, the Labour Contract Regulation and Abolition Act, 1970, the Equal Remunerations Act, 1976, the Interstate Migrant Workers' Act, 1979, the Dangerous Missions Regulations Act, 1983 and the Child Labour Prohibition Abolition Act, 1983, etc.

Many of these laws have provisions for the health and safety of agricultural workers, but clearly much more needs to be done. With a view to providing social protection and welfare measures for agricultural workers in India, we have been engaged for some time now in the task of formulating a comprehensive law for them. We therefore welcome this step taken by the ILO. The provisions of the ILO instrument are sufficiently comprehensive, and when implemented will no doubt bring much relief to large numbers of workers worldwide, as indeed it will for the majority of workers of rural India. It is therefore a matter of satisfaction that the Committee on Safety and Health in Agriculture has concluded its first discussion and has come out with draft conclusions on the subject.

While recognizing that some of the standards may pose difficulties for some developing countries wishing to ratify such a Convention, we still strongly support this proposal, which will do much to ensure, a healthy and safe workplace in the agricultural sector.

[Translation]

Vocational Training for Handicapped

2849. SHRI KHEL SAI SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal of technical and vocational education for the handicapped in the polytechnic institutions has been received by the Union Government from the Madhya Pradesh Government;

(b) if so, details thereof and the time taken by which this proposal is likely to be cleared;

(c) whether a proposal regarding participation in extension of employment programme for providing jobs to the handicapped has also been sent by the State Government to the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Two polytechnics namely Government Polytechnic, Jabalpur, and SV Govt. Polytechnic, Bhopal have been selected to implement the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Upgrading Existing Polytechnics to integrate the physically disabled into the mainstream of Technical and Vocational Education. Technical Teachers' Training Institute (TTTI), Bhopal has been directed to visit both the Institutions to prepare a Development Plan for their upgradation to implement the scheme effectively by them. As amount of Rs. 1.25 lakhs each has also been granted to the above mentioned two polytechnics and further grant will be considered based on the report of TTTI, Bhopal.

(c) and (d) Neither the Ministry of Labour nor Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has received any such proposal.

Rehabilitation Centres

2850. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rehabilitation centres being run in the country for rehabilitation of handicapped persons, State and UT-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up some more integrated rehabilitation centres for the treatment of handicapped persons in the country, State and UT-wise;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) At present there are six National Institutes/Apex level Institutions, four Regional Rehabilitation Training Centres and eleven District Rehabilitation Centres (DRC) The DRCs are located in ten States i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(b) to (d) i. Over hundred districts have been identified for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services at the doorstops of persons with disabilities. State-wise numbers of such centres is given in the enclosed statement.

ii. A Scheme for Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) has been approved for the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Himachal Pradesh to provide rehabilitation services for different kinds of disabilities as also to create infrastructure for training and manpower development, promoting research and generating awareness, etc.

iii. A Scheme for four Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs), for persons with spinal injuries and other orthopaedic disabilities has been approved as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with Centre and State share on 90:10 basis to strengthen the services for the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Orissa.

iv. Besides, a new four tier-scheme namely, National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities has been approved in the State sector for creating infrastructure at State/District/Block and Gram Panchayat level for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to the disabled.

Statement

State-wise number of District Fitment Centres for persons with disabilities

State/U.T.	No. of Centres
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	3
Assam	4
Arunachal Pradesh	2
Bihar	11
Gujarat	5
Goa	1
Haryana	3
Himachal Pradesh	2
Jammu & Kashmir	2
Karnataka	5
Kerala	2
Mizoram	1
Meghalaya	1
Manipur	1
Maharashtra	5
Madhya Pradesh	11
Nagaland	1
Orissa	5
Punjab	3
Rajasthan	5
Sikkim	1
Tripura	1
Tamil Nadu	6
Uttar Pradesh	17
West Bengal	3
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1
Chandigarh	1
Daman & Diu	1
Lakshadweep	1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1

[English]

Loan to Backward Class handicapped

2851. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have receive any proposal from Kerala State Backward Classes Development Corporation Limited for giving loans to poor families belonging to Backward Classes for Social activities and for housing purpose; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC)

has been set up as a not for profit company for providing financial support to the eligible members of Backward Classes for taking up self-employment schemes. NBCFDC provides loan through State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) nominated by the State Government. Seven SCAs including Kerala Backward Classes Development Corporation Ltd. (KBCDC) are being supported by NBCFDC.

A proposal for housing loan was submitted by KBCDC on 19.06.2000. NBCFDC provides financial assistance for income generating activities only and not for Housing. The position has been intimated to KBCDC.

Cruelties to Poultry Birds

2852. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Poultry birds are subjected to many cruelties;

(b) if so, whether as a result of exposure of cruelties EU has decided to phase out caging;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether representations have been made by Animal Rights International on cruelties;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether the Government have made any assessment to find out the impact on cruelty after Prime Minister's appeal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Council of the EU has issued a Council Directive 1999/74/EC on 19 July, 1999 laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens. Article 4 of Chapter I of this Directive lays down that the Members States shall ensure that from 1.1.2002 all newly built or rebuilt systems of production brought into use for the first time for laying hens shall comply, at least, with specific requirements regarding space, drinking water facilities etc. The Member States, however have been allowed to continue with the cage system till 1.1.2012 but with minimum requirements to be followed with regard to space, drinking water facilty etc. as have been laid down.

With effect from 1.1.2003 no cages may be built or brought into service for the first time.

(d) As per records available, no representation from Animal Rights International on cruelties has been received.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Prime Minister of India has written letter to Chief Ministers of all the States on 31 May, 2000 to achieve the objective of more humane treatment to animals. A number of State Government have replied that they have received the letter and are looking into the matter. No assessment has been made so far as it is too early to assess the impact at this stage.

Rehabilitation Council of India

2853. SHRI UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the constitution aims and objects of the Rehabilitation Council of India alongwith the expenses incurred during 1999-2000;

(b) the contributions made by the RCI during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to review its continuation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) consist of 25 Members, including a Member-Secretary and is headed by a Chairperson. The main functions of RCI include (i) standardization of training courses at different levels; (ii) regularization of standards of training in all the training institutions throughout the country; (iii) recognition of institutions/universities for their training courses within and outside the country on a reciprocal basis; and (iv) maintenance of a Central Rehabilitation Register for Professionals possessing recognized qualification in the area of rehabilitation. During the last financial year, 1999-2000, an expenditure of Rs. 7.52 crore was incurred.

(b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The review of the functioning of the RCI is a continuous process.

Statement

The contributions made by Rehabilitation Council of India during the last three years is as follows:—

(i) Recognition of Institutions: Till 1997-98, 114 Universities/Institutions were accorded Permanent/Provisional recognition by the Council. During 1998-99, five more institutions were added, bringing the total figure to 119. Upto March 2000, a total of 124 institutions were recognized by the Council.

(ii) Standardisation of Training Programme: Upto 1997-98 the Council formulated 48 short term/ long term training programmes. In 1998-99, two more courses were developed. During 1999-2000, three new Courses were developed. Till 31st March 2000, a total of 53 courses have, thus, been standardized. Six (6) more courses have been approved for introduction during the current academic year, 2000-2001.

(iii) Central Rehabilitation Register: Under Central Rehabilitation Register the Council, had registered professionals/personnel during the last three years as under:—

1997-98	544
1998-99	4211
1999-2000	6172

National Bridge Course: The Council has trained 8600 trainees through 150 institutions throughout the country. The programme is continuing.

National Programme on Orientation of Medical Officer to Disability Management: 2400 doctors have been trained in 20 States. The scheme is continuing.

Child Labour

2854. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey regarding the number of child labour in different States, especially Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Assam has been conducted;

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

(c) the estimated number of child labour in each State and the nature of their employment and conditions of work; and

(d) the efforts made during the last ten years to emanicipate and rehabilitate such children, indicating the Central aid given for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Authentic information on child labour is generated during the decennial census. As per the 1991 census, the total number of working children in the country is 11.28 million. State-wise figures as per Census reports are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) Government of India has been implementing two schemes for rehabilitation for children withdrawn from work namely the scheme of National Child Labour Project (N.C.L.P.) and the scheme of Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. The total expenditure for all the child labour schemes from 1995-96 to 1999-2000 is of the order of Rs. 14659 lakh.

Statement

State-wise Distribution of Working Children According to 1991 Census

1991

State/Union Territories	Main Workers	Marginal Workers	Total Workers
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	1,537,293	124,647	1,661,940
2. Assam	259,953	67,645	327,598
3. Bihar	795,444	1,46,801	942,245

1		2	3	4
4.	Gujarat	373,027	150,558	523,585
5.	Haryana	89,030	20,661	109,691
6.	Himachal Pradesh	30,771	25,667	56,438
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	**	**	**
8.	Karnataka	818,159	158,088	976,247
9.	Kerala	28,590	6,210	34,800
10.	Madhya Pradesh	997,940	354,623	1,352,563
11.	Maharashtra	805,847	262,571	1,068,418
12.	Manipur	13,478	3,015	16,493
13.	Meghalaya	30,730	3,903	34,633
14.	Nagaland	16,106	370	16,476
15.	Orissa	325,250	127,144	452,394
16.	Punjab	132,414	10,454	142,868
17.	Rajasthan	490,522	283,677	774,199
18.	Sikkim	5,254	344	5,598
19.	Tamilnadu	523,125	55,764	578,889
20.	Tipura	13,506	2,972	16,478
21.	Uttar Pradesh	1,145,087	264,999	1,410,086
22.	West Bengal	593,387	118,304	711,691
23.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	758	507	1,265
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	11,632	763	12,395
25.	Chandigarh	1,839	31	1,870
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2,677	1,739	4,416
27.	Delhi	26,670	681	27,351
28.	Daman and Diu	741	200	941
29.	Goa	3,938	718	4,656
30.	Lakshadweep	17	17	34
31.	Mizoram	6,391	10,020	16,411
32.	Pondicherry	2,565	115	2,680
	Total	9,082,141	2,203,208	11,285,349

** Census could not be conducted.
NB: Figures for 1991 relates to workers of age group 5-14 years.

Pathetic Condition of Women Workers

2855. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of harassment of women workers in the Fish Processing Industries have come to the notice of the Government;

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

(c) whether the women workers engaged in this industry are not paid their wages as per rules;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up a Task Force to study the working and living condition of women workers in Fish Processing Industries;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) fresh steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for welfare of Women workers in fish processing industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) As per information received from the Department of Food Processing Industries, a case of harassment came to notice following publication of a newspaper report in the Times of India dated 9th July, 2000 in Thane District of Maharashtra. The matter was enquired into and it was found that the same has already been settled through the Mumbai High Court. The aggrieved person has been paid compensation by the Company in compliance with the Court's directive.

(c) and (d) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 provides for fixation of minimum wages for different categories of workers, and their periodical revision by the respective State Governments. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 provides for equal remuneration for men and women workers. The Acts do not make any distinction on the basis of sex. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and the Rules framed thereunder provide for various welfare and health measures for such workers. Cases of violation of the provisions of the Acts and Rules are dealt with suitably by the appropriate Government.

(e) to (g) The Government have constituted a Task Force to study the living and working conditions of women workers employed in fish processing industry. The Task Force has initiated action to identify steps to be taken by Government for welfare of women workers.

Chinese stand on Kashmir Issue

2856. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any marked change in China's stand with regard to Kashmir issue following the recent visit of high level delegations to that country has been noticed; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

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

(b) The question does not arise.

Big Powers Stand on Kashmir Issue

2857. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US, UK, France and other big powers have shown any change marked with greater understanding of Indian position on the Kashmir Issue including Pak-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The International community, including the big powers, openly recognize Pakistan's role in cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, and the impact this has on the security of our country and the region.

(b) This greater awareness is being reflected in Official statements by spokesmen of several governments and also in the international media coverage on Pakistan. During his visit to India, US President Bill Clinton acknowledged that there were elements within the Pakistan Government that have supported those who engage in violence in Kashmir. The US State Department Coordinator on Terrorism told the House International

Committee on Global Terrorism in South Asia, on 12th July 2000, that Pakistan tolerated terrorists living and moving freely within its territory. He also said that numerous Kashmiri separatist groups and sectarian groups involved in terrorism use Pakistan as a base. Some countries have also committed themselves to take joint action with India, against religious and political extremism, terrorism and separatism.

Feed and Fodder Development Scheme

2858. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA:
SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of livestocks available in the country and allocation made for control of animal diseases during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the ratio between the population of livestocks and the people;

(c) the details of growth rate of livestock and the population of fodder in each State during each of the last three years;

(d) the Central Schemes under implementation for increase in production of feed and fodder;

(e) whether any review has been made by the Union Government regarding achievement made in the above schemes;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the amount released during 2000-2001 for the Feed and Fodder Development Scheme to each State particularly for Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Livestock population of the country is 470.86 million (Livestock Census-1992). Allocation made for control of animal diseases during the last three years State-wise is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The ratio is 1:2.

(c) Growth rate of the livestock is 1.12%. Production of fodder in the States during last three years is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) The schemes being implemented are:—

(i) Central Fodder Development Organisation comprising 7 Regional Stations for Forage Production and Demonstration located in different Agro-Climatic zones. One Central Fodder Seed Production Farm, Hesserghatta and Central Minikit Testing Programme of Fodder Crops.

(ii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development having seven components with funding pattern (Central: State):- (1) Strengthening of Fodder Seed Production Farm (75:25), (2) Establishment of Fodder Bank (75:25), (3) Fodder Seed Production through Registered Seed growers (25:75), (4) Enrichment of straw/cellolosic waste (100:00), (5) Establishment of Silvipasture System (100:00), (6) Development of grassland including grass reserves (100:00), (7) Sample Survey for area, production and requirement of fodder (100:00).

(e) and (f) The Regional Stations and Central Farms have been reviewed. Monitoring of Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being done by the respective State Governments.

(g) State Government have been requested to send proposals as per guidelines for 2000-2001. Project proposals from the States including Karnataka are awaited. Therefore, release of fund does not arise.

Statement-I

State-wise Assistance Provided under Centrally Sponsored Scheme—Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	States	Systematic Control			F.M.D. Control			A.D.S. Control		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2K	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2K	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2K
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3.00	2.58	Nil	2.71

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.00	1.50	1.00	1.75	3.00	2.00	1.00	1.75	0.50
3.	Assam	Nil	30.00	Nil	Nil	20.00	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Bihar	Nil	25.00	Nil	Nil	25.00	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Goa	2.00	1.12	1.32	4.00	0.55	1.36	4.50	Nil	2.30
6.	Gujarat	13.05	Nil	24.4	3.50	30.00	Nil	3.66	Nil	2.48
7.	Haryana	Nil	23.66	20.66	Nil	8.50	6.66	Nil	Nil	6.262
8.	H.P.	11.00	12.00	10.82	6.00	6.60	6.50	1.26	2.50	0.982
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	Nil	8.00	4.00	Nil	4.00	Nil	Nil	9.00
10.	Karnataka	53.85	Nil	59.00	50.00	Nil	65.00	7.93	6.19	5.33
11.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	36.66	Nil	6.08	4.00	Nil	5.00	3.32
12.	M.P.	31.57	Nil	9.14	57.27	Nil	4.42	Nil	Nil	Nil
13.	Maharashtra	29.80	Nil	26.14	15.40	Nil	43.26	4.55	Nil	4.032
14.	Manipur	8.00	Nil	4.77	2.00	Nil	5.00	1.33	Nil	1.582
15.	Meghalaya	3.90	Nil	6.40	1.60	Nil	5.00	1.33	Nil	2.166
16.	Mizoram	30.00	35.00	2.32	8.00	9.00	6.33	12.00	12.00	8.00
17.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	6.32	10.40	Nil	1.00	Nil	Nil	10.00
18.	Orissa	105.20	70.00	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
19.	Punjab	20.00	Nil	20.00	25.00	Nil	75.00	Nil	10.00	Nil
20.	Rajasthan	20.28	Nil	17.56	Nil	Nil	2.58	4.90	Nil	1.37
21.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	3.00	7.00	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
22.	Tamilnadu	30.00	Nil	18.5	20.00	Nil	6.50	4.19	Nil	3.293
23.	Tipura	2.50	20.00	13.32	4.52	Nil	19.66	Nil	Nil	13.33
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	50.00	29.67	29.50	50.00	28.73	Nil	Nil	3.343
25.	West Bengal	47.65	25.00	40.00	30.00	25.00	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total	409.8	293.28	380.00	279.94	183.70	290.00	49.65	37.44	80.00
26.	A&N Island	1.48	Nil	5.00	Nil	Nil	1.00	2.20	Nil	7.33
27.	Chandigarh	3.00	Nil	1.75	0.70	Nil	0.80	Nil	Nil	Nil
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.30	Nil	Nil	0.40	Nil	Nil	0.10	Nil	Nil
29.	Daman and Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
30.	Delhi	8.00	Nil	8.00	8.00	Nil	Nil	2.50	Nil	Nil
31.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	3.25	Nil	Nil	0.20	Nil	Nil	2.67
32.	Pondicherry	0.25	Nil	2.00	0.50	Nil	1.50	2.50	Nil	10.00
	Total (U.Ts.)	13.03	Nil	20.00	9.60	Nil	3.50	7.30	Nil	20.00
	Grand Total	422.83	293.28	400	289.54	183.70	293.50	56.95	37.44	100.00

Statement-II

Fodder Production During Last three Years

(In Metric Tonnes)

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21100000	22900000	22000000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4980	5179	9838
3.	Assam	6600	1150	5000
4.	Bihar	NA	NA	NA
5.	Goa	550000	570000	590000
6.	Gujarat	42800000	30200000	34400000
7.	Haryana	10524000	11326000	11380000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	7800	7800	7800
9.	J&K	3200000	3200000	—
10.	Karnataka	34286000	35172490	35566270
11.	Kerala	2100000	2300000	2500000
12.	Madhya Pradesh	170964	143279	157708
13.	Maharahstra	41700000	46300000	48600000
14.	Meghalaya	3722	4500	5000
15.	Manipur	2840000	2840000	2840000
16.	Mizoram	55110	108500	63500
17.	Nagaland	NA	NA	NA
18.	Orissa	52450	23313	19360
19.	Punjab	70100000	71500000	7500000
20.	Rajasthan	55200000	56100000	48300000
21.	Sikkim	500000	550000	NA
22.	Tamil Nadu	394,2000	39412000	39412000
23.	Tripura	NA	NA	NA
24.	Uttar Pradesh	133600000	128600000	NA
25.	West Bengal	125000	80000	NA

Handicapped

2859. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from Kerala State Handicapped Persons Welfare Corporation for setting up an Institute for Research Development and Training on Aids and Appliances for the disabled;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. Kerala State Handicapped Persons' Welfare Corporation has submitted a project proposal through State Government of Kerala for setting up an Institute for Research and Development and Training on Aids and Appliances for Physically Handicapped Persons.

(b) and (c) The proposal is for setting up a unit for manufacture of aids and appliances like wheel chair, hand driven tricycles, callipers, crutches, artificial limbs and hearing aids at an estimated cost of Rs. 150 lakh with the scheme of financing as under:

(i)	Soft Loan Govt. of Kerala (repayable in 10 yrs) (Social Welfare Deptt.)	Rs. 25.00 lakhs.
(ii)	Govt. subsidy	Rs. 25.00 lakh.
(iii)	Central Govt. Grant	Rs. 100.00 lakh.

The applicant organization is a public limited company promoted by Government of Kerala. The Ministry is already operating a Scheme titled 'Scheme for Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of aids/appliances' under which aids and appliances are distributed to needy handicapped persons through NGOs/Institutions. In Kerala, the Ministry is already supporting 6 organizations/ Institutions under this scheme. Under Grameen Punarwas Yojana, 107 districts all over India including the districts of Calicut and Trivandrum have been selected for setting up composite fitment and rehabilitation centres. ALIMCO, a public sector undertaking under the administrative control of this Ministry, which is already in the area of manufacturing and distribution of aids and appliances, is also planning to expend its activities. Thus, in view of the existing commitments and constraints of funds, the Ministry is not in a position to extend financial assistance in setting up the unit.

Security of life and Property to Indians in Sierra Leone

2860. SHRI ANIL BASU:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the reports about the threat to life and property of Indians in Sierra Leone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Indians in Sierra Leone and the number out of them which fled to India;

(d) the steps taken to ensure due security of life and property to Indians over there;

(e) whether the Government had not cleared its dues to the post and telegraph department of Ghana resulting in denial of post services to Indian soldiers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) In the continuing stand off between the Government and rebel forces, there is a general threat to the life and property of all foreigners including Indian and Sierra Lenoeans alike.

(c) Presently there are approximately 190 Indians in Sierra Leone. Though it is learnt that some Indians, especially women and children have left the country, so far there is no record of any of them coming to India.

(d) The overall responsibility to ensure security of life and property of foreigners in Sierra Leone lies with the host Government. Our Mission in Abidjan which is concurrently accredited to Sierra Leone is constantly monitoring the situation in that country through our Honorary Consul there and will do everything possible to ensure the safety of Indians in Sierra Leone.

(e) and (f) No postal bags meant for Indian Army in Sierra Leone were held up in Ghana because of non-payment of dues to the Ghanaian post and telegraph department by the Government of India.

Match Fixing Scandal

2861. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI ANIL BASU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the King Commission on match fixing scandal constituted by the Government of South Africa has approached the Government of India for necessary help;

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

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The King Commission on match fixing scandal constituted by the Government of South Africa has approached the Government of India for a copy of the tape-recorded conversation of Hansie Cronje and a copy of the FIR filed by the Delhi Police.

(c) The concerned authorities in the Government of India are examining the request within the framework of the existing Laws of the land.

12.00 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

2. DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund (Amendment) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 328 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 2000 under sub-section (4) of section 12 of the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2180/2000)

(2) A copy of the Employees Provident Funds Appellate Tribunal (Procedure) Amendment Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 498 in Gazette of India dated the 7th February, 2000 under sub-section (3) of Section 21 of the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2181/2000)

(3) A copy of the Employees Provident Funds (Amendment) Scheme, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 79 in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 2000 under sub-section (2) of Section 7 of the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2182/2000)

[English]

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): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:—

(i) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Third Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 142 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd April, 2000.

(ii) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Second Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 143 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd April, 2000.

(iii) The Indian Forest Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 144 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd April, 2000.

(iv) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Second Amendment Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 228 in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 2000.

(v) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Third Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 229 in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 2000.

(vi) G.S.R. 230 published in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 2000 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 21 (E) dated the 5th January, 2000 regarding the Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) First Amendment Regulations, 1998, relating to the Manipur-Tripura Cadre of the Indian Administrative Service.

(vii) G.S.R. 231 published in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 2000 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 22 (E) dated the 5th January, 2000 regarding the Indian Administrative Service (Pay) First Amendment Rules, 2000, relating to the Manipur-Tripura Cadre of the Indian Administrative Service.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2183/2000)

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

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the West Bengal Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1992-93.

(ii) Annual Report of the West Bengal Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1992-93, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2184/2000)

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the West Bengal Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1993-94.

(ii) Annual Report of the West Bengal Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1993-94, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2185/2000)

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Assam Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Assam Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1996-97, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2186/2000)

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the M.P. State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the M.P. State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1997-98, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2187/2000)

(e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the U.P. State Agro Industrial Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the U.P. State Agro Industrial Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1997-98, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2188/2000)

(2) Five statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Seventh Report

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (LAKSHADWEEP): I beg to present the Seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the Minister's statements.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 6. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi. Calling Attention.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before you take up the Calling Attention Motion, we have given notice to move a very important motion under Rule 184 and if you allow me, I will read the Motion under Rule 184 that we propose to move: that the reported massacre in Jammu and Kashmir of innocent people and the pilgrims of Amarnath and further report of security lapses are causing concern and ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We call upon the Government to appoint a judicial inquiry headed by a sitting Judge of a High Court under the provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, on this question to find out the truth behind the security lapses, if any, and to complete this inquiry within two months and to table the report in the next Winter Session of the Lok Sabha. We have been asking for this inquiry for the last few days....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Will you please resume your seat or not? First resume your seat, you observe no rule in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): I will not resume my seat like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is a procedure. As per the procedure only, you can raise the matter, not as you like.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale also, please sit down.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, you kindly give priority to this Motion before the Calling Attention since it is being raised under Rule 184....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Will I have to tell you separately.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please do not get annoyed, you are all in all here

MR. SPEAKER: First resume your seat, then I will listen to you. If you be on your legs, I will not listen anything.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You kindly give priority to this Motion under Rule 184 before you take up the Calling Attention Motion.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: He has not replied the way he should have. It is not appropriate. You are all in all here. I would request you only....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The entire House knows it....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting the leaders also. Their Members are not behaving properly in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Sir, we are doing our best....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, we are doing our best. The hon. Minister also should take care that they do not hurt the feelings of our Members....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): Sir, when the hon. Prime Minister is on his feet, other Members are not sitting. This is not correct. They are spoiling the disciplinary atmosphere in the House....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is point of order....*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me atleast. We want to resolve this issue....*(Interruptions)* My submission is that when hon'ble Prime Minister rose to speak we should have listened to him and thereafter Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji and all other Members from Bihar....*(Interruptions)* Well, it cannot be raised during question hour. Now I would like to say that if hon'ble Prime Minister would try to pacify....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): This is not appropriate way....*(Interruptions)* When hon'ble Prime Minister was on his legs, we should have listened to him....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dhikale, please take your seat. Shri Anant Gangaram Geete, what is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, only the hon. Prime Minister is giving a reply. Then, also, they are not yielding.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I agree and I have accepted that our colleagues....*(Interruptions)* I consider it improper but after that the Government is responsible but my submission is that if even now hon'ble Prime Minister speaks two sentences to pacify and it is accepted then it will be alright....*(Interruptions)* But why they are obstructing us? You can stop me....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar): What happened to the funds allotted to Bihar?

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Even in Uttar Pradesh, the funds have not been utilised....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You may stop me but how can these people stop me? It should be decided whether you would run the House or these people....*(Interruptions)* Though, I consider it improper.

I accept that it was wrong to not to allow hon'ble Prime Minister to speak. We accept it, but you run the House....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, how can I speak when there is so much of disturbance?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Prime Minister represents Uttar Pradesh. Situation in Uttar Pradesh is also the same....*(Interruptions)* Please clarify the situation of Uttar Pradesh....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please resume your seat, I would call you later on.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, for the past two days we have witnessed and the entire House has witnessed that Members from our Benches and from the respected Benches of the Opposition Parties and even from that side have expressed their concern about the reported massacre in Jammu and Kashmir, within the ambit of their own observations and views....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad): Sir daily there is hue and cry in the House. How the House will be run....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the point of Shri Priya Ranjan Damsmunsi.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this time I do think you should ask them to kindly remain silent....*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur): Sir, I request them to hear the Chief Whip of our Party....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, from our Party, we did not make any specific allegation against any individual of the Government. We did not level any charge against any official of the Executive. We did not try to score any political point in it. We expressed our deep concern, anguish and our apprehension about the entire functioning of the security system in Jammu and Kashmir, after this massacre. As per the law established in this country and as per the established procedure adopted by respective Governments, both in the States and the Union, we did only submit—as a constructive and responsible Opposition—that a judicial probe could bring the truth. India is a matured democracy. We should not give a feeling that we never bothered to discuss any issue of the country on the floor of the House and to debate it and that we are not afraid of any foreign power or any nation to determine the fate of our democracy. We are matured and concerned enough....*(Interruptions)*

Sir, on that assumption, we did argue our case long, not to create a problem for the Government to have a dialogue for peace for which we always felt for. The Congress Party will always cooperate with the Government in resuming or continuing the talks and to bring peace in Kashmir and to see that the united India can stand together as one in the Parliament.

Therefore, we did try to separate the issue of massacre that took place there with the Kashmir issue *vis-a-vis* the talks and other things. We did not try to embarrass the Government in this surcharged atmoshpere. We felt that for the future Amarnath *yatris*, for the future role of the Government and for the future role of the Home Ministry and the future task of the Executive, if there is any shortcoming—without depending on the off the cuff remarks by 'A' party or 'B' party or any individual or the off the cuff remark in the media—it would be better if based on the established procedure of the country which is established long back and adopted by all Parties, a judicial probe could find the truth and the truth may come out. We are not afraid to accept the truth. If the truth comes out, we can sit across the table and find out as to how the shortcomings could be settled.

Sir, with this feeling, our Party, our Leader and our colleagues did express their views in the Parliament for the past two years. At no point of time we tried to disrupt the House or not to cooperate in taking up the business of the Government which are very important. On the three Bills concerning the re-orgnisation of the States which amounted to the aspirations of the people, we not only co-operated but also we were second to none to see that these Bills are passed in time in this House. Whenever, a major issue came up, we behaved not only like a responsible Opposition but we also cannot forget that we ruled this country longer than the people sitting in the Treasury Benches now....*(Interruptions)* We have a responsibility....*(interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): But the Opposition was divided on the demand for judicial inquiry....*(Interruptions)* That is the main reason why there was disruption in the House....*(Interruptions)* The House was disturbed on that....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Let me finish.

Mr. Speaker Sir, we did try to uphold the traditions of this Parliament, the traditions of the establishment procedures of the law of the land, the traditions... ...

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with that hope, we did move a motion which I read:

> "That the reported recent massacres of Jammu and Kashmir of innocent people and the pilgrims of Amarnath and further reports of security lapses are causing concern and we call upon the Government to appoint the Judical Inquiry headed by a sitting Judge of High Court under the provision of Commission of Inquiry Act on these incidents to find out the truth behind the reported security lapses, if any, and to complete this inquiry within two months, and to table the report in the next Winter Session of Lok Sabha."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is the motion we moved under Rule 184. We wish, Mr. Speaker, Sir, you to give your decision so that the entire nation will be taken into confidence that the process is on to find out the truth.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, there is an observation from the Chair also.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is an observation from the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, I had also given a notice under Rule, 193 yesterday....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, he has given notice under Rule 184. That is why, I have allowed him.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I had also given a notice yesterday. But I have not allowed to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: I had heard about your notice yesterday, but he has given notice today under Rule 184.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, my view should be heard....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Have you raised your point.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I had raised this issue before question Hour, but since the House could not sit after question hour so I could not raise my point.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: After this observation, you can speak.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, I will take only two minutes.

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, what is your reaction in response to the notice of motion under Rule 184?

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, let me express my views for two minutes only.

MR. SPEAKER: I will talk to you after this observation.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, let us know that is your ruling on Rule 184.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, you should give ruling on my point also.

MR. SPEAKER: Since he has given notice today, so I have to give the observation today.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I gave notice yesterday but ruling on my notice has not yet been given.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice is under my consideration.

[Translation]

He has given notice today under Rule 184.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, whether ruling on yesterday's notice will come first or on today's notice. Kindly decide it and tell us. If you give ruling first on today's notice then what will happen to yesterday's notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the observation be over, then we will see to it.

12.16 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY SPEAKER

Notice of motion under Rule 184 for appointment of a Commission of Inquiry into Incidents of killing of Persons in Jammu and Kashmir

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, a notice of motion under rule 184 has been given by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi today for appointment of a Commission of Inquiry headed by a sitting judge to inquire into the incidents of killing of innocent persons, including pilgrims of Amarnath *Yatra* in Jammu and Kashmir.

I have admitted the notice.

The matter will be placed before the Business Advisory Committee, which is scheduled to meet in the afternoon at 3.30 p.m. today, to decide as to when it may be discussed in the House.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Home Affairs is to give a statement before going to Rajya Sabha.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to raise a point of Order.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: We shall listen to you after the statement.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, please listen to me also for two minutes....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We shall listen to you after the statement.

12.16 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Situation in Jammu and Kashmir

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): On July 24, 2000, the *Hizbul Mujahideen* announced a unilateral ceasefire and publicly expressed a willingness to initiate talks with the Government of India. The Government of India responded positively to the offer.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir enthusiastically welcomed the development.

Yesterday's announcement by *Hizbul Mujahideen* that the ceasefire has been withdrawn has naturally come as a deep disappointment to all those who were looking forward to the return of peace to Jammu and Kashmir State.

The nature, location, context and content of the announcement by Hizbul Mujahideen leader Syed Salahuddin can leave no doubt in anybody's mind that it is Pakistan which has sabotaged the prospects of peace in the State.

The offer of ceasefire was made by Majid Dar, a leader of Hizbul Mujahideen, in Srinagar. It was withdrawn by Salahuddin in Islamabad.

It is clear that the voice that made the announcement may have been Salahuddin's, but the words came from the ruling establishment in Islamabad which is the arch patron for numerous militants groups engaged in State sponsored cross border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India.

The Hizbul Mujahideen leader has said that his organisation withdrew from the proposed talks because of India's unwillingness to invite Pakistan as the third participant in the talks. This has precisely been the demand of Pakistan's military establishment, which it has expressed on several occasions in the past but most shrilly after Hizbul Mujahideen announced its ceasefire and its readiness to have talks with the Government of India.

Indeed all statements from Islamabad since July 24 made it obvious that the ceaesfire did not fit in with Pakistan's design of continuously promoting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan's determination to sabotage the talks became known with deadly clarity when extremists trained and armed on its soil created a mayhem of massacres in Jammu and Kashmir on August 1 and 2 leaving over 100 innocent persons dead.

It is not difficult to know why Pakistan struck terror on such an unprecedented scale and soon thereafter sabotaged our initiative for falks with some representatives of our own peple. The rulers of Pakistan are terrorised by the prospect of peace in Jammu and Kashmir. They were similarly terrorised by the prospect of friendship with India following Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's historic peace initiative in Lahore.

Kargil War was the result of their fear of peace in 1999. The brutal killing of the Amarnath yatris and other innocent people is the result of their fear of peace in 2000.

Just as India could not be frightened by the War inflicted by Pakistan in Kargil, we shall not be frightened by the intensification of proxy war by Islamabad now. Pakistan had to face a humiliating and self-damaging defeat in the Kargil War. Similar will be its fate in its proxy war against India.

India's sincere desire for restoration of peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir and a comprehensive and lasting solution to the issue of Kashmir are now clearly established.

Not only the people of Kashmir but also people all over the world now clearly know who is for peace and who is for hostilities; whose is the voice of sanity and humanity and whose is a voice of subterfuge and sabotage.

The hon. Members of this House must also have noticed the negative role played by the Hurriyat leadership in this entire episode. From the beginning, their response to the Hizbul initiative was not just cold, they even labelled

it as a 'hasty' move. Perhaps they forgot that Jammu and Kashmir has been in a bloodied turmoil for the last more than a decade. Under the circumstances how could this peace initiative be called "hasty"? It seems that the Hurriyat leadership was acting under pressure from Pakistan. They certainly did not act in the interest of Jammu and Kashmir and thus compromised the well being of the people of the State.

In the days and months to come, India will not deviate from its chosen course of talks with all those in Kashmir who eschew the path of terror and violence and our simultaneous battle against all those who continue to stick to that path. We shall persist with our policy of firmness and flexibility.

Our security forces are ready to face the challenge and threat of renewed militancy in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. In fact, it is the militant outfits which should worry because they have the Indian security forces and the never-say-die spirit of the Indian soldier to face. More importantly they have the strength of Indian democracy to contend with.

India has all along maintained that the question of a dialogue with Pakistan is a separate issue. Prime Minister Shri Vajpayee has made it clear that India is willing to talk with Pakistan on all matters of bilateral concern when Islamabad demonstrates its resolve to end cross border terrorism.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Islamabad can attack us.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, I have called Shri Mulayam Singh ji. You will be given opportunity to speak later on.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, present condition of Kashmir is very critical and sensitive. The Hon. Prime Minister is sitting here. The Hon. Home Minister has given a statement. But his statement has not matched our expectations. However, he has accepted that Salahuddin has made this declaration in Pakistan. We are saying this from beginning.

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, is there a discussion on the Statement of the Home Minister?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINCH YADAV: No, we were pressing for rule 193 and wish to reiterate.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav ji, whether your submission is regarding your notice?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I have given you in writting, I do not want to read it. It want to say that yesterday we demanded a discussion on this matter and there is difference with other parties on this issue. We do not want judicial enquiry but only discussion. We want to discuss because talks which were going on recently, have now become a threat. There is some attempt to cover up and so discussion should be held. It seems that there is some lapse on the part of the Government also, but people of the country are not weak. So all the people of the country, the entire House and all of us are with you.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, militants based in Pakistan have openly declared that they would use atom bombs. We are strong supporters of Hindustan-Pakistan unity and friendship. but whenever there is any bus journey to Pakistan, or Amarnath Yatra takes place, or talks are held with Hizbul Mujahideen then killings occur. What are the reasons, weaknesses or errors behind all this, we want to hold discussion on these things. I am of firm opinion and would repeat that we want good relationship between Pakistan and Hindustan and Bangladesh may also be made a part of Mahasangh which we the socialist favour.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my party firmly believes that we shall have to directly destroy the bases of militants in Pakistan and shall have to teach a lesson to Pakistan, otherwise situation would deteriorate all the more. Therefore I appeal to all the leaders that the statement of the hon. Home Minister....

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice is regarding what?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want discussion under rule 193. We want to know the reason why a foreign power is interfering in our internal matters and whether the militants are working at their behest? So, now without further delay the militant

---

*Not recorded.

camps should be attacked and Pakistan should be taught a lesson. This is my firm belief and opinion that this matter should be discussed at length and the entire country and the entire House be taken into confidence. Conditions in the country would deteriorate all the more if we show our weakness.

So we demand a discussion under rule 193 by suspending the business of the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, I have admitted the notice for discussion under Rule 184. Your notice for discussion under Rule 193 is under my consideration. Business Advisory Committee is meeting at 3.30 p.m. today. We will discuss all these things there.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Leader of Opposition would like to make a submission.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I am on a point of order. Please hear me.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I raise this point of order under Rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. Sub-clause (vi) of Rule 186 says:

> "it shall not revive discussion of a matter which has been discussed in the same session."

We have already discussed Kashmir in this Session. We cannot compromise the rules for political convenience. Moreover, under Article 370 of the Constitution, the Commission of Inquiry Act is not applicable to Kashmir. How can we ask for a judicial commission of enquiry to be appointed under that Act?

MR. SPEAKER: That is a separate issue.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Hon. Speaker has already admitted the notice for discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already admitted the notice under Rule 184.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: We will be setting a very bad precedent if we discuss it. We will be encroaching upon the powers of the State Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, there is no point of order in this. I have already admitted the notice for discussion under Rule 184. Are you challenging the Chair's decision?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I oppose it.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in what form you would allow a discussion is your prerogative. The issues are closely related. We have already discussed the autonomy issue. Today the hon. Home Minister has even made a statement on the withdrawal of the offer of ceasefire by Hizbul Mujahiddin. There can be no two opinions on the point that a very serious security lapse has taken place in Jammu and Kashmir.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, we are not going to listen to this. There is a limit to everything. There is a very important Calling Attention to be taken up.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, during the time of discussion you can have your say, not now.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: A Member belonging to his own party is objecting to the discussion.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, this House is the appropriate forum to discuss this issue. In what form it should be done is your prerogative.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: It cannot be a one-sided affair in the House everyday. They do not allow other Members to speak. The same Members make the same points again and again.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, the Prime Minister should come out with a full statement on the issue. On that statement a discussion can be taken up.

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall take up zero hour now. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, when there is a Calling Attention, you can make exception for the Leader of Opposition, we do not mind it. But you cannot have both on the same.

MR. SPEAKER: Calling Attention would be taken up after lunch break. Several hon. Members have given notices for raising important matters during zero hour but they could not be called over the last two days.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today is the Quit India Day, and as we pay homage to the memory of those great men and women who led us from bondage to freedom, it is only proper that we recall the continuing relevance to our times of the great themes of the freedom struggle. One of these was *Swadeshi*. Its symbol was *Khadi*. *Khadi* was the thread that united people of different communities, different classes, different regions throughout the country into the fabric of resistance to foreign rule.

In his early writing on the subject, Gandhiji had said:

"*Swaraj* has no meaning for the millions unless they are given the means to employ their enforced idleness."

And a quarter century later, in one of his articles in the magazine which he edited on the 29th June, 1949, he said:

"The centre of *swadeshi* lies in *khadi*."

Sir, it is a tragic betrayal of the high ideals of our struggle for Independence that on this auspicious anniversary of a memorable milestone of that Movement, we should be struggling to preserve for the Khadi and Village Industry their rightful place in the emerging ethos of the nation's changing economic policies.

It was in recognition of the special problems faced by the *khadi* industry that within two years of the commencement of the economic reforms, a High-Powered Committee was established by the Congress Government at that time, under the chairmanship of the then Prime Minister himself.

It recommendations were subsequently translated into an Action Plan. Under that Action Plan, about Rs. 5,700 crore were released to the sector with a view of creating 20 lakh new jobs within three years. It is the signal achievement of the Action Plan that well over 6.5 lakh jobs a year was created besides breathing new life into the *khadi* sector. At that time, *khadi* output virtually doubled in just 36 months.

Tragically, the Action Plan now stands completely neglected. The budgetary support to Khadi and Village Industry has been sharply reduced....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what can be read in the zero over....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: She is the Leader of the Opposition.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI: Assistance from the banking consortium has also dried up. Additional burden such as sales tax are being unthinkingly levied on an industry which cannot support the burden....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI: The proposed nursing funds for sick *Khadi* institutions have remained simply on paper. The proposal for boosting export-oriented *khadi* appears to have been shelved. The original certification scheme has also been abandoned and no satisfactory *alternative* has been put in place.

Where the nationalised banks were to have a special cell to monitor credit flow to the Khadi and Village Industry Sector, the banks are showing themselves completely heartless whatever the formal instructions might be regarding the sector as a priority sector.

As for policy, Sir, ever since the action plan was abandoned, Khadi and Village Industries have been floundering in a miasma of uncertainty. We believe that to ensure a good health of this sector, the action plan needs to be dusted off, updated and rejuvenated in the light of the experience gained. The action plan commitment to a third of this sector's financial requirements being met through budgetary support must be respected. There must be transparency and predictability in the rebate policy. It should be complemented by a well thought out scheme of marketing development assistance. The financial requirement of this sector also needs urgent attention. This is, without doubt, a priority sector. Therefore, our natiionalised banks must be sensitised by the Government concern.

---

*Not recorded.

Welfare schemes for the artisans need to be evolved and implemented with all deliberate speed; so with the insurance schemes. Rural entrepreneurship should be given every encouragement. The KVIC's national programmes such as those for bee keeping, leather making, handmade paper and pottery must be revived. Quality and design require the utmost attention. So do skills upgradation, improved tools and better quality raw materials.

Moreover, it is imperative that the Khadi and Village Industries Board be urgently reconstituted, including the nomination of khadi experts and activists as provided for in the 1955 Act. There is hardly any sector of industry, which can match the khadi and village industry sector in the generation of employment for the poorest of the poor.

We, Sir, have assiduously nurtured this sector through the first fifty years of freedom. Well over half a crore employees earn their livelihood from khadi alone. The value of our khadi output has soared from under Rs. 20 crore at the time of Independence to Rs. 5000 crore at the present time. In a country such as ours, we believe, sophisticated capital intensive manufacture and information technology related industries are no substitute for employment through the spinning wheel and the potter's wheel.

So, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I urge upon the Government and through you, the Prime Minister in particular, to respond to the plight of an industry whose genesis lay in the freedom movement and which is providing economic support and livelihood to millions and millions of our countrymen.

Gandhiji always linked this sector, the khadi sector, with the oppressed, the *daridranarayan*. So, on this most important historic day, let us, in Gandhiji's spirit, pledge ourselves to revitalise khadi, which he had rightly perceived as being the very sole and substance of our culture. Thank you.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice to raise the issue of Khadi and Rural Iindustries....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, you have given a notice on the same subject. So, you can associate with her.

[Translation]

SHRI MANOJ SINHA (Gazipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a Congress Member of Parliament has threatened Shri Vinay Katiyar to come out and we will see you....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has given a notice on the same subject.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat says.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing your Member to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mahatma Gandhi fought for the freedom of India by wearing Khadi, but now that Khadi.....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat's speech.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please give your ruling in this regard....*(Interruptions)* Can anyone threaten us or brow beat us....*(Interruptions)* What is this....*(Interruptions)*

---

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. We shall discuss this matter in the Chamber....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Decision, may please be taken in the House. This is not a matter for discussion in the Chamber....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we wish to know what is going on in the House....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have said that it would be discussed in the Chamber. I want to say that this threat has been given in the House, not in the Chamber. The Deputy leader of the Congress Party should rise and tell us whether threat can be given in the House....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the existence of Khadi with which Mahatma Gandhi fought the freedom struggle, is today in danger....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not right, you will have to give some ruling. You are the protector of this House....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have already said that I will first see what has happened.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: If the Chair will not do the justice how the things will go....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me see first.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: For the last two days we could not take up the 'Zero Hour'. Today, a number of Members have given notices to raise important matters. You are not allowing Members to raise important matters.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you can see the record. If you find any such thing you can expunge it. I have no objection....*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: The Khadi and Gramodyog with the help of which Mahatma Gandhi and Vinoba Bhave tried to make the country self reliant is facing problems today....*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, has already said that he will discuss it in his Chamber....*(Interruptions)* it is a threathing, it should be resolved. Today it has happened with one member tomorrow it may happen with someone else....*(Interruptions)* We want your ruling....*(Interruptions)* I request you Sir the prestige of members is in your hands. This is wrong if somebody threatening like....*(Interruptions)* People who threaten Members should be rebuked. The prestige of the House should be formost....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You present your submission....*(Interruptions)*

12.55 hrs.

At this stage Shri Vinay Katiyar came and sat on the floor near the Table.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, such behaviour with a member is not fair. This kind of unruly behaviour is common among the people of Rashtriya Janta Dal this is condemnable....*(Interruptions)* Such behaviors should not be allowed inside the House....*(Interruptions)*. For the first time Mahatma Gandhi and Vinoba Bhave tried to make the country self reliant with the help of Khadi and Gramodhyog which is facing problems today....*(Interruptions)* Due to the negligence of

*Not recorded.

government towards Khadi Udhyog some four lakh people associated with this field are facing unemployment and in coming few months ten lakh people will become unemployed....*(Interruptions)* The creation of Khadi Gramodhyog Commission was approved by the Government and according to which the services of the specialized and experienced people should be taken for work related to Khadi and Indian Government should provide fund to Khadi Gramodhyog sector without any delay, payment of the balance should be made urgently and the rules to provide rebate on the retail sale of Khadi should be made....*(Interruptions)*

12.56 hrs.

At this stage Shri Ram Nagina Mishra came and stood on the floor near the Table.

There is a request to you that the members behaving unruly should be rebuked. These people create the environment of indicipline in the House. I request you....*(Interruptions)* Gandhi ji wanted to keep the democracy alive and these people are abusing democracy, these people who came in here through democracy are using abusive language in the House and are violating the decorum of the House. Honourable Sir, the honour of the House is supreme therefore such people should be punished....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAHIB SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request you that in this kind of environment in the House everybody needs your protection....*(Interruptions)* before I raise my point you should give the ruling that this kind of behaviour will not be allowed in the House. If the member who has misbehaved, regrets his mistakes and assures that he will not commit such mistake again then the whole thing will end here. The member should rise to regret....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Verma I have told that first I will check the record that what actually happened and after that I will discuss it in Chamber.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SAHIB SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that the whole country is watching these proceedings on television, in fact that whole world is watching it....*(Interruptions)* and if the members will behave like this then what image we are projecting and what people will think about us, that is why I would like to request you that you should give your ruling before I present my view. All the members have seen this even you will see this on television, I have no objections on that....*(Interruptions)* I would like to request hon. Member to rise and regret for the mistake he has committed. There is nothing to feel shy about....*(Interruptions)* Human being commits mistakes he should rise to accept his mistakes and should say that he will never commit it again. Repetition of such behaviour in House is unbecoming....*(Interruptions)* it is not only undignified on the part of the hon. member but also for the House in general. The House needs your protection. Nothing can happen without your protection....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, you could go through the record and if you find anything objectionable, you could expunge it....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If there is anything objectionable, I will expunge it.

[Translation]

SHRI SAHIB SINGH: I wanted to raise an important matter, but if things go on like this how can one speak....*(Interruptions)* I would like to request you to ask the hon. Member to seek apology and say that he will not do such behaviour again....*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, he should say so only this will keep the honour of the member as well as of the House intact. It is very necessary, that's why I would like to say to the party president of Congress that she should rise and ask her members to beg apology. He should beg apology.

MR. SPEAKER: I have given the ruling.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: From the very day this session has started this is happening every now and then....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: He told my pointing his hand outside then how it will come in record....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me see the record first.

...(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that there is scarcity of water and electricity in north block and south block. The problem nopped up when the session started. This is creating problem for members in performing their duty. I request the

Government to solve this problem as early as possible, so that our difficulties are removed....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Prabhunath Singh's submission.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, are you not going to raise your matter?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Suresh Jadhav.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the pandemonium is being created here earlier some people from Congress had also threatened....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Are you going to speak on subject or not.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give some ruling on it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have an important point but the Treasury Benches is creating uproar....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seat. This is not the proper way to behave. I have already given my ruling. If there is anything objectionable, it can be expunged from the record and we can discuss it in the Chamber. This is not the proper way. Please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: That will came on record.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is too much from the Treasury Benches.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that I will discuss in Chamber as to what has happened?

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI RAJ BABBAR (Agra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to raise an important issue in the House....*(Interruptions)* My constituency Agra solely depends on the tourism industry....*(Interruptions)* In connivance with this Government, from the time Lok Sabha elections was held that people of Agra are being suppressed....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Shri Raj Babbar says.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Yesterday an Indian Airlines plane to Agra was cancelled due to some unavoidable reasons. Some days back I talked to the Minister of Civil Aviation and he has promised to start an international flight service from Agra. Since BJP was defeated badly in the recent election in Agra....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ BABBAR: I do not really understand that even after associated with the Government these people are creating hindrences in the work of Government. I don't understand that a group sitting on this side....*(Interruptions)* I do not understand what kind of people are in their party who do not want to let the proceedings party House run....*(Interruptions)* I am here after being elected from my constituency. I want to raise the problem of the people of my constituency. These people are not listening to me. Infact they don't want my constituency's problem to be heard....*(Interruptions)* through you I want to impress upon the Minister of Civil Aviation that if the public of Agra decides that things will not go this way....*(Interruptions)* ask them to raise slogans outside the House. This House works to resolve the problems of the region. I do not understand that if the hon. Member has uttered that if you do not want to listen you can go out of the House then what is the problem? Why they are sitting here? They should not seat here. Instead of resolving the problems of the region

*Not recorded.

they are sitting there....*(Interruptions)* I would like to request you that brutal attack undertaken on the tourism of Agra....*(Interruptions)* due to that brutal attack....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have already told you to please understand. First of all, please let me look into the record as to what has happened. Then I will come to you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ BABBAR: The behaviour of the people of this group who are associated with Government is very impertinent....*(Interruptions)* they are putting hindrance in raising the problem of my constituency before you. This is not justified....*(Interruptions)* By pressurising Minister of Civil Aviation they have impressed to stop the domestic services of the airlines in Agra region whereas the Minister of Civil Aviation was willing to start international services from there....*(Interruptions)* I would like to say that the Government should feel ashamed. They are doing this after being defeated in the elections....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Nagina Mishra, once again I am appealing to you to go back to your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. You cannot speak from here.

[English]

13.11 hours

At this stage, Shri Ram Nagina Mishra and Shri Vinay Katiyar went back to their seats

MR. SPEAKER: Let me examine the reocrds. I have to see what is there? I have already given my decision.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will examine the records. I have to see what is there? Please take your seats.

Shri Lal Bihari Tiwari

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Sir, first you decide about this issue, thereafter I will speak....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, you are interrupting too much now.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI: Sir, they are taking the House to ransom. Not only male Members of Congress but female Members also give threat. Therefore you have to take a decision....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You speak about the notice you have given.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI: First take the decision.

MR. SPEAKER: Decision will be taken later on. You speak about the notice you have given.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI: How can I speak unless you give protection as the House is being taken to ransom. Therefore unless you take a decision and give protection how can I speak....*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I can understand your problem. Since you have not seen it, you cannot give any ruling. A gesture is not recorded in tape recorder but is recorded in video recording. You see that. If some Members gesture is unparliamentary, you take proper action. This is my request to you.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI: Sir, National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) a terrorist organisation has been formed with a view to separate Tipura from India and make it an independent Nation. Its name itself shows its objective.

During last six years NLFT has abducted 1757 people among them 120 were killed and rest were left after paying large ransom. 1724 people have been killed. 168 soldiers of army and paramilitary forces were also victims of terrorism.

People of the same organisation had abducted four leading workers of Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh on

6th August last year. These abducted workers are Regional incharge (Karyawahek) of the Eastern region Shri Shyamlal Kant Sengupt, Prant Shariik Parmukh Shri Denveder Nath Dey, Tripura State Parcharak Shri Sudhamaya Dutt, District Parcharak Shri Subankar Chakravarty....*(Interruptions)* Chief Minister has also accepted it. Therefore through you I demand that special efforts should be made by the Union Government for their release.

SHRI SAHIB SINGH (Outer Delhi): Sir, in Delhi historic MRTS work is going on at a very fast pace. Alongwith this work we had also decided in the beginning that all the residential houses and commercial establishments, industries affected by this project would be given alternative.

Sir, there is a historical temple situated in 24 villages in trans-Yamuna. It has been badly affected. No alternative has been given. Thousands of houses are to be razed. Unless any alternative is given these houses should not be razed. For this purpose a guideline should be made. Direction should be given to the Minister from your behalf and on behalf of House that a guideline should be made and without giving any alternative such as land, shop, houses and industries to those people. They should not be displaced while preparing the project we had made such provision. I would request you to kindly think about the thousands of people affected by this project. Although such a historical work is being done for the people of Delhi and the organisation is doing this work very well a direction should be issued to rehabilitate, resettle these people....*(Interruptions)* This is very important.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHWARLU (Tenali): Sir, it is quite unfortunate that a great deal of confusion is prevailing in Andhra Pradesh Telecom Circle. Here, the problem is two-fold. Firstly, recently the Government has made an announcement that the Telecommunication Department is going to be disinvested and privatised. After that, there is a certain amount of inaction among the employees with the result that nobody is going to the work. Secondly, added to this, it is understood that there is some court litigation in one particular State about the tenders to be finalised for the supply of telecommunication materials. As a result of the pending of litigation, the supply of entire telecommunication materials such as cable, which is related to the laying of the lines, giving connections to the subscribers, is stopped in Andhra Pradesh. No litigation is pending in Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, I urge upon the Government to come out with a clear policy as to whether disinvestment is going to take place, as to whether litigations are going to be finalised, and as to whether the supply of materials to Andhra Pradesh Telecom Circle is going to be restored so that the work can progress.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, today is 9th August and we pay our tribute to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. Our leader, Kumari Mamata Banerjee is addressing a huge rally at Chamkai Thala, in the district of Midnapur, in West Bengal to observe the Martyr's Day. We fought British rulers in 1942 with the slogan 'do or die'. In 2000, we are giving a slogan -'we will resist fascist CPI (M) in West Bengal in 2000'.

Sir, hundreds and thousands of workers and landless agricultural labourers are being murdered at random in West Bengal and we, really, have to face another freedom struggle in West Bengal against the fascist Marxist Communist Party. I would believe that the whole nation would be behind us in this struggle and all the anti-Communist forces would rally around us. This is another battle, which we are going to fight under the leadership of Kumari Mamata Banerjee for which the people's blessings will be with us.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Maharashtra there has been surplus production of sugarcane and Maharasthra Government had promised to pay rupees 1500 per hectare for surplus sugarcane but payment has not been made till now. Farmers are sitting on Dharna there and they took out a procession against it. In my area Parbhani itself in more than one lakh hectare of land sugarcane was produced in surplus. Through you I would like to request the Union Government to give directions to Maharashtra Government to pay for surplus sugarcane. And if Maharashtra Government do not have money then Union Government should help Maharashtra Government by giving them money. So that sugarcane farmers could get money.

[English]

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY (Cannanore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to bring a vital point to the notice of the Central Government and that is regarding the development of secondary education. Due to the implementation of the Plus Two system, the State Government of Kerala is incurring a huge recurring expenditure towards the payment of salary and other

establishment expenses. The State of Kerala has started the Secondary Course this year in over around 400 schools, both Government as well as aided. The delinking process has been completed. The Central Unified system is being fully implemented now. So, I request the Central Government to sanction a special grant for this purpose.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am raising very serious matter. History of Bihar had been very glorious but in an interview of Khuswant Singh the so called journalist which was telecast on Sony TV it was said that all people of Bihar are beggars and remain barebody. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is insult of 10 crores people of Bihar.

13.24 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, people of Bihar are hardworking and due to their hard work only such a high rise buildings are there in city like Delhi. Insulting people of Bihar in this way is unbecoming. I urge the Government through you to ask Khuswant Singh the so called journalist, to beg apology from the people of Bihar. If he does not beg apology then Government should take legal action against him and put him behind bars. If it is not done then I warn you that people of Bihar known for their revolutionary thoughts, will become more agitated and revengeful, if action is not taken by the Government on them. People of Bihar living in Delhi would be forced to take revenge of the insult by Khuswant Singh. Therefore Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want protection from the Chair and it is the question of insult to Bihar's 10 crore people. If Khuswant Singh is not asked to beg apology or if he does not beg apology in time or Government do not file case and sent him to jail. I would like to tell you that communal riot may break. Therefore I request the Chair to give protection and save the people of Bihar from insult....*(Interruptions)* I want protection from the Chair. This is the question of insult to the people of Bihar. You give directions for taking action on this to the Government. At least you can do that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can't give directions.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, people of Bihar have been insulted. You give us protection.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot compel him.

[Translation]

The Minister is noting it, Mr. Kaliappan.

[English]

*SHRI K.K. KALIAPPAN (Gobichettipalayam): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice what is happening in India now when agriculture is the basis of our economy. We are faced with a challenge to both the agricultural sector and thereby Indian economy. The agriculturists who grow turmeric, sugarcane, tea, onion and coconut are facing a great problem now. They are not getting remunerative prices and they go through hard times. They are forced to meet with suicidal ends. It is reported in papers also that they are on the verge of taking to ropes to be the nooses to put an end to their plight. This kind of situation is prevalent in Tamil Nadu and also in other parts of India. Agriculturists are hard hit by the import policy of this Government. They are the most affected by the import of such agricultural produce which are already growing a plenty in our own country. The import policy is greatly affecting the Indian economy taking it to the brink of disaster. Great Tamil poet saint Thiruvalluvar said—

"Idipparai illatha emara mannan
kedupparay illathu kedum".

When there is no one to point out your omissions you would be ruined and spoilt even without anyone to do it. Precisely the same is happening to this Government now. The import policy handled by this Government leads the agriculturists and farmers to starvation and force them to resort to suicidal deaths. Their lives are hanging. Those who grow turmeric, sugarcane, onion, tea and coconut are in great problem now. Their plight is becoming pitiable. Hence the import of such agricultural produce and products must be stopped immediately. The Government must ban the import of palmolien. Several foreign countries have banned the consumption of palm oil as a health hazard. But India is importing it. Such agricultural products that would affect the local farmers are banned in many countries. Recently Indian scientists have been conducting research on the AIDS healing capability of coconut oil. Such coconut growers are not getting a better deal. The farmers must get the fruits of their labour. While coming to coconut I would like to bring to your notice the corruption in Tamil Nadu resorted to by some Ministers there.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Kaliappan, what is that you want from the Government? Just mention that.

SHRI K.K. KALIAPPAN: Copra available for Rs. 20 per kilo in the open market is procured at a rate of Rs. 32 per kilo. There must be a CBI inquiry into this deal. The Government must rescind the import policy that affects the farmers.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Government wants to put forth some proposal.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already called another Member.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister wants to say something.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He can't do so. Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir....

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister wants to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him speak if he wants to. How can I say that hon'ble Minister wants to speak?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: He wants to speak on the same subject....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, earlier when I asked you do have to say anything you said no. What do you want to say now? In the meantime I have already called two members. Why do you take, so much time?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will convey the view of the concerned Minister after talking to him on the matter raised by the hon'ble Member in the House.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is tension in Udham Singh Nagar. When the bill for Uttranchal State was brought in the House, even at that time our opinion was that efforts be made to take the people of Udham Singh Nagar and Haridwar in confidence. People of Udham Singh Nagar have hold up traffic for 72 hour against the inclusion of that district in Uttranchal. Public life has been disrupted due to bandh. The people of that district want to remain with Uttar Pradesh. It is a serious matter. A Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Shri George Fernandez. The Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab were its members. Shrimoni Akali Dal has also objected to it and has said that the opinion of Shri George Saheb expressed in the House was his own opinion and not that of the committee as a whole. The people of Udham Singh Nagar want to remain with Uttar Pradesh.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is the Zero Hour, don't make a speech.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I would like to say the Government to respect the wishes of the people of Udham Singh Nagar to remain in Uttar Pradesh and take decision accordingly.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, today we are all paying homage to the father of the nation, Mahatama Gandhi, who sacrificed his life for the unity and integrity of this country and also for the communal harmony. But I am sorry to say that in some of the places of Gujarat the minorities are being harassed and attacked by a section of people.

Sir, in the wake of the *bandh* call given by the VHP activists, in Surat, there were looting of the houses and shops of the people belonging to a particular community, that is, the Muslims. Six people died there and more than 100 people were injured. There, the loss of property is estimated to be more than Rs. 50 crore. Sir, in the wake of *bandh* call given by the VHP, cities like Ahmedabad, Saher Kotda Police Station area, the Khedbrahma town, Lambadiya village (Sabarkantha Distt), besides Surat city, and Vishramnagar area are affected and day before yesterday also there was communal violence in Modasa Town.

I am very sorry to say that there are activists of various parties who indulge in such atrocities. They may have an ideology of attacking the people. But how the administration, especially the security forces abet such killings, such attacks, such looting, and such atrocities against the minorities or against any citizen of this country? This is disgraceful for the Government that the officers and the lower strata of the security forces do this. Many of the innocent people have been harassed and dragged to the police stations by the ruthless police, State Reserve Police (SRP). Therefore, the people plead for protection. They want protection. Even the police personnel ask shamelessly people of minority community, 'that they are Pakistanis, why do they not go to Pakistan'?

I have with me various press reports, but I do not want to take the valuable time of the House. One of the

national dailies, the *Indian Express*, and even the *Asian Age* have also reported it. But nobody is taking a note of it here. It has been widely reported. I would like to know whether the minorities are not the citizens of this country. Should they not be given protection? Do they not have any rights of life and property? I do not know why this is being done. It has happened in various parts of Gujarat. It is not only a matter of atrocities on minorities, it is also to vitiate the communal peace and harmony. This should be stopped. The Government should take appropriate, strong, stringent action against the culprits. I hope the Government will take some action against those guilty.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I associate myself with what was been said. The thing has gone even to Rajasthan. The Government must give some explanation of what they are doing. There is sterile inaction.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right. I allow you to associate yourself with this.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, 1992 is revisited those places in Gujarat....*(Interruptions)* Surat city is badly affected because of this.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we all associate and support the views expressed here by Shri Ahamed.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, we had demanded a discussion on communal situation. This discussion is also not coming up in the House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Today, in the BAC we will take it up.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: We should be told about it. It is now the third week of the Session. On the very first day I had moved an Adjournment Motion and at that time I was told it would be discussed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Banatwala, today there is a Business Advisory Committee meeting, you can take it up there.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: But what about the discussion on the communal situation?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can take it up in the BAC today.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, on the very first day I moved an Adjournment Motion on this subject....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are a member of the Business Advisory Committee. You can take it up in the meeting of the BAC today.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Let us know as to when we are going to take up this discussion....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sir, today at 3.30 p.m. there is a meeting of the BAC.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: It is not a question of today. This discussion on communal situation was slated in the Agenda at various times....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can take it up in the BAC meeting today. We all will be there.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Sir, I also associate with him....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Dasmunsi.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I am raising a very emotional and a very sensitive matter addressing to the Law Ministry of Government and I hope that the Government—the Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and another Minister are here—to respond it with all seriousness because I apprehend that a serious law and order problem will arise in future.

Sir, North Bengal is otherwise known to be neglected in the whole map of the country. In that region, there is a district, Jalpaiguri, which is the Divisional Headquarter of North Bengal. This district is having the largest number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In that district, there are some tea industries connected with the weaker sections. On the recommendation of the Full Bench of the Calcutta High Court and on the recommendation of the State Government, this district has got a Circuit Bench of the Calcutta High Court. After the uncalled for visit of the then Law Minister, Shri Ram Jethmalani, suddenly the decision of the Calcutta High Court and the State Government has been reverted back to reconsider. This

is an insult to North Bengal and Jalpaiguri. This is very bad. I have been getting a lot of reports everyday. The commotion may begin any time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I am making a request to the Government and specially to the Law Minister, 'Please do not dishonour the earlier recommendation of the Full Bench of the Calcutta High Court and the State Government to have the Circuit Bench in Jalpaiguri.'

There are several cases in various States, where Circuit Bench has been granted without the recommendation of the High Court. Here, we have the unanimous opinion of the State Government and the Full Bench of Calcutta High Court to have the Circuit Bench in Jalpaiguri. Please honour that. Please do not change it. All the members of North Bengal, irrespective of the party, are united on this issue, to have the Circuit Bench in Jalpaiguri.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the Government through you that there is a conspiracy behind the decision to close down the Hajipur Railway Zonal Office and delaying the work of constructing a railway bridge on river Ganga at Patna by referring it for survey. Railway Ministry is not approving the conversion of Samastipur-Khagaria narrow gauge into broad gauge even though the proposal to this effect was passed much earlier. People belonging to all the various parties in Bihar, their Members of Parliament have launched 'Rail Chakka Jam' from today, 9th of August, against the negative attitude of the Government towards important railway projects of Bihar, such as Hasanpur-Sakri new rail line Kusewarsthan-Khagaria new rail line, Katihar-Jogbani railway, conversion of Mansi-Saharsa meter gauge into broad gauge, delay in the doubling of Patna-Gaya line, Sasaram railway line in Ara, decision to stop the construction work of Divisional Zonal office in Ranchi etc. Forty six Members of Parliament of Bihar, including a number of Union Ministers, have written twice in the last four months to the hon'ble Prime Minister against the biased attitude of the Rail Ministry against Bihar.

Therefore, I demand from the Government to complete the work as soon as possible....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, donot read the written speech during the Zero Hour.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRARSAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the matter raised by Shri Paswan clearly shows the adverse treatment being meted out to Bihar by this Government. When Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was the Rail Minister he made Hajipur the Railway Zonal Office, foundation was laid for the Patna Rail Bridge, now all these works have been stopped. No work is being done....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Mohd. Shahabuddin.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN (Siwan): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards Dayanand Medical College Hospital, Bihar. I wish to say that Indian Council of Medical Research has reduced the seats allotted to this hospital from 50 to 40 due to which students are facing a lot of difficulties. On the other hand the college is not being allowed to make admission on all its seats even though it fulfills all the conditions. Therefore, I request the Government to pay immediate attention to this problem.

[English]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: What is the problem with my issue?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your issue also will not be taken up. The matters raised by both Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale and Shri Rashid Avli are the same. It has already been raised here, and the hon. Speaker has marked as "it is already raised and no permission is required."

SHRI RASHID ALVI: It is a very serious issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has already taken a decision. He has marked it. I cannot revive it. I am sorry.

---

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a number of people have died of malaria and diarrhoea in many villages of districts Bokaro and Dhanbad of my constituency. The condition of health services in the district is very poor. Malaria eradication programme is existing only on papers.

Health related assistance for the poor is enmeshed in the multiplicity of figures. But in reality health centres lack in all the three ingredients; medicine, equipments and doctors. The prices of the medicine have reached such a level that the poor prefer to die than to buy medicines.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to take immediate measures to check the fury of the dreaded malaria and diarrhoea diseases....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I told you that both your matter and the matter of Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale had been raised. It is already written here as "matter raised". Hon. Speaker has marked it.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: I do not know exactly whether it is the same issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is decided by the hon. Speaker. I cannot revive it now.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the one hand Veerapan is posing grave challenge and on the other hand we are not being allowed to raise the matter in House....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, it is the same issue.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government is going to bend before Verrappan, a mere criminal....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, please sit down.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: It is a very important issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have already told you. It may be an important issue but it has already been taken up. The hon. Speaker has marked that it has already been taken up. No permission will be given. Since it is already marked, I will not be giving the permission.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, please do not waste the time of the House.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, I want to raise an important issue. I want to draw the attention of hon. Prime Minister to a matter of great concern. Sir, a few days back, the US Consul General sent two persons to collect information from Nanur regarding the killing. It is nothing but an interference in the affairs of the State. According to the autobiography of Moyrihan, former US Ambasador, the US Government used two times money power to keep the Communists away from power in West Bengal and in Kerala. So, it is an interference with the sovereignty of the country. I request the hon. Prime Minister to communicate the displeasure to the Embassy of USA. This is nothing but an intervention of US in the affairs of our country. Our sovereignty will be jeopardised. So, it is a matter of great concern. I, therefore, draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister to this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Arrah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very much thankful to you that you gave me time to speak. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important matter. The Patna University of Bihar is a well known university of India. Many scholars, eminent philosophers, thinkers and professors have been produced by this University. This University has produced many students who have joined Indian Administrative services and IPS in large numbers. It has produced many scientists. I would like that the Patna University should be made Central funded university....*(Interruptions)* You recognise it as Central University and the entire expenditure of the University should be borne by the Union Government. My request is that the Government should take decision in this regard as soon as possible.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India towards improving the miserable condition of the Projects and Development India Limited which is an undertaking of the Government. The PDIL was established with the noble objective of developing the fertiliser technology in the country. Under this project it was envisaged that apart from the technology development, the company will work for the fertiliser projects and the development of capability of manufacturing and production of the fertiliser. The PDIL was given the status of an independent company after the division of the then Fertiliser Corporation into five companies in 1978 but no permanent source of income of this company was established. At that time, it was decided that rest of the four Fertiliser companies will pay P.D.I.L. at the rate of Re. 1 per ton but this arrangement could not continue even for one year....(*Interruptions)* It is a very important issue for Bihar, that is why you please allow me to speak. If you do like this then the Bihar which is an orphen state will continue to be an orphen. Please allow me to speak for the two minutes.

As a result of the change in the Industrial policy of the Union Government, the institute did not get the assignment of Fertiliser projects and Snem Progetti of Italy and Halder Tapso of Denmark were appointed the Chief Advisory institute. But these multinational companies used to complete these projects by assigning the works to P.D.I.L. at [illegible]ty contract for which very less amount was paid to P.D.I.L. and the benefit was being enjoyed by these multinational companies. Gradually the multinational companies started posing condition for the use of catalist in the new projects and besides this they started dumping catalists that were to be used for three years and as a result of this, the market of catalist for P.D.I.L. started gradually shrinking and the company went into loss.

On the other hand, the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of this Institute was intentionally quoting high price of these catalists....*(Interruptions)* I could not raise the final point so far that I want to....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In Zero Hour, you raise only those issues for which you have been given permission.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: In spite of the involvement in anti-institution activities his service has time and again been extended even after ten months of retirement and conspiracy is being hatched to shut down PDIL.

Sir, through you, I appeal to protect the PDIL and the factory located at Sindri which are of national significance. At the end I demand from the Government to take immediate action in this regard and intimate me so that I would study the situation there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nobody can read written speech during Zero Hour. Now it will not be allowed.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As per the rule nobody can read written speech during Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can not read in sitting position. You can see it in Rule 377.

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.): Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards my Lok Sabha constituency. My Lok Sabha constituency is backward from the point of view of agriculture. The main eason for this is that there is no facility of research that is required there, particularly in Bilaspur district, where no Agricultural Research Centre has been set up as yet. There, people are still dependent on conventional method of agriculture.

Through you, my request is that an Agriculture Research Centre should be set up there as soon as possible so that the farmers of that area may take advantage from the latest research. While I was Member in twelfth Lok Sabha, the then Minister of Agriculture Shri Sompal ji had informed me that an Agriculture Research Centre would be set up there. I had got information about its approval but the Lok Sabha was dissolved. My submission is that centre has not yet been set up.

Through you, I again appeal that in order to do justice to the farmers, Agriculture Research Centre should be opened there as soon as possible so that they may use modern method of agriculture.

[English]

SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN (Nagercoil): Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government on this issue.

In Kerala, in the issue of allotment of plus two courses, the UDF alliance and the students union, ABVP, took various agitations.

On July 12, ABVP organised a march towards the Secretariat in Trivandrum and it was very peaceful. But, without any reason, the activists were brutally lathicharged by the police.

ABVP State President, Shri Unnikrishnan, Vice-President, Shri Suresh, Kumari Sindmol, Kumari Anjana,

Asha, Sridevi and others were seriously injured and girls were brutally beaten even while going to hospital.

On July 13, another march was organised to condemn the lathicharge on female activists. When the march was taking place in front of the Secretariat, some CPM workers and the *mufti* policemen sneaked in and made the peaceful march into a violent one.

These anti-social elements, in a planned manner, damaged the public property and the vehicles of the media persons.

This high-handed action is highly condemnable. But, till today, no proper action has been taken.

Therefore, I humbly request the Government to take an immediate action against the officials and the police persons. An Enquiry Commission should be instituted to probe the excess unleashed by the police and the anti-social elements and also against the rampant corruption and foul play in the matter of according permission to plus two courses to the selected schools of their choice.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after the reorganisation of the three States-Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, I am glad to say that I represent the capital of the biggest State so far. Today the population of Rajasthan is five times more than that of Sri Lanka, it is also more than that of Britain. It is more than the other States and it is most populous State in India. My submission is that Rajasthan stands first in India as far the population is concerned. The area upto the national capital region of Alwar comes under this State. Apart from this, Rajasthan has longest international boundary along Pakistan. Today Rajasthan is not getting that much of financial support as it should have been given. In Gadgil formulae it has been stated that the region which has desert and receives only one percent of water of all rivers should be provided with more financial assistance. My request is that in the given present situation, more financial assistance should be provided to Rajasthan, under the Gadgil formulae. Rajasthan is the biggest State of India.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India towards a subject that has been in discussion for centuries. It is related to Ram Janki. The Ram Janki road has been in discussion for centuries. A road should be constructed from Janakpur to Ayodhya. Presently those who go to Ayodhya from Jankapur, they cover a distance of 548 kilometer out of which 21 k.m. is in Nepal and 220 k.m. is in Uttar Pradesh. Both these roads are National Highways. But the 307 k.m. of distance that is covered in Bihar is quite circutous and it is a historical road through which Ram Janki had travelled from Janakpur to Ayodhaya. 80 k.m. of the road is such that goes to Dumariaghat from Sitamarhi. If road of Sitamarahi, Sheohar, Madhuban, Chatia, Kesaria and Dumariaghat is declared a national highway then 100 k.m. distance is reduced and this is the road through which Ram alongwith Sita had returned from Janakpur.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ask, what the Government of India intends to do.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Sir, through you, I would to draw the attention of Government of India towards declaring it as a national highway....*(Interruptions)*

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you should speak according to the order mentioned in the list. I will call according to the notices received. The person who has submitted the notice been submitted 9 o'clock will get opportunity first rather than the one who has submitted at 10 p'clock.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Varanasi is an important tourist centre of the world. Followers of Buddha and Hindu religion visit Varanasi. Many foreign tourists go there. It is the world's main centre of carpet industry. I had made the demand of constructing international airport at Varanasi in 11th Lok Sabha, 12th Sabha, and 13th Lok Sabha. Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government to develop Varanasi's airport as an international airport, as this place earn maximum foreign exchange in Uttar Pradesh for the country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please be brief.

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI (Mirzapur): I always speak in brief. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I was waiting for a long time. I would like to speak about my parliamentary constituency Mirzapur Bhadohi. One block of my constituency falls in Banaras. But I am sorry to say that in all three parliamentary constituencies and in all three districts, handicrafts is the main business. Most of the people over there are weavers, but electricity supply is given only for 4 hours. They do not get electric supply even for 6 hours. I had requested the Uttar Pradesh Government and Government

of India that electricity should be supplied for at least 18 hours, so that people working in their houses could work on their looms for 18 hours. Every member of the family works on loom, nobody sits idle. But for this they require electricity for at least 18 hours, so that they should be able to earn their livelihood. Nowadays business of carpet and sarees is not doing well. They are not only getting less money for their work but they are also getting adequate electric supply.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government of India that the Power Minister of UP should be directed to provide under a special facility of electric supply for at least 18 hours to the weavers.

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM (Palamu): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards an important subject. Japla Cement factory in Palamu district of Bihar is lying closed for at least 10 years. Directly or indirectly at least 30 thousand people have become shelterless and unemployed. They are unable to bear the expenses of their children's education and marriage. I would like to request the Government of India that the decision of reopening this cement factory should be taken without any further delay because there is no other cement factory over there. Everybody knows that Palamu and Gadva districts are terrorist infested area and unemployment is on the rise. I request the Government that this cement factory should be started without any further delay, as property of crores of rupees is getting wasted, so that people over there could be given save succour.

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI (Ahmednagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the year 1983 then Minister of Defence had visited cantonent area of Poona. During that visit he saw that in Defence Area, new buildings are being constructed in market area, excluding the reserved area. It could cause damage to natural beauty of cantonment area. Therefore he expressed the desire of imposing ban on construction of such buildings. In pursuance to this, then General Officer Commanding in Chief promulgated an Ordinance thereby issuing FSI for market areas under cantonment area on 22 July 1984.

14.00 hrs.

Under this construction of new buildings and renovation of the old buildings is not allowed. Height of building should not be more than 18 metres. The permission for construction of more that two floors along with ground floor is not allowed. All the buildings in Bingar Cantonment Area are old and in critical state. The committee set up for FSI has also submitted its report. For the last 14 years, any construction work or repairing work has not taken place. In 14 years the family which having 4 children, is no having 14 children. They need bigger house.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should ask, what you want to ask from the Government of India.

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: I request the Government of India to take appropriate action in this regard.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): On 14 October, 1950 lakhs of scheduled caste people had converted to Buddhism under the leadership of Baba Saheb Ambedkar. At that time six seats of Lok Sabha and 36 seats of Vidhan Sabha were reserved in Maharashtra. However its number got reduced after Dalits converted to Budhism. Now only 3 seats of Lok Sabha and 18 seats of Vidhan Sabha are reserved. I request the Government of India that delimitation is not required. In 1991, Shri V.P. Singh gave that facility to scheduled caste people which is given to Budhist people. Therefore, I demand instead of 3 Lok Sabha and 18 Vidhan Sabha seats, 6 Lok Sabha and 36 seats of Vidhan Sabha should be reserved for them.

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA (Bhatinda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I represent Bhatinda. The Railway Department have demolished approximately 100 houses over there in a colony, though that property is not of Railways. A case has also been filed in Court. Railways lost that case in court. Inspite of that, they are hatching the conspiracy of displacing them. I request the Central Government to order inquiry in this regard and also stop the Railways from demolishing the Houses of the poor.

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA (Jammu): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to continuous firing from Pakistani side along the border to Jammu and Kashmir with Paksitan one lakh people have been displaced. For the last one year, they are living in camps. They do not have any other mean of livelihood except Agriculture. They do get financial help from Centre, but it is given sometimes after two months and sometimes after four months. I request that they should be given monthly financial help. Due to rain and strong winds the tents in their camps are also in poor state. Therefore, these should be replaced. There is no proper arrangement for electricity, water and medicine over there. Therefore, the Union Government should request the State Government to make proper arrangement for children's education, electricity, water and financial help should also be make available.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3.00 p.m.

14.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till fifteen of the Clock.

15.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at four minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*)

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Non-payment of remunerative price of jute due to waiving of Jute Packaging norms and allowing non-jute materials for packaging purposes

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Textiles to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

> "The difficulties being faced by the jute growers due to non-payment of remunerative price of jute and waiving of Jute Packaging norms and allowing non-jute materials for packaging purposes and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset I would like to assure the hon. Members who have moved the notice for discussion on this matter, that the Government is well aware of the issues concerning jute sector and its importance in our country's economy. The Government has been taking various measures in the past only to protect but also to facilitate the growth of this sector. We are also in the process of finalsing certain policy initiatives as well as some new projects aimed at accelerating the growth of this sector.

With a view to enabling the jute farmers to get remunerative prices for their crop, the Government has a Minimum Support Price (MSP) policy. The Jute Corporation of India (JCI) established in 1971 implements the same. The MSP for TD 5 ex-Assam during 1998-99 was Rs. 650 per quintal. The Government increased this to Rs. 750 per quintal in 1990-2000 and further to Rs. 785 per quintal in 2000-2001. JCI has already entered the market and has purchased 25,600 quintals of raw jute under MPS so far. JCI operates 171 Centres in the Jute growing areas. In addition, JCI is trying to increase purchases by tying up with cooperative societies and apex cooperative organisations of State Governments to increase the coverage of MSP operations.

As the main usage of jute has been in the form of packaging, this sector faced rough weather with the emergence of plastic as an alternative packaging material in 1980s. Hence, to protect the interests of those engaged in this sector, the Government enacted the Jute in packaging Materials Act, 1987 providing for compulsory use of jute in packaging of certain commodities. Orders issued under this Act on 1st July, 1999, and modified on 31st March, 2000, provided for packaging 90 per cent of foodgrains and sugar and 15 per cent of urea in jute bags.

The validity of the order which was to expire on 30th June, 2000 has been extended up to 30th September, 2000. The Government has not issued any new order for the Jute Year 2000-2001. The Government intends to issue a new order before 30th September, 2000 after considering various factors like the size of the jute crop, the expected quantity of production of foodgrains and sugar, the impact of the introduction of 50 kg. bags in certain sectors, etc. The Government has been taking a balanced view in the matter, considering all aspects of the issue and keeping and mind interests of the jute farmers and workers engaged in the jute industry. I would like to assure the hon. Members of the House that their valuable suggestions will be kept in mind while deciding on the issue.

Sir, I hope the hon. Members would agree that the position explained by them clearly indicates that the Government is alive to the issues of the jute sector and is making all efforts to address these issues.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I do not agree with the Statement of the hon. Minister. I will justify my views on my own elaboration.

The economy of jute is not linked with a particular District or a particular part of India only. It is vitally linked with vast areas of North India, especially the rural villages of Bihar, eastern Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, entire West Bengal, Assam and Orissa. Jute-growers have now become victims of the policy the Government has adopted on 18th July, 2000 in the Cabinet Affairs Committee to change the whole packaging norms.

Sir, in 1987, when Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister, I had the privilege to handle the desk of the Ministry of Commerce. I know how, in spite of the systematic and sustained pressure from the synthetic and the plastic lobby, we protected the interests of the jute growers and the jute industry at that time. The decision was there that the foodgrains were to be packed cent percent in jute bags. The sugar also used to be packed cent per cent in the jute bag. Even when the pressure was too much and the policy was revived, the urea used to be packed 80 per cent in jute bags.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I understand that the Government has placed itself in a very peculiar situation now. The Minister of Environment from the same Government is talking that the synthetic and plastic bags are now causing great concern for the environment, for its toxic problems. And, the Minister here is sitting. He is fighting throughout the world, addressing seminars, symposium and giving lectures throughout the country as to what are the hazardous things so far as the environment is concerned. As per the environment protections as guaranteed by the WHO and also, at the Ministry's behest, in IIT Kharagpur, it was established and justified that how good is the jute fibre and how bad is the synthetic and plastic so far as pollution is concerned. In spite of that, the same Government, to take away the rights of the jute growers, to take away the future of the jute industrial workers and jute mills *per se*, has introduced a new Packaging Policy which is disastrous and dangerous.

MR. CHARIMAN: Please ask the question.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Yes, Sir, I am coming to the question. If you go through the Calling Attention, it is linked with two subjects— jute growers' interests and the packaging norm.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Normally, the rules permit for putting question in the Calling Attention.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I am coming to the question.

Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister the following?

I represent the district of Dinajpur which produces the best quality of the jute all over India. Whether it is a fact that last year in North Bengal, which produces large quantity of jute, the minimum price that was fixed by the growers was more than Rs. 900 and this time it is at Rs. 760, which is below the minimum support price. Sir, I come from the area where there is the best trading centre for jute growers, that is, Raiganj. There in the last week, the jute was sold at Rs. 760 whereas your MSP was at Rs. 785. Last year, they sold it at Rs. 985. In the South Bengal, the jute support price is Rs. 785 and it is now being sold at Rs. 720 because of the adverse affect of this.

The hon. Member from South Bengal, Hooghly is also sitting here. He also will bear me out as to what is happening there.

About the jute packaging norm, may I know from the hon. Minister that whether it is a fact that—he may kindly correct me if I am wrong—there was no disruption in supply of jute bags for packing foodgrains and sugar as also fertilisers despite the short-lived jute strike? Even if the target of 212 million metric tonnes set for 2000-2001 and 17.5 million metric tonnes for sugar is achieved, there will be no problem whatsoever in meeting the increment demand for jute goods as the jute industry has sufficient capacity. Will the hon. Minister therefore reply to us that this dilution of order even by 10 per cent will have an extremely harmful effects on the jute industry and its workers?

This will force the mills to back production for over one lakh metric tonnes per year. Therefore, I seek the hon. Minister's intervention in the matter and I urge upon you to take up the matter at the level of the hon. Prime Minister or have another Cabinet Committee to ensure that 100 per cent packaging of foodgrains is ensured by the jute bags including sugar and 20 per cent for fertiliser as was before.

Please do not surrender to the synthetic and plastic lobby, which will destroy the farmers, the industrial workers and jute growers. The Agriculture Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar is sitting here. The State to which he belongs will be a major victim because the poorest of the poor from that State work in the jute mills of Calcutta and rest of the places in Bengal. The mill in Kishanganj is already closed and five more mills in Bengal are closed. Yet, the Government in which he is a Minister is changing the packaging norms—transferring from jute bags to synthetics and plastics.

With these words I conclude. I desire that the Minister will reply to these points. He said in his statement that he would consider our suggestions in good spirit. Will he consider these? Thank you.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, I will directly come to the questions, as was suggested by you and as is the practice in the case of Calling Attention.

May I know the following from the hon. Minister?

(1) Is it not a fact that the Standing Advisory Committee in its meeting, had unanimously come to the conclusion that the levels of reservation in respect of foodgrains and sugar should be restored to 100 per cent and fertiliser to 20 per cent, as before?

(2) It is not a fact that the Supreme Court had given some directions and this is the first time that the Union Government is defying that direction of the Supreme Court?

(3) Is it not a fact that there is no dearth of supply? Even the advance order would be completed by October, 2000, as 60 pre cent of this advance order has already been fulfilled and the rest 40 per cent could be fulfilled any time. There is so much glut in the supply position.

(4) Is it not a fact that jute industry is having enough capacity to fulfil any demand? Suppose the foodgrains target of 212 million tonnes is reached and if the sugar production is also reached as targeted by the Government—that is, 17.5 million metric tonnes—even then, the jute industry will be in a position to supply not only this, but also any incremental demands that may be there. This is true in the case of urea also.

(5) Is it not a fact that world over, there is a rising demand for eco-friendly golden fibre packaging, particularly for foodgrains and sugar?

(6) Is it not a fact that the synthetic lobby is mounting so much pressure that there is surrender by important quarters? I will illustrate it by giving one example. In the balance sheet of a very important Indian company, in the month of May, it came out saying that the Government is going to dilute the provisions of the 1987 Act and that they are not to go by the recommendations of the Standing Advisory Committee. I am not naming that company now.

In view of the statement made by the hon. Minister that he would take care of the suggestions, I would give my suggestions. Firstly, the hundred per cent mandatory use in respect of foodgrains and sugar should be restored forthwith, without waiting till 30th September. In the case of urea, it should be 20 per cent as it used to be. This will protect the economy of the whole of the Eastern India. Nearly a crore of people,-workers, and jute growers-are depended on that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can put your question. There cannot be debate on this.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Lastly, Sir, even the Jute Corporation of India is not purchasing. There is a sharp decline in the price of jute and has come to even below Rs. 600 a quintal. So, the JCI is not going in for the purchase. It is saying that it does not have funds. So, it has closed down its operations. I suggest that the Government—taking into account the importance of the jute industry and the interests of the jute growers—should continue to have 100 per cent mandatory use in respect of foodgrains and sugar and 20 per cent in respect of urea, as it should be. Thank you.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, in his reply, the Minister should say as to what was the situation prevailing before July and what is the situation now.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman Sir, what Munshi ji and Shri Rupchand Pal has said about jute and jute packaging Act. Government is equally concerned about jute growers and jute sector. I want to make it clear that whatever decision the Government has taken was not taken in pressure from plastic lobby and would not take any such decision in future also. If we would have got sufficient number of gunny bags for sugar and grains we would have never diluted Jute packaging Act. Shri Dasmunsi has rightly said that this act was made in 1987 and the percentage was fixed according to the condition prevalent. This dilution was not done for the first time. Percentage was reduced earlier also. Thats why this time also we have reduced the percentage from 100 to 90 for grains and sugar. It was done in June 2000 because there was strike in the mill. I have said that there is too much shortage of gunny bags....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: This is not completely true.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I contest this point with responsibility. There is no shortage at all....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am challenging the Minister. I can provide the data from the Government data. There is no shortage at all....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am challenging your Department with facts and figures. You have been wrongly informed by your officers. It is not a fact....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Any amount of gunny bag can be provided....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have drawn the attention of the Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: He is misleading the House....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have drawn his attention.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Production of sugar is increasing here.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: After fulfilling your target if need arises you will get jute bags.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: In 1999-2000 sugar production was 17 million metric ton, which has now reached 18 million metric ton. Similarly production of grain, which was 200 million metric ton earlier has now increased to 210 million metric ton....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Please tell the capacity of industry.

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Shri Rupchand Pal, kindly bear with me....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is in the Government. He seems to know better.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We also know....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have drawn his attention and he is answering that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: A big company has come out with a balance sheet that the Government is going to....*(Interruptions)* It has come out in the report....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Only one company, called the Reliance is ruling the economy of India.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Therefore our requirement of jute has increased further and the packaging act has been diluted because of shortage of jute for packaging. Similarly a direction from ILO has also been issued that 100 bags kg bags should be converted into bags of 50 kg. Keeping in view these facts we have tried to make full utilization of all the available jute bags through this act. There is one more question before us, which is about MSP and as hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri Dasmunsiji told....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You please give this much of information as to what is the proportionate rise in M.S.P. of cotton and what is the proportionate rise of jute?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Our M.S.P. which was decided in 2000-2001 is 785 rupees. I want to say that we used to increase 20-30 rupees every year in the MPS fixed but keeping in view the future of the poor jute growers we decided to increase it by 80 to 100 rupees since last two years which in 1998-99 was....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not given the notice. Please resume your seat. Only those Members who have given notices are entitled to ask questions.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) Even if he has given notice, he cannot go on asking twenty questions....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpur): How will it be utilised.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: In 1998-99 M.S.P. was Rs. 650.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: When I called your name, you were absent.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow the Minister to complete his answer.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: In 1999-2000 we increased it by 100 rupees and made it rupees 750. We tried to increase hundred rupees because we want that jute growers should get more. As far as JCI is concerned we have been told that 171 centres have been opened by them in Bengal, Bihar....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pal, this is only a Calling Attention. You have to call the attention of the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the JCI do not have funds to operate....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Member wants to help the Minister, he may go and sit behind him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: When I called your name, you were absent. The Minister has now started replying.

[Translation]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): If JCI is not functioning there is no meaning of MSP. It has to be changed.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Juta Corporation of India gives 20-30 rupees more than the Minimum Support Price. I would like to appeal to hon'ble Members of Parliament to open centres in their constituency the way Gujarat and Maharashtra Governments have opened their purchase centres for cotton, so that cotton growers can get more prices. I would like to appeal to the Government of Bengal that if they want welfare of jute growers in true sense and have interest for them then they should open their own centres and should help them by purchasing at higher procurement prices.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: But JCI is owned by you only.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: If State Government will do everything then what is your need?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is giving the reply. You cannot dictate the answer.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, he is only misleading the House....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have been given an opportunity to put question and now the Minister is replying.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, he is only adding to the confusion and is misleading the House.

[Translation]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Ranaji, has State Government given any information to you?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: That Plan should have been formulated by the Government.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may resume your seat. You cannot speak now. When I called your name, you were absent. You have now lost your chance. You must follow the rules.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: I seek your protection....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Shri Rupchand Pal has raised a question that it was the decision of Standing

Committee. I would like to say that the decision which Standing Committee has taken, is a recommendation. In that also they have recommended 10 to 20 per cent of flexibility.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: That was done due to some reason but now there is no such reason.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, the Minister is misleading the House.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Do not get misled.

[Translation]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It is written in the last, but now there is no such reason.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Whatever questions were raised by hon'ble Members, I think I have given reply to all those questions in my earlier Statement. It is a case of dilution of packaging Act. When shortage was there, I would like to remind my colleagues as to what was the intention of Government in the month of May-June....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rupchand Pal, kindly follow the procedure. You are a senior Member.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will you consider my suggestion?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: At the time of strike Government had the right of making 10 per cent flexibility which was not used by the Government because we wanted to protect the jute growers fully. I think the condition which is prevailing in packaging....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to be contended with his answer. This is a Constitutional position. Once he says something, it has to be accepted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot contest his answer. When a Minister is replying, you cannot interrupt. You cannot contest his answer.

[Translation]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Government is going to do this only and that it is doing....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I want to give an assurance that whenever it comes for protecting the jute growers. Government will not backtrack and will try to provide more then they would have received.

Now, the House shall take up next item on the agenda, namely, Matters under Rule 377.

15.32 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to suitably compensate people displaced due to Subarnarekha Multi purpose project in Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (Ranchi): I would like to draw the attention of the House towards Subarnarekha Multi Purpose irrigation project. The project envisaged generation of electricity and also providing irrigation in the underdeveloped tribal areas. Crores of rupees have already been spent on the project. But the work has been discontinued midway because of the lack of funds due to which many villages have submerged. The displaced families have not been rehabilitated even though their lands, which were the source of their livelihood, have been acquired. The people of submerged villages have also not been given any compensation. People are getting more difficulties than profits from the project.

Therefore, I request the Union Government that the displaced families be given compensation immediately. They have not been paid compensation so far. The people of displaced families should be given jobs and the irregularities should be probed by a committee of the Members of Parliament.

(ii) Need to provide more Railway services to the passengers of Yamuna Nagar in Haryana.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala): Keeping in view the increasing population of the country, the railway infrastructure needs to be expanded for transportation. There is need to provide railway services from Yamuna Nagar to Chandigarh, Yamuna Nagar to Kurukshetra,

[Shri Rattan Lal Kataria]

Yamuna Nagar to Poonta Sahib; in Haryana and from Himachal Pradesh and Rohtak to Rewari.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to immediately provide a solution to the problem.

(iii) Need to formulate an action plan to make river Brahmani in Orissa pollution free

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of Government of India to the growing pollution of Brahmani river in Orissa. It is one of the major river systems in India. I want to mention that the water quality of stretch of Brahmani river in Orissa from Kamalanga Bhuban is critically polluted. The reasons for growing pollution of Brahmani is not far to seek. A number of major industries including National Aluminium Plants in Angul, Heavy Water Plant and Fertiliser Plant at Talcher, and NTPC (National Thermal Power Plant Corporation) managed Power Plant set up there are the main sources of pollution of Brahmani water.

Public Sector Undertakings are also not paying adequate attention on implementing appropriate anti-pollution measures due to the unabated discharge of effluents and wastage into the rivers. The water in it is getting increasingly polluted. The combined effects of all these factors are responsible for the pollution of Brahmani. It has adversely affected the livelihood of a large number of fisherfolk families, endangered marine life and the entire ecology and environment.

As a result of this, the river water is not fit for consumption. It has posed a great threat to fishes in the river. Even the animals are not spared after drinking this water. The State Pollution Control Board has not been able to control the level of pollution of Brahmani and other rivers.

As the river Brahmani is the main source of livelihood for the people living on both sides of the river, I request the Government of India to prepare a detailed action plan to cleanse the river thereof improving the quality of water so that the people as well as animals, birds, reptiles and marine life living on both sides of the river derive the benefits they were getting from the river.

(iv) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Assam to check erosion caused by Brahmaputra river in Dibrugarh and adjoining areas

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh): Immediate measure are needed to be taken by Central and State Governments to save the Airport, Regional Medical Research Centre, tea gardens and many other institutions and establishments which are facing danger of extinction in Dibrugarh district, Assam. For this purpose all along the river bank from Mathala Maijan area to the Defence areas, a number of stone and wooden spurs should be constructed immediately. Embankment on the river side stretching from Oakland to Guijan should also be built.

The recent flood caused by Brahmaputra has also caused extensive damage to property, crops and cattle wealth in Rohmaria, Larua, Lahowal and Bagdung areas. The roads in these areas have been extensively damaged and if not repaired immediately, the communication in these areas will break down completely.

Due to the resource crunch the State Government is unable to control floods and prevent erosion from Brahmaputra and other rivers of the region. The Central Government, is therefore, urged to come to the rescue of the people and take up immediate preventive measures to save Dibrugarh and adjoining areas in upper Assam.

(v) Need to ensure that Keralites living in Pakistan since 1921 get visa to visit India

SHRI A.P ABDULLAKUTTY (Cannanore): As reported in T*he Hindustan Times* on 24th July, 2000, about ten thousand and odd Malayalee Msulims are living in Pakistan. Their family members are living in Kasargod, Kannur, Kozhikode and Malapuram districts of Kerala. The male members who had left India for earning livelihood in 1921 could not return to their motherland because of partition of India. They used to join their families once or twice in a year.

Now, they are not allowed to visit their families because visa is refused to them for security reasons.

Meanwhile, people belonging to Karnataka and other States are granted visa to visit India.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to issue visa to all the Malayalees immediately for joining their family members in Kerala.

(vi) Need to render financial assistance to Government of Maharashtra for providing infrastructural facilities to pilgrims of Kumbhmela at Ramkund and Topovan in Nasik, Maharashtra

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (Nasik): The Sinhasta Kumbhemla is held after a span of 12 years at Ramkund

as well as at the Tapvoan in Nasik (Maharashtra). The Kumbhmela is the most religious function and about 35,000 to 40,00 *Sadhus* and 15 to 20 lakhs pilgrims visit the Ramkund during the Parvani period.

The Kumbhmela is almost a year long festival when 35,000 to 40,000 *sadhus* reside in Nasik city and perform the holy rituals. Hence, it is necessary to provide infrastructural facilities for the *sadhus* and pilgrims throughout the year.

The forthcoming Kumbhmela will be the first ever Kumbhmela in the 21st century and it is expected that around one lakh pilgrims will come to Nasik city to celebrate the occasion of Parvani days. Considering the above facts, Nasik Municipal Corporation has decided to develop separate *Sadhu* camp. For this purpose, approximately 100 acres of land will be acquired near Tapovan area and infrastructural facilities like road, plots for creating sheds and toilet blocks, water supply arrangement will be provided. Total expenditure on this project is estimated to be Rs. 297 crores. I would like to appeal to the Central Government to provide appropriate financial assistance/funds for this project.

(vii) Need to Connect Chitrakut in U.P. by Air.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (Banda): Sir, Chitrakut in Uttar Pradesh is a famous religious and tourist spot. Tourists in large numbers come here daily. Every month, for five to six days, there is great rush of tourists. But people coming from far-off places suffer a lot of difficulties because of the lack of means of transportation. Therefore an air strip should be constructed in Chitrakut and it should be linked by a passenger aircraft. The most suitable place for constructing the air strip is a several miles wide plain (Patha) just over the mountainous valley of Devangana, because it is already linked with a road. Air strip can be constructed there and Chitrakut can be linked to the air-service. Thus, daily air service can be provided from Delhi to Agra, Khajuraho, Banaras (Varanasi) and Kathmandu. Chitrakut is 100 kms from Khajuraho and Varanasi is 200 kms from Chitrakut while distance from Kathmandu to Varanasi is further more. At present the plane which goes to Khajuraho from Delhi, that could go to Kathmandu via Chitrakut, Varanasi and on the same day it can come back to Delhi via Varanasi, Chitrakut, Khajuraho and Agra. People of Allahabad and Satna are not making demand to link their cities with the above mentioned air service. Therefore, there is no question of linking Allahabad or Satna to the above mentioned air-service.

Therefore, an air strip should be constructed in Chitrakut for the convenience of domestic and foreign tourists/travellers. A new air route should be initiated for Delhi-Agra-Khajuraho-Chitrakut-Varanasi-Kathmandu.

(viii) Need for early completion of doubling of railway track between Karpoorigram and Siho in Bihar by North-Eastern Railway.

[Translation]

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur): Sir, the doubling of the railway line from Barauni to Ramdayalu Nagar railway station under North-Eastern Railway was to be done in four stages. The work of three stages have been completed years ago. The pending fourth stage involves a length of just 35 kms. from Siho to Karpoorigram. The ground work has almost been completed and every year money is allocated in the Budget to complete the pending work. But the half finished work is not being completed. This is the main railway line of the North Bihar. Most of the important trains run on this line. Just because 35 kms of work has not been completed the rail service is not running smoothly. It also results in problems to the passengers and the railway administration.

Therefore, I request hon'ble Minister of Railways to complete the doubling work of railway line from Karpoorigram to Siho under North Eastern railway in public interest as soon as possible.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Lastly, the Matter under Rule 377 in respect of Shri P.H. Pandiyan be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(ix) Need to safeguard the interests of tea growers of Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu.

*SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): Sir, there are four lakh strong small tea growers and agriculturists in Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu. Recently, the Central Government reduced the basic customs duty to 7.5 per cent on tea imported from Sri Lanka. Due to the reduction in customs duty, the tea growers of Nilgiris district are very much affected. They are agitating for the last several months from fixing the floor price as Rs. 15/- per kilogram for green tea.

The tea growers of Nilgiris district are already distressed by the failure of monsoon. The Central Government which enhanced the basic customs duty on tea from 15 per cent to 35 per cent as per the World Trade Organisation Agreement suddenly reduced it on

*Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

[Shri P.H. Pandiyan]

tea imported of from Sri Lanka alone to 7.5 per cent. It is against the interests of tea growers of Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu. A day's strike and *dharna* was organised by the tea growers to mark the protect against it. The Tamil Nadu Government assured to form a Committee to look into the problems of tea growers of Nilgiris district in Tamil Nadu but nothing has been done so far. The tea growers from Nilgiris district met the hon. Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and the Commerce Minister to represent their problems. But instead of solving their problems the Central Government effected the reduction on basic customs duty for tea imported from Sri Lanka from 12th May, 2000.

I request the Central Government to totally ban the import of tea from Sri Lanka and other countries. In order to protect the interests of tea growers in Nilgiris district a floor price of Rs. 15/- per kilogram should be fixed for green tea. Tea dust for the Indian Army, public sector undertakings and other Government agencies should likewise be procured from the tea growers of Nilgiris district. All steps should be taken to market tea dust in the Government's Co-operative Marketing outfits.

(x) Need to safeguard the interests of workers employed in Marble and granite industries in the country particularly in Rajasthan.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, under the unconditional economic liberalisation, 700 items have been listed by the Union Government for free export and import policy, which includes marble and granite. This policy will ruin the Rs. 5000 crore marble and granite industry of Rajasthan and lakhs of people would be unemployed. Marble industry of Rajasthan is in deep crisis as a result of the removal of restrictions on the import of marble under chapter 68 of the Exim policy announced on 31 March, 2000. 90% of the marble produced in India is mined and processed in Rajasthan. The Union Government earns Rs. 200 crore per annum from income tax and excise duties, etc. Rajasthan Government also earns Rs. 100 crore per annum from Sales tax and royalty. Lakhs of labourers are employed in marble mines and its processing factories. The economy of the most of the cities of the State, viz, Kishangarh, Rajsamand, Kankroli, Abu Road, Jaipur, Ambaji, Alwar, Udaipur, Makrana, Banswara, Dungarpur, Sirohi, etc. is dependent on this industry itself.

Therefore, I request the Government of India to revise the value cap on the import of marble under Chapter 25. The cap value should be implemented strictly and

[English]

A duty for safeguards/disadvantage quotient

[Translation]

should be imposed in addition to the existing excise duty on the import of items being covered under Chapter 25 and 68 as per article 19 of the GATT.

[English]

15.48 hrs.

STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL-*Contd.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up the next Item—Item No. 8—Further Consideration of the State Financial Corporations Bill.

Shri Hannan Mollah was on his feet. Shri Hannan Mollah, you can continue and conclude your speech.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, when I spoke last time, I raised certain problems of the State Financial Corporations. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to them. I would request him to provide adequate assistance to help those SFCs in respect of the following matters.

One of the problems they face is the financial crunch because they have serious limitations in respect of mobilisation of funds—either internal or external. So, the question that arises is how these SFCs can mobilise funds—both internal and external. Of course, some provision has been made in this amendment. It should be properly implemented and that aspect should be looked into.

Then, there is a concessional capital from the Central and the State Governments as also the others. That is also declining. That should also be considered. Because of the financial crunch, the SFCs are forced to go in for commercial borrowing at a higher rate of interest. That also makes them non-viable in certain cases. That should also be kept in mind.

I have seen the observations made by the advisors of the World Bank. I quote:

"These institutions have been unable to secure independent resources through saving mobilisation.

Their poor portfolio performance and weak reserve mobilisation capacities have meant continued reliance on Government sources for lending and equity participation."

So, they depend on Government because of these limitations. How can we remove those limitations? That is one of the major questions. The resource crunch has been aggravated because the market borrowing is very tough. How can they face that toughness? That is one issue before the SFCs. Then, the small and medium enterprises suffer more to get the loans.

The SFCs help the successful units and not the new units. That is another problem faced by the small and medium entrepreneurs.

Another problem is in the lending policy. There should be flexibility. Now, there is rigidity in the lending policy of the SFCs. Rigidity should also be removed. Financial assistance should be given any time. Getting assistance in time is another problem. In this amendment, some attempts have been made.

In the objectives, we have mentioned about the removal of restriction on issue of sales and bonds. It is a good suggestion and the same may be properly implemented. Regarding the transfer of share capital of the IDBI to the Small Industries Development Bank it is also a welcome suggestion. Autonomy for the SFCs is proposed which would also help the industries concerned. The role of the State Governments has also been enhanced and the same would also help.

The NPA of SFCs is a problem. They are worried about their balance sheets. I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that SFCs are facing the problem of balance sheet. Their balance sheets are not cleansed. After this new attempt, they should be given a clean slate to start. Only then would it be helpful for them. Their balance sheets should be cleansed and their NPAs should be waived.

The employees of the SFCs should have the opportunity to get the share in the institution. I would request that providing financial assistance should be timely and adequate. Terms and conditions of the loan should be easy and simple. The attitude of the officials of the SFCs should be cordial and cooperative towards the small and medium entrepreneurs. Provision for proper consultation should also be provided by the SFCs so that their loans are properly utilised. Concessional finance for the development of small-scale industries is very much important. I think that if these amendments are implemented, and as the Government has said that agriculture will also get some of the benefits of the industry, in the agricultural operations, in poultry, pottery, hatchery, dairy, horticulture and in all these areas, SFCs should also come forward so that in the agrarian economy, they can play an important role.

I hope the hon. Minister will take proper note of all these suggestions and would help the SFCs to strengthen themselves so that our economy, small and medium industries, and rural industries are strengthened. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the State Finance Corporation Bill, 2000 moved by the Minister of Finance to amend the State Finance Corporation Act, 1951. I congratulate the hon'ble Minister for this that the amendment that is being made through this bill will certainly translate the dream of Mahatma Gandhiji, Din Dayal Upadhaya ji and Ram Manohar Lohia ji that they had visualised about encouraging the small scale industry and will also benefit people by way of strengthening the economy of the country.

Sir, basically there are four five such sections which need to be amended and after the amendment, Finance Corporation will efficiently work in the interest of the country. Through the amendment in section three in place of the existing name Development Bank that was in vogue till now it is being replaced by the word small industries Bank.

Small industries Bank, established under section 3 (1) of Small Industries Development Bank of India Act, 1989 will be called Small Industries Development Bank of India. Through this bank loans could be provided to the small scale industries for their growth, operation and marketing of the goods produced by them. The main feature of this amendment bill is that as per the existing provision till now the authorised capital of Development Bank was minimum of Rs. 50 lakhs and maximum of Rs. 50 crores and with the permission of the State Government it could have been increased to Rs. 100 crores. This amount was not only insufficient for small scale industries and their development, rather it would not be out of place to say that it was a drop in the ocean. This amount was not sufficient. The hon'ble Minister has proposed the amendment in section 4 (1), (2), (3) that though the minimum authorised capital will continue to remain at Rs. 50 lakhs but the maximum

[Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot]

authorised capital will be Rs. 500 crores instead of Rs. 50 crores and moreover, if the State Government agrees then the authorised capital may be enhanced to Rs. 1000 crore i.e. small industries banks will be allowed to have an authorised capital of Rs. 1000 crores. We all know that the country is facing economic depression for a long time and as a result of this economic depression, the industrial growth rate of the country was being checked and was adversely affecting the national Income and it was being felt that some scheme should be formulated to promote small scale industries.

I am recalling that in his Budget speech, hon'ble Minister of Finance had stated that our Government will take necessary steps to promote small scale and cottage industries in the country and whatever had been assured by the Government of Atal ji and the hon. Minister has been fulfilled and this amendment Bill is a proof of that. The consequent phenomenal increase in the authorised capital will lead to the availability of loan facility to the small scale industries and we will be able to get rid of the economic depression that the country is facing. We all know that bigger fish eats up small fish i.e. the small scale industries of the country are finding it difficult to compete with the heavy industries in terms of the marketing and the industrial production....*(Interruptions)* Along with this the hon'ble Minister has made several such provision in many sections and sub-sections that will strengthen the small scale banks. Prior to this the Board of Directors were not bestowed with much of the powers as it should have been. Now through this amendment the Board of Directors will also be empowered to discuss in detail the activities of the Industrial banks. Prior to this discussion was permitted, only on the audit, and the balance sheet. There was no provision of discussion on general activities of Finance Corporation. That provision has also been made through this amendment Bill. I am of the opinion that as a result of this the small industries banks will be able to function quite efficiently.

In this respect, I would like to make one submission that, the shareholders or the concerned officers and other officials associated with the small scale industry should be represented at the time of meeting of the Board of

16.00 hrs.

Directors. Otherwise, it is seen that though lop sided experiences of those operating developmental bank or small scale industrial banks get highlighted but there is no provision for the discussion about the problems faced by the industrialists or those who receive the loans. If the hon'ble Minister makes some provisions in this regard, I think that small industries Banks will be able to function quite efficiently.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, it is 4 o'clock. If it is a unanimous opinion of the House, we can pass this Bill in about 15 minutes. Then, we will take up the discussion under Rule 193.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Gehlot, please conclude. We will pass the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Thanks for giving me the time to speak.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to all the Members of the House who have participated in this debate. I am also grateful to them for lending support unanimously to this piece of legislation. The unanimous support that this Bill has received from all quarters in this House is not at all surprising. I would like to recall to mind that the Committee to look into the condition of the State Financial Corporations was appointed when the Congress Government was in power in 1992. It submitted its Report in 1994. Then, the Report of this Committee remained under the examination of many Governments at the Centre. After that, it has been widely discussed with the State Governments. Finally, what I have brought before this House is the conclusion of all these discussions. Therefore, the Bill has really gone through the mill. It has been discussed at length. We have, therefore, included in this piece of legislation all the concerns.

I would like to say that one of the primary purposes of strengthening the State Financial Corporations is to be able to help the small scale industry in this country to which, I can claim, without fear of contradiction, that this Government is totally committed. Stronger State Financial Corporations will be another important window for the financing of the small scale sector in this country.

A lot has been done for the small scale sector. Much more remains to be done. I would like to take the House into confidence and say that the Prime Minister has appointed a Group of Ministers under the Chairmanship of the Hon. Minister which is going into the problems of the small scale sector. I am sure that once the Report of this Group becomes available and the Cabinet and

the Government have considered it, many of the problems of the small scale sector will stand resolved. One of the important problems of the small scale sector is, of course, financing. I, as Finance Minister, have been alive to this problem. In my three Budgets, I have done whatever I could to encourage further flow of funds. I will not like to take the time of the House. The figure suggest that

[Translation]

He had remarked that goat rearing should be emphasized upon but why goat rearing was not included in those activities? I think that if had he carefully read the Bill, he would have known that the facility of goat raring has been included in it. I would like to inform him that there is a provision in this Bill that SIDBI may issue instructions to SFC, there is an illustrative list that has been supplied for example, besides this some more industries may be added to it. Certainly there is provision to add more activities like pigry or other small activities that may be beneficial for the poor rural people.

No difficulties are going to be faced on account of it. Some Members had raised the question of appointment of the Managing Director and suggested that we should not give this right to the State Government, this right should rest with SIDBI. However, I would like to inform the hon. Members that when the issue was taken up with the State Governments, they expressed their desire that the right to appoint Managing Director should be vested in the State Government. We did not want to encroach upon the right of the State Government, that is why we accepted their suggestion. In the system that will evolve as a result of the new Bill, the Chairman will be appointed by the SIDBI and the Managing Director will be appointed by the State Governments.

The hon. Members will agree with me that the State Finance Corporation should be run by the State Governments. Its structure is certainly going to be changed, but its primary responsibility will continue to be the same so we cannot expect that these financial institution will function smoothly if they are alienated. As hon'ble Member Hannam Mollah has said that their balance sheet should be checked. It will be kept in mind while restructuring their share capital.

[Translation]

This Bill has been brought with an objective to bring improvement in the working of State Finance Corporations and to strengthen them so that they can play their role successfully in development of small scale industries. Therefore, I urge the entire House to pass it unanimously as there has been no opposition to it during discussion.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): We will pass it, but what action you are taking against those influential people who have misappropriated crores of rupees.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri A.C. Jos and Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan have not moved their amendments.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the State Financial Corporations Act, 1951 be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 37 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 37 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, Enacting Formula and Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.09 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF NOTIFICATION TO AMEND FIRST SCHEDULE TO CUSTOMS TARIFF ACT

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, there is a Statutory Resolution listed at Item No. 9 against my name. If you permit we can take it up first?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes please.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 8A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, read with sub-section (3) of section 7 of the said Act, this House hereby approves of Notification No. 96/2000-Customs dated July 7, 2000 [G.S.R. 593 (E) dated July 7, 2000] which seeks to amend the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 so as to enhance the rate of customs duty applicable to goods falling under sub-heading No. 0802.90 from '35 per cent' to '100 per cent'."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, this is a matter concerning to the customs tariff....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can move your amendment and then you speak.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in the resolution,—

for "100%"

sub stitute "150%" (1)

Now, the coconut growers are also saying that it is a farm produce. I am not opposing this Resolution but I have to say the difficulties which are being faced by the Indian farmers.

Now, areca-nut is one part....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is customs duty. It has nothing to do with coconut.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The Central Government has now come to say that the import duty is raised to 100 per cent. My amendment is that it must be raised to 150 per cent. By moving this amendment, my idea is to bring out the difficulties experienced by other farmers, especially coconut farmers of India. There are States like Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka where coconut is widely grown. Sir, you are also aware of this. Due to the import policy of the Government, the coconut farmers are facing a crisis.

The hon. Speaker himself had convened a meeting to discuss this very important issue in order to help the coconut farmers. Now, the Government has come out with a proposal to help the areca-nut farmers. That is also a farm produce....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This Resolution has nothing to do with coconut.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Now, the coconut growers are facing the same difficulty. So, I would request the Central Government to come out with a policy that will curb the import of coconut, copra, and other things. Now, Sri Lanka is importing copra and coconut from India. And so also, Philippines, Malaysia and other countries are also importing coconut and copra. Now, the net result is that the coconut farmers in India are facing a crisis and they are put to starvation. The economy of Kerala has been adversely affected because of the import policy of the Government. So, the Government should also taken into consideration the difficulties faced by the coconut farmers in India. In Kerala itself, there are about 26 small coconut growers spread throughout the State from north to south, in the coastal belt. The land itself is known as 'Keral', in the sense that it is a land of coconut farmers. The coconut farmers are also facing the very same difficulty....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: On this issue, the Speaker had convened a meeting.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, you were not there at that time. Please hear me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I was also present in that meeting on that day.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I am focussing a very important issue.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Finance Minister, who is piloting this Resolution, about the difficulties being faced by coconut farmers in India. This Resolution has been brought to help the areca-nut growers in India. I agree with it. I have no objection about it.

Pakistan is one of the foreign countries which is importing areca-nut from India. The areca-nut growers are facing a crisis because of this import by Pakistan. The tariff that is fixed is 35 per cent. Due to this policy, the areca-nut growers in India are put to starvation. Now, the Government has understood that and brought a Resolution that it has to be raised to 100 per cent. I say that it must be raised to 150 per cent. So also in the case of coconut growers, the very same policy should be adopted. The only difference is that these people are from the South, including yourself.

All these people are from the South. They are facing a very great crisis. The Speaker himself has taken up this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, Shri Radhakrishnan, on that day, the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Nitish Kumar came to the Speaker's chamber. We had an elaborate discussion and that matter is under consideration of the Agriculture Minister.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Then, let him bring in a Statutory Resolution banning import of palm oil by the people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you not moving your amendment?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Import of palm oil is one of the reasons for reducing the value of the coconut. So, let the Finance Minister come with a proposal banning the import of palm oil by India from foreign country. So, also, indiscriminate import of coconut, copra and coconut oil into the country must be curtailed. I do not say that it must be stopped all of a sudden. But I would suggest that there must be some restriction.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude. You are going in a different track.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: With these words, I support the Statutory Resolution. At the same time, I remind the Finance Minister that India is a country where there is a concern, where there are coconut growers. Do not forget that. You bring in a Resolution reducing the tariff on coconut.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you moving your amendment?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I moved my amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have said that you are supporting the Resolution.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I must because that is my policy.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): He did not oppose it. The Finance Minister owes a reply....*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): I assure the Member that as far as the amendment is concerned, I am quite sure that hon. Member, Shri Radhakrishnan will withdraw it when I point out to him that the bound rate of duty under WTO is only 116 per cent. Therefore, we cannot take it to 200 per cent. We have gone into this question in detail. We have been assured after discussion with the growers and the trade that 100 per cent duty is quite sufficient to protect the domestic growers. So, 100 per cent is good enough. Therefore, I request you to withdraw this particular amendment.

As far as your concern for the coconut grower is concerned, we are fully aware. The Agriculture Minister is also sitting here. We have taken note of your suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, are you withdrawing your amendment?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that the amendment moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan be withdrawn?

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 8A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, read with sub-section (3) of section 7 of the said Act, this House hereby approves of Notification No. 96/2000-Customs dated July 7, 2000 [G.S.R. 593 (E) dated July 7, 2000] which seeks to amend the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 so as to enhance the rate of customs duty applicable to goods falling under sub-heading No. 0802.90 from '35% to "100%".

The motion was adopted.

16.18 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Loss of lives and property due to floods in various parts of the Country

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am glad that I have got an opportunity to initiate discussion on flooo in the House, but at the same time I feel depressed that every year we discuss flood in both the Houses and also discuss the means to tackle the flood, but we have failed to take effective steps to prevent floods.

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

16.19 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

It seems that when there is flood we merely complete the formality and give some aid. Even help of Army is sought to tackle floods. Infact we are not taking preventing steps before the floods came and consequently more and more area is getting affected by the floods in our country.

As per official figures, during 1951 one crore hectare land was affected by the floods. In 1960, it increased to 2.5 crore hectare and in 1978 it increased to 3.4 crores hectare and during current year, i.e. 2000, seven thousand hectare land is affected by the floods.

Sir, out of the total loss caused by floods in our country, 60 per cent loss is caused by rivers and 40 per cent loss is caused by excessive rains and cyclones. 60 percent of rivers originate from Himalayas. Today, when we are discussing flood in House, the State of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh and Bihar are facing floods. Prior to this, Ahmedabad in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra also witnessed floods. In Ahmedabad alone due to floods Rs. 10,000 crore worth of property was lost.

Sir, Cherapunji in our country receives highest rainfall, i.e. 1100 m.m per year. How unfortunate it is that due to lack of water storage facilities the same area later on faces famine like condition. The main reason why we face flood is that our total forest cover is less than 33 percent. The Government have accepted that total forest cover in our country is only 19% whereas as per non-official sample-survey it is only 12%. Felling to trees over last five decades has made the condition more serious. There is no capacity for storing rain water and we have ponds and reservoirs in our country in only ten lakh hectare of land. Continuous increase in population and consequently the need for housing has further aggravated the situation. The need for more fuel and erosion by rivers is also one of the reasons for flood. It is very sad that the budget allocation to tackle floods and natural calamities is negligible in comparison to the damage caused as a consequence thereof. Yearly estimated loss caused by floods is Rs. 18,70,999 crores and for flood control, during 9th Five Year Plan i.e. 1997-2002 a nominal provision of only Rs. 2216 crores have been made. It is our most serious problem. I think it should be one of the priorities before the Government to control floods, but we do not attach any priority to this in our country. Floods and excess rains or cyclone disturbs lives of crores of people in our country. Example of Orissa is before us. Crores of cattle-head perish and crops worth crores of rupees are also destroyed.

Sir, during 1990 to 1998 a provision of 6411 crores was made to tackle natural calamities. When hon'ble Devegowda was Prime Minister of our country a provision of Rs. 716 crores was made to check soil erosion. But, the present Government has reduced budget allocation for this purpose. The Central Government have constituted Ganga Flood Control Board to prevent soil erosion by the river Ganga. However, after a lapse of ten years its meeting was held on 15th June under the Chairmanship of Minister of Water Resources and a provision of Rs. 110 crores was made which is almost negligible.

Today the condition of land erosion by rivers is such that 55 km area in Malda district and 104 kms area in Murshidabad district and its 36 thousand hectare land has got inundated by the rivers. The main reason is that big dams such as Bhakra Nangal and Farrakha have affected the flow of rivers and consequently it has caused land erosion. This Government has no such water policy. In 1987 formulation of National Water Policy was considered and a draft of National Water Policy was circulated to the State Governments in October, 1998. We often witness water disputes in our country. Now a new State Uttranchal is going to be created where 17 percent of the rivers flow. Water disputes have not been settled promptly. Linking of river basins and connecting Ganga with Cauveri is known as Garland Plan. Famous Engineer Shri Vishveshavriya proposed a plan linking Ganga with Cauveri. It was during sixties when Shri K.L.V. Rao was Minister for Irrigation. His vision was that excess water should be carried to the drought prone areas. No further progress has been made in this direction. One of the main reason for floods is for years desilting of rivers has not been undertaken. Consequently, every year we face the furry of floods. If these rivers are restored to their 100 years old glory then floods can be prevented to a large extent.

There are about 6 Lakh villages in our country. If water is stored by constructing on either side of these villages then also this problem can be solved to some extent.

In the beginning I had said that we indiscriminately cut trees in our country. Forest Mafia is engaged in cutting of trees and no strict action is taken against them. If cutting of trees continue in the same way then its consequences in the future would be disastrous. It is a sad commentary that we consider floods as natural calamity and have left the entire India to the mercy of God. We have never seriously considered to make this

country free of floods and for formulating long term plans to check floods.

I feel it is not at all when crores of people are affected by flood, lakhs of people have lost their lives and houses and crops of several people get damaged and we merely do a formality. I would like to stress upon that it should be top priority of our Government to make India free from floods. I know that when natural calamity, flood or cyclone hits or there is heavy down pour, we merely do formality in the name of providing relief. Our norms for providing relief are very old. Who can construct a house in 300 rupees and what sort of building one can construct within Rs. 1000. It is a very serious matter. Through you, I would like to urge the hon'ble Agriculture Minister to prepare a long term effective plan to tackle floods. That's what I wanted to submit.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, quite sometime could burst and flood has become a common thing in high altitude areas. I am grateful to hon'ble Member Shri Ramjilal Suman who has raised a very important issue for discussion and I rise to participate in it.

As far as flood is concerned, there is a lot of difference in floods in plains and flood in hilly areas. Consequent upon cloud burst in hilly areas level or water suddenly shoots up and recedes again after causing damage on large scale. And if any Central Team visits the affected area to find out submerged areas they find nothing. As a result we do not get the required assistance. I would like to draw your attention and also the attention of the August House towards Himachal Pradesh, you may have read in the newspapers that in the night of 31 July and early hours of first August district Kinnaur, Rampur area of district Shimla, Aani and Nirmand in Kullu and Karsag area of district Mandi, which falls under my constituency and are situated on either side of river Sutlaz were badly affected by surging water of river Sutlaz which was flowing 40-50 feet above the normal level and caused havoc in the entire area. People in these areas were fast asleep on the night of 31st July and when they got up early morning they found water all around. That day heavy rains were not witnessed in Himachal Pradesh. It seemed as if cracks have developed in Mansarovar lake and water had come from Tibbet. Flood water caused havoc from khaw, border village of Himachal Pradesh, upto Tattapani village under district Manali. Thousands of acres of land was submerged and 100 people are reported to have died. Infact it could not be ascertained exactly as to how many people cost their life during floods since it all happened during night and labourers employed by contractors were working on the road, there was an ITBP camp and several type of labour force was employed in Hydro electric projects. As per primary estimates there was a loss of Rs. 2000 crores. Why I call it primary estimate, because district Kinnaur is still cut off from rest of the country. 15-16 large bridges were damaged. In addition seven small bridges were also damaged and Tibbet-Hindustan road also got damaged at several places. Its reconstruction can take almost 6-7 months and in case of financial difficulties it can even take one year. The condition over there is very critical. Hon'ble Chief Minister made an aerial survey of the affected area by helicopter on 1st of August and he went upto the border village, Khaw, in Kinnaur district which is a tribal area. But that time it was not raining anywhere. In fact in Tibbet also there was not enough rain to raise water level so much. Therefore, I would like to urge the Central Government to find out the reasons behind it with the help of Government of China as to where the cloud burst took place because cloud burst does not cause that much extensive damage, which has been witnessed this time. The scientists have said that Himachal has faced this type of flood furry after 61,000 years. Nobody has ever seen such floods and the Hon'ble Chief Minister got the worst affected areas video taped and showed it to the hon'ble Prime Minister that how much damage Sutlaz has caused. Therefore, I would like to urge the Central Government to provide maximum economic assistance to Himachal Pradesh.

Himachal Pradesh has got limited resources. Despite this, the hon'ble Chief Minister left no stone unturned in providing relief. I am grateful to the Central Government and the hon. Agriculture Minister for providing Rs. 100 crores to Himachal Pradesh. But out of this 100 crore rupees, 50 crore rupees are in the form of wage and means advance and Rs. 50 crores as planned Budget assistance. Thus in real sense, we have not got any financial aid, yet it has been fruitful for immediate relief. Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Prime Minister and the hon. Agriculture Minister, who is present here, to provide atleast Rs. 500 crores as advance so that we can tackle the natural calamity and people can be provided relief. Also, I would urge you to declare it as a national calamity since Himachal Pradesh has limited resources. For us, it is not only difficult but impossible also to provide financial assistance as per the expectations of the people.

In addition, I would like to request you to reconstruct Hindustan Tibbet road at the earliest, as I have said earlier also, it is not only necessary for Himachal Pradesh but for the security of the entire country. Beyond Bangar, this road is being maintained by Border Roads

[Shri Maheshwar Singh]

Organisation and they look after this stretch. I would urge Agriculture Minister to himself take stock of the damage caused by flood water. He should talk to the hon. Defence Minister to provide some engineers from Defence so as to construct valley bridge at the earliest. It is not possible for any Government to construct 15-16 large bridges and 6o small bridges at a time. Therefore, their assistance should be taken for the bridges which are very essential because construction of road is going to take enough time.

Kinnaur is a tribal area. Apple in large quantity is grown here. Apple crop is ready which is the means of livelihood for these people. These days it is a problem for the farmers to carry the crop to the Market. Even despite providing financial assistance enough time will be taken in reconstructing Hindustan-Tibbet road. It is essential that arrangement be made for the farmers to take their produce to Mandi at the earliest. The Himachal Government have planned to construct the birdge at village Khaw so that agriculture products from Kinnaur area can be brought to Delhi via Kullu and Kunjam as earlier it was being transported directly from Shimla to Delhi. Consequent upon a change in the route the farmers will have to spend three times. Therefore, it is essential to provide for transport subsidy. It is a tribal area. Sources of income of people over there are limited. Therefore, it should be specially taken care of.

As far as Central team is concerned, I am grateful to the hon. Agriculture Minister for sending a Central Team. As and when any Central Team visits any area they say show us the submerged area. Since water has receded so now it is difficult to pin-point but it had definitely left its marks whereby one can easily make out upto what level water reached? As per revenue manual of a State, be it Himachal Pradesh or some other State, if any farmer loses his life, a compensation of Rs. 50,000 is paid from Prime Minister Fund. Some States have made a provision for Rs. 25,000 whereas other States have made a provision for Rs. 30,000. But if one loses everything but his life, no compensation is paid. Thousands of acres of land have been damaged. It is not within the reach of farmers to reclaim that land. Since there is no land left, so they cannot be provided land in lieu there of generous funds are required to clear the sand, silt and stones.

I am grateful to late Shri Rajesh Pilot an ex-M.P. who guided us. During flood in Orissa he provided Rs. 10 lakhs from his MPLAD scheme so that there relief works could continue. Through you, I would like to draw attention of hon'ble Members to the fact that hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh has written letter to all of you requesting for generous contribution. I will show you that letter. In this hour of crisis I request you to provide financial assistance so that the people of that State can get succour. I am sure you all would definitely provide some amount from your M.P.LAD scheme so that it can be used for affected people.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA (Arunachal East): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me the opportunity. The flood situation in the entire North-East, as per report, is extremly grim. As more than 2 million people have become homeless and more than 300 people have already perished. This is not a new phenomenon there. This has been occurring every year. But no positive steps have been taken by the Government of India till today to counter annual this devastation.

Now, as per the report from Assam, no adequate measures have been taken by the Central Government to prevent the outbreak of epidemic. Many people have already died of it. There is a total break down in the health and sanitation system.

I would be very particular today on this very issue in regard to Arunachal Pradesh. Our Minister of Agriculture carried out a aerial survey of affected areas after the vast flood which has wrecked havoc in the Upper Siang district and the East Siang district as also in the Dibang valley and Lohit district. This devastation caused by this flood can be compared with the earthquake of 1950s, as in a matter of few hours, the entire stretch of land along its course had been swept away, including embankments. The magnitude of the flood, this time, was so high that practically all the cultivable areas roads, infrastructure starting from Gelling on the border of China to the plains of Brahmputra have been submerged.

Sir, during his visit, the hon. Minister had made an aerial survey of the affected area. I think, he was contented with the survey during his visit. All the affected people had high hopes that some relief would be given to them but I am very pained to say that nothing concrete has, so far, come out. It seems that the Government have taken this calamity very lightly. A very casual approach has been adopted by the Government.

Sir, even the level of water on that fateful day, because of this flash flood, had risen to above 40 metres above the normal level due to which several major bridges across the Siang river had been washed away. One of

the famous bridges, the Nubo bridge which was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister Shri Devegowda had also been washed away. Likewise, there were many small and medium bridges across the Siang river which had been totally washed away. Similarly, three major bridges, namely, Nubo bridge, Sangam bridge and Dite Dime bridge which were the lifeline of the Siang District had also been washed away, including hundred of kms of road, power installation etc.

Now people have been marooned and essential commodities are not reaching them. For the last one-and-a-half months, all the administrative circles are cut off from the rest of the country, not to talk about the district headquarters.

I am afraid, the kind attitude the Government of India has shown, reflects the step-motherly treatment to one of the most sensitive States of this country. In terms of population, it is true that Arunachal Pradesh is a small State, but if we talk about its area, it is one of the largest States of this country and largest in the North Eastern Region. As you are all aware, this sensitive border State has already bore the brunt of the Chinese invasion in 1962. The district of upper siang is located on the Chinese border and is very sensitive in nature. One would, therefore, expect more sympathy and more help from the Central Government which we have not been getting for the last one-and-a-half months.

We are yet to know the reasons for this flood. Through some newspapers, we have learnt that River Siang, which originates in Tibet where it is known as Tsangpho River had breached and thus, devastation had occurred on 11.06.2000. We do not know whether the Ministry of External Affairs had taken up this matter with the Chinese Government. But surely, in this age of globalisation, there should have been some mechanism to prevent and to detect this type of devastation.

In regard to the lives that were lost because of this flood, it may not be compared with that of Orissa. We have seen that because of natural calamities in Orissa, hundreds of people have perished. So, we may not be in a position to compared it. But the amount of impact it had created in the economy of Arunachal Pradesh can be really compared with that of Orissa. I can say that it is proportionate to that of Orissa. As of today, nearly 40 people had died in Lohit, Debang, Upper Siang and East Siang areas of Arunachal Pradesh.

The Government of Arunachal Pradesh has already sent a memorandum, describing the tentative assessment of losses that had occurred because of the devastating floods. It was amounting to Rs. 140 crore. Subsequently, considerable further losses had been reported and thus, the amount on initial estimate have been nearly Rs 200 crore. When the report was submitted to the Gover ent of India, at that time, it was confined to only two c ricts mainly of Upper Siang and East Siang, but now we are getting a lot of reports about damages in Dibang and Lohit district also. Just two days back, I got a report saying that ten people have perished there. Lohit district is one of the biggest districts in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

Sir, Rs. 8.80 crore have been earmarked for Arunachal Pradesh from the Calamity Relief Fund. Out of that only Rs. 2.20 crore have been released. I would urge upon the Government of India to release the balance amount. On top of that, I would urge upon the Government of India to release a minimum amount of Rs. 200 crore immediately to the State of Arunachal Pradesh from National fund for calamity Relief in order to face the crisis. People are totally out of touch with their headquarters. We are only airlifting the essential commodities which is also not sufficient.

I would like to put on record my sincere appreciation for the services rendered by the Indian Air Force in these flood affected areas, and the pivotal role played in carrying out the relief operation, with high degree of professionalism and efficiency.

I would like to urge upon the Government to look into this problem very seriously which occurred on 11.6.2000. The Minister, after his aerial survey, must have assessed the losses that we have suffered due to this disaster.

We were told that Rs. 100 crore have been released for Himachal Pradesh. Why not for Arunachal Pradesh? Only Rs. 2.20 crore have been released to Arunachal Pradesh, that too from the Calamity Relief Fund which was earmarked against Arunachal Pradesh, for 2000-2001. I am not saying that Himachal Pradesh should not be given that amount. But there should not be any discrimination against any State in providing additional relief fund to the affected States. This is my only request to the hon. Minister.

With these few words, I would like to conclude my speech. Thank you.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY (Visakhapatnam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, year after year, the flood situation is becoming very grave in India. Either in South India or in North India, India is always affected by floods. I would

[Shri M.V.V.S. Murthy]

like to ask the Minister of Agriculture and the Government of India as to why we are not able to take any concrete step to tame these rivers. Godavari in the South and Brahmaputra in the East always cause havoc. My friend from Arunachal Pradesh stated that water level is forty metres above the normal level. In Andhra Pradesh, the whole Government machinery is doing nothing but controlling the flood situation in both the Godavari districts, while the Godavari is in floods.

17.00 hrs.

This is not a new thing. It happens every year. On the other side of India, we are facing drought. Even after 50 years of Independence, we are not able to tame these rivers and utilise them fully. I can understand the difficulty with regard to cyclone. Cyclone is not a man-made thing. It is a divine fury and we may not be able to anticipate it correctly but we know the flow of rivers. A number of charts are being prepared every year as to where the dams are to be constructed but we always discuss and discuss and leave it there only.

I urge upon the hon. Minister to set up a high level Committee to examine which river is going where and why it is causing flood. Let the Minister submit a White Paper to the House. We would like to know, how many districts have been inundated in how many years; how many people have been evacuated and how much money the Government of India has spent on flood relief measures every year. The money spent for the flood relief may be utilised properly so that we can make full use of our water resources.

We know that in South, our Tamilian and Kannadiga brothers are fighting over Cauvery water. There is no sufficient water stored in Godavari. Much of the water flow into the sea. The Brahmputra is flooding away the whole of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. It is a very novel situation. The Government appears to be helpless in this regard, but I hope, the Government is not helpless. The Government can help the country, help the farmers, to produce more foodgrains.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture is a very able and understanding person. Recently, he has issued a paper on National Agriculture Policy. I think, in counse of time, we should also have a discussion on that. I would request the hon. Minister to make a statement on the flood situation giving ways and means of utilising the river water properly. The hon. Minister should also help those who have lost everything in the flood. This has become a routine matter now. I would request the hon. Minister to look into it and produce a White Paper on it at the earliest.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, in our country the floods have become a regular feature. Every year we are faced with flood which causes devastation. Last year, about 14 States were flooded which caused a huge devastation. Last year, the damage caused to human lives due to flood, was tremendous. About 896 human lives were lost. The loss of animals was about 3861 and 8.82 lakh houses were damaged. The loss to cultivable land was of the order of 7.45 lakh hectare. This is a national calamity which occurs every year. This year also, the States of West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, parts of Bihar and Assam have been affected.

Why do floods occur? De-siltation in the riverbed, deforestation, heavy rains and erosion of the banks of the rivers are some of the reasons of flood. The hon. Member has rightly pointed out that we cannot understand or tackle cyclone easily, but floods can easily be tackled. Since we know the reasons of flood, we can tackle them easily. But, even after 53 years of Independence, we have not been able to control the floods.

Sir, rain could be blessing for our society and for our country. If we can conserve rain water, it can benefit our country in many ways. There is no scheme for conservation of water. Some schemes should be taken up to protect the banks of the rivers so that we can tackle the siltation problem. Every dam and barrage has been seriously silted and because of that whenever heavy rains take place, floods also take place.

Sir, under the Planning Commission a Committee called Keshker Committee was constituted to find out the reasons and solutions for floods particularly in the Ganges. This Committee also recommended that about Rs. 927 crore would be required for protecting the banks of Ganga. Sir, the situation has deteriorated to the extent that any time Ganga and Bhagirathi may meet. If they meet, the whole South Bengal will be washed out and there will be a catastrophe in our country. So suitable measures and comprehensive plans should be prepared to combat this situation.

Sir, every year the Gangetic and the Godavari regions witness floods and loss of human lives. This happens in about 14 States. About 40 million hectares of land is liable to be flooded. How much we are losing can be easily assessed. So, if the problem is understood and if comprehensive and scientific planning is done, the situation can be tackled easily. In today's age of high technology, it is not impossible. It can be done easily. Every year because of Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) major parts of West Bengal are being flooded. It is because the catchment area of the DVC is not sufficient

and adequate to accommodate the huge rain water. The DVC is forced to open the gates and barrages, with the result vast areas of South Bengal are being flooded. The Kansavati Barrage also needs to be extended to accommodate huge rain water. It is also our experience that because of the mining of dolomite in Bhutan, siltation is taking place in various rivers because all the rivers come from Bhutan to the North Bengal. So, every year, various parts of the North Bengal as well as North Bihar are facing flood situation. So, I think all these things should be restricted. It is possible to do so.

Sir, flood is man-made now. It is occurring because of the failure of the Government machinery. That is why, I suggest to the hon. Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Water Resources that a comprehensive plan should be evolved. Firstly, de-siltation should be undertaken to a greater extent. Secondly, erosion of the banks should be taken up very seriously.

Afforestation programme should be taken up and the rainwater should be conserved. This would be a blessing for our country. Water is a very-very important asset of our country. All the barrages and dams should be cleansed and desilted. These barrages and dams have become very old. They have not been reconstructed or renovated or improved. These are the necessary measures to be taken up to combat the flood situation.

Lastly, I would like to raise one more point. There should not be any discrimination in the matter of allotment of funds. Last year, as you know, just on the eve of the elections there was flood havoc in our State. Out of the 18 districts, 14 districts were totally submerged under water. The Central Team visited West Bengal and made a recommendation that a minimum of Rs. 200 crore would be required for the reconstruction work. But it is very unfortunate that last year West Bengal Government received only Rs. 29 crore. How could this situation be tackled and how could the devastation be combated with such a small allotment of funds? So, my request to the hon. Minister is not to do anything discriminatory Every State should be given the same kind of consideration. Immediately the Government of India should take steps for the protection of the banks of these rivers and stop erosion caused by the river Ganga. Otherwise the whole State of West Bengal will be totally under water or a large area of the State will be washed away.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this issue is discussed every year, but the Government never acts. The Government should chalk out an action plan. Many speeches have been delivered. We discuss this thing every year, but there is no Action Plan of Government in this regard.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak. While taking part in the discussion, through you, I want to submit that even after fifty years of Independence every year under same rule or the other discussion takes place here at least once on the question of drought and flood. In which important suggestions come from hon'ble Members of all the parties. Important answers and assurances of Government also come. Even then every year flood affected areas are increasing. Damage caused by flood and drought every year and relief provided to compensate that damage keeps on increasing. On an average according to Government estimate total figures of land affected by floods in the country is 40 million hectare. According to the Government figures on an average damage caused every year is of 18 lakhs, 70 thousand crores of rupees. I think non-Governmental figures would go up for more. In 1993, 2290 million hectare area was affected by flood while in 1998 it increased to 5519 million hectares. This year reports till last month have come. Last week there was incident of flood in Bihar. Besides this in Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, some areas of Andhra Pradesh, some areas of Gujarat and Bengal were affected by floods due to which the estimated loss is to the tune of 50 thousand crores of rupees.

Sir, in 11 district of Bihar affected by floods people are facing great difficulty. Other 24 districts are wholly or partially affected by floods. In Bihar according to official reports about 325 people have died due to floods. However actual figure may be much higher.

Sir, while expressing my concern in the House, through you, I would like to submit that Government may be of either party, but discussion has been going on for the last 50 years to solve the problem of flood. After damage is caused by flood, relief measures are undertaken. There can be no two opinion about it that providing relief for the damage caused by flood is a temporary measure. Discussion for finding permanent solution of flood does not take place. When discussions to take place and concrete suggestions are given, they are not implemented, due to which the severity of flood has increased in the country.

[Shri Nawal Kishore Rai]

Sir, I would like to quote the figures from 1995-1996 to 1999-2000 of relief provided for damage caused by floods. During these years total relief amount given by the Central Government to the State Governments was 6,30,427 lakhs of rupees. Here hon'ble Agriculture Minister and hon'ble Water Resources Minister are present. My request to both the hon'ble Ministers is that together they should find some solution definitely of this problem. Though after 50 years, but there should be some permanent solution of this problem.

Sir, you might be knowing that in 1960's Shri K.L Rao was Irrigation Minister of our country. Discussion on it is going on from that time. At that time many schemes were formulated and out of them. Kosi River scheme and many other schemes have not been completed and there are some on which till date work has not started. Due to this reason floods are occurring and we have to spend huge amount on flood relief works. Every year the Central Government starts relief measures for people affected by flood and moving them to safe places boats are arranged. If someone dies due to flood then from the side of Central Government as compensation family of victim is given rupees 50 thousand. In addition the State Governments also provide relief according to the rules to the family of victims. But this is not a permanent solution of floods.

Sir, discussion for finding permanent solution of the problem of flood in our country was started at the time of Shri K.L. Rao. At that time under Water Management was included disilting of the rivers, raising their embankment, repairing them and in every village constructing at least four ponds for conserving water. Where it is necessary to discuss with other countries like China and Nepal in case of rivers originating from there and causing floods in adjoining areas in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh talks had been going on with these countries. Government has made many efforts from its side. Timely efforts should be made. But suggestions which are concrete have not been implemented.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government that it is correct and a golden opportunity, when we should make efforts for finding out permanent solution to the problem of flood. For finding a permanent solution to flood in all parts of country concrete decisions should be taken and discussions held with other countries. Besides finding permanent solution of this problem other works which we have to do in the country like connecting two rivers, connecting basin with basin, undertaking disilting of rivers to increase their depth upto 100 year back level widening the embankments etc. decision should be taken.

Sir, through you I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that money which you give every year for relief works becomes a point of contention at many places during distribution and help do not reaches to the needy people in time. I want to request that it would be better if that money is utilised to find permanent solution of the problem.

My area is submerged in water. You have been a former legislator from where I hail. On 30th grave floods came in district of Sitamarhi, Shivhar, Motihari and Muzaffarpur in Bihar....*(Interruptions)* Though people have started leaving that place but still they have affection.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to remind that in Belson, Runi Saidpur and Orai are problem areas. Water has entered in block offices of these three districts. Due to this reason B.D.O. has to take refuge at some other place. Hundreds of people are still living on roof tops. People are trapped on dam because there is no boat. Every where people are in great distress. We want to show you newspaper clippings in which it is reported that Government has sought help from the army. Many newspapers have reported this news. At one or two places some items are dropped. I would like to tell many people are staying on dam in Belson, Runi Saidpur and Orai when food is dropped from helicopter it leads to a chaotic situation there....*(Interruptions)* It would be better if you give some more time because I come from the area where people are still trapped in flood. I extended staying here to take part in this discussion only. After taking permission from you I have to go back again in the area because people are in difficulty there. For this State Government is making efforts definitely but they are not on time and not relevant. All people are not getting relief material.

[Translation]

Medicines are not being provided. During the last finance year the people had taken shelter in the school that is located at a height, but this year water has entered into that school also.

Through you I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and the hon'ble Minister of Water Resources that they must send a team there but the hon'ble Minister should also make an aerial survey of the area by helicopter. It is better if he urgently visit there. If they visit late then here will be no water but only the mark of water will be there. Presently people are on the roof top. I would like to request him that if he visit there this Saturday or Sunday then he will be able to survey the area and see the plight of the people. By

the way hon'ble Minister of Agriculture has seen it several times but this time the flood is more severe....*(Interruptions)* I will take one-two minutes more....*(Interruptions)* Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Water Resources towards this. Till the other day Shri C.P. Thakur was the Minister of Agriculture. We had discussed this in a meeting. Every year we face hardship. Crores of rupees are wasted and there is constant danger to life and property. The scheme of river Koshi was conceptualised in 1946 but it has not materialised as yet. You have always been visiting the banks of the river Bhagmati and that is the place where you started your political career.

In reply to a question of Shri Ramdev Bhandari, it had been said that 39895 k.m. course of Bnagmati, 15,178 k.m. of Kamla and 2,60,208 k.m. of Koshi river lies in Nepal. There was a proposal of talk with Nepal I had got this information from the Newspapers....*(Interruptions)* In an answer to a question in Rajya Sabha it had been stated that Indo-Nepal accord had been reached. I would like to take two minutes more. In the past we were assured that a team will be sent to Nepal to hold talks there. From the Newspapers I got the information that Shri Brajesh Mishra had gone there but what was discussed there is not known either to me or to the House. Thereafter the hon. Prime Minister of Nepal Shri Girija Prasad Koirala had paid a visit here. That day too I had drawn the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture in the House. At that time, the Minister of External Affairs was also present in the House. When I talked to the Minister of External Affairs outside the House he said that the talk is going on. On this occasion, through you I want categorical information as to what was discussed with Nepal? Whether you are going to find permanent solution to those rivers of North Bihar the thirteen rivers of Adhawar group—Bhagmati, Kamala, Balan etc. or not within the stipulated time? If not then what is the problem in it and if there is any difficulty because our rivers originate from Nepal then what is the difficulty in constructing embankment, dams and increasing depth to the rivers to some hundred years back level?

I would like to request that the hon. Minister of Water Resources will reply in the House on behalf of the Government to clear the position and will make efforts to find out the permanent solution to the flood problem within stipulated time frame.

In the end, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture that you should visit those 11 districts of Bihar where people are leading miserable life and should immediately release relief funds to the Government of Bihar. In reply to a question I was informed that the funds have been released to all the States but the fund has not been released to the Bihar Government. I had given a calling attention notice which was not accepted and a status paper was released from which it is evident that Bihar is not included in the list of those States to which funds have been released. It is possible that in between funds might have been released and if it is not released, then it should be released immediately and you should visit there and relief work should be started. The Central Government should give assistance to the Government of Bihar and the amount that has been given by the Central Government to the Government of Bihar during the last three years has not been properly distributed. Through you I would like to submit to the Government that it is very important to monitor the utilisation of the fund that has been given and the extent of utilisation of funds of the last three years should also be looked into by the Government.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a very important discussion is going on the damage done by the floods in India. Many hon. Members who spoke before me have reiterated that the flood is a perennial problem of India. Every year there is flood and there is extensive damage to life and property and crores of rupees are lost and then the incident is forgotten. It has been time and again emphasised that there should be a comprehensive plan to tackle the problem of flood but till now no concrete step has been taken in this regard. The rivers flowing across the length and breadth of the country cause extensive damage. Till now no evaluation has been made as to how this damage can be checked. India is an agricultural country. Today while the Government is facing resource crunch and is constantly striving for the prosperity of the people dependent on agriculture, it should keep in mind that the main sufferer on account of the flood are farmers and it damages their capital and property and weaken them too.

The Tarai area of Uttar Pradesh which is a very fertile area contributes immensely to the food-stock of India. But this region is adversely affected by the floods caused by the rivers originating in Himalayas and flowing though Nepal. Prior to me hon'ble Roy Saheb was dwelling on as to how the Bihar is adversely affected by the floods in the rivers that flow through Nepal. Almost the same is the situation in entire 'Tarai' region of Uttar Pradesh. Many year back you might have read in the Newspapers and the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture might have taken cognigence of it that how Gorakhpur subdivision had suffered from flood and water logging for several months that had completely damaged at least two crops. Similarly, districts Khiri, Pilibhit, Bahraich and parts of the district Sitapur which are adjacent to Nepal

[Shri Ravi Prakash Verma]

are affected by the floods in the rivers originating in the hills like Sharda, Mohana Kodiyala and Ghaggara. Problems of my area are peculiar. The floods not only inundates the region but it also erodes valuable fertile agricultural land. Today the situation is such that the surging water of Sharda river alone had eroded thousands of acres of agricultural land and no trace of dozens of villages can be seen. Today the situation is such that thousands of people have been displaced. Not to talk of agricultural land, they do not have land for constructing the dwelling unit. The main reason for the flood in my area is the release of water from Nanak Sagar Dam built on Sharda river. Every year three four Lakh qusec. Water is released in several stages which causes extensive damage to life and property and it has become a regular phenomenon. But recently a new Phenomenon is being witnessed. Last year too I had drawn the attention of the Government towards this but till now no concrete programme has been chalked out. The 'Tarai' region in neighbouring country Nepal used to be marshy land. A project has been prepared with the help of the Governments of China and Korea to convert this marshy land into cultivable land. Under the project they have built bug dykes in the area suffering from water logging and have diverted the course of the rivers to the South in the area affected by floods. If you send any special Committee to the area adjacent to my constituency like Tartarganj and Kamboj Nagar in Pilibhit district, then you will know that the Government of Nepal has started the construction without taking into confidence the Government of India. At present the situation is such that thousands of acres of land has been damaged due to the diversion of the course of rivers towards India. As far the release of water from Sharda Dam is concerned, atleast we get information 24 hrs. in advance that water is going to be released. but the water that is coming from Nepal is more devastating because of the speed of the current and it is eroding the soil and destroying the cultivable land and the natives and the administration of our area are not able to prejudge the magnitude and the extent of devastation Through you my submission to the Minister of Agriculture is that a very grave problem is emerging before us. You please take necessary steps at the Government level in consultation with the Government of Nepal to solve this problem. I would like to submit one more important thing that the flood of Sharda river is creating a dangerous situation for the Sampuranand Nagar sugar mill in my district. The course of the river changes every year and now the situation is such that the sugar mill has come in line with the course of river and there is danger of its destruction. Similarly, Govind Sugar Mill which is also called Khumaria factory located in Dhaurhara Tehsil has also come in the line of the river and there is danger of its destruction.

Apart from this it is due to the uncontrolled flow of Sharda river that there is grave danger of erosion of the rail link, the rail track of North East Railway that passes through Bhira between Mailani and Palia. There is danger for Bhiar town also which has a population of 10,000. Along with this, the major parts of the world famous Dudhawa National Park, that is located along the Indo-Nepal border has been damaged by the flood. Hundreds of acres of forest wealth has been destroyed and thousands of wild animals have been adversely affected by the flood. The project was launched for the protection of the tigers. That has been adversely affected.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that he should solve the flood problem of Sharda river as soon as possible in consultation with the Nepal Government. The work for constructing check dams along the course of Sharda river has not yet been started, please get this work completed soon. Soon some project should be prepared to construct embankments on both side of the Sharda river. From Sharda barrage to the confluence of Ghagra river, where there is Dhaura Tehsil of my district Lakhimpur Tehsil, and Leharpur Tehsil of Sitapur district are badly affected by the flood. There thousands of acres of land remains sumberged and at least some concrete work could be undertaken. I would like to make one more submission. The Sharda project was being executed in my area. It is a big project. It will benefit my area. Now time has come to review the project. As a result of silting or other reasons its water carrying capacity is continuously declining. Its area needs to be extended. Suhaile Project was approved by the Government of India. It is still incomplete for 25 years. After much efforts, funds could be procured from the Government of India. But there is a problem and in spite of regularly drawing attention to this problem there is no solution of the problem is in sight. Sharda Canal was constructed under the Suhaili Project and the flow of the river was blocked by constructing a Gaziaput Syphon on the river. As soon as it was constructed, there was flood in the river but the obstruction was not removed and as a result of this, atleast 40 villages of my constituency are every year affected by flood waters.

With these words, I conclude and thank you for giving me opportunity to speak.

SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE (Chimur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I represent the Chimur constituency of Maharashtra. There are four districts in that constituency

and most of the inhabitants are farmers. As far as I think, the farmers are honest. I do not say that rest of the people are dishonest but I would like to emphasise that farmers are honest. They had sown their fields with great dedication and hope after selling their house-hold goods and ornaments. But this year there was unprecedented rainfall from 25 May to 15 June. As a result of this the crop in my area have suffered heavy damage. In my area there are Gosakhude and Etiayadoh projects due to which we are able to cultivate summer crops. That season and rainfall timing was the same. Earlier the damage was due to over rainfall, thereafter there was flood from 30 June to 2 July that also caused damage. Now there is not a single drop of water and there is drought. That means the farmers have suffered blow from three sides. Now there is no option before the farmers. Therefore, I said that the Farmers are honest. They cultivate honestly but they lose hope in the event on natural calamities. This we may appreciate but unnatural calamities are a reoccurant phenomenon here that we also call 'Sultani (manmade) Calamity'.

I call it a man made calamity because if the wastes are not dumped where it should be dumped then rain water is accumulated there and started overflowing and flooded the area. Over night there was flood. The people were fortunate that flood had come after one hour. The people were awake. The name of that village is Gandhinagar. Which is in Gadchiroli district.

It my constituency there is a village called Rohini. There road was constructed by the Government but drain was not constructed there and as a result of that flooding took place. There is a village called Paralgaon situated close to a river. There is severe flood and soil erosion there. Similarly, there is a village called Khairepat. There flows a river on one side and a drain on the other side and both cause flood. Sometimes it cause damage to the village and sometimes to the crop. That is why my demand is that Khair (Pat) village should be rehabilitated as soon as possible. I do not understand that when factories suffer loss then we call them sick. The loan that is due to them is waived off by declaring them sick and the same amount of fresh loan can be procured by them. Then why can we not give concessions to the farmers by declaring the agriculture as sick? That is why my suggestion is that we should waived off the loan of the farmers of flood affected areas and project affected areas. During the last 50 years Rs. 39,000 crores of 39 factories were waived off out of which Rs. 800 crores and Rs. 700 crores were pertaining to Tata and Birlas respectively. I have a list of such companies which includes Mahendra & Mahendra, Tabro etc. Loans outstanding against 39 sick industries had been waived off. When industrial units can be declared as sick units why not agriculture sector too? Therefore, I request you that poor rural people who are already reeling under the problem of flood and natural calamity should be freed from the burden of loan and I hope you will really bail them out of the debt burden. The Central Government sanctioned Rs. 78.50 crores to Maharashtra from Calamity Relief Fund for the year 1999-2000. However, as on date Rs. 44 crores 25 lakh has been released but 34 crores 25 lakhs are still to be released. I request the Central Government to immediately release the balanced amount. The loss suffered by 4 districts—Bhandara, Gondia, Chanderpur and Garchiroli is as follows: 15,661 houses have been partially damaged and 1185 houses have been damaged totally. Loss to agriculture in 17,544 hectare of land is less than 50% and in 65,960 hectare of land it is more than 50%. 10 people and 58 cattle have reportedly died. 5213 people have become shelterless. Till now Rs. 42,30,600 have been disbursed by the State Government as relief @ Rs. 600/- per family. I request the Central Government also to immediately release the assistance which it deems fit to tackle the problem. District Chanderpur is the leading district in coal mining and stone and soil etc. which are dug out during mining are dumped on the banks of rivers. As a result of this overburdened dumping, whenever Vardha and Irrai rivers are in spate, the water enters into the fields. Flood water could not enter from the side where soil is dumped but the other side remain prone to flood water causing hardships to farmers and villagers.

I request you that soil should be dumped in a planned manner in Majri, Lalpur, Padampur and Chanderpur areas. Alongwith it compensation should be given to the poor farmers who have suffered the loss of crop.

In the end, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI (Barpeta): Mr. Chairman, as I come from Assam, naturally I will emphasise on this aspect so far as Assam is concerned.

It is a perennial problem with the State of Assam and other North-Eastern States. My friend, the hon. Member from Arunachal Pradesh has described the plight of that area. So, what is to be done? There has to be a long-term programme to face this annual problem.

So far as Assam is concerned, it is said that harnessing of Brahmaputra will solve the problem but

[Shri A.F. Golam Osmani]

that is a long drawn out affair. It has to be taken up with China. But so far as the tributaries of Brahmaputra are concerned, there were piece-meal planning to raise embankment on them for flood-moderation. Nothing has been done yet. There is one Brahmaputra Board which is carrying on only surveys. Sir, the main problem with regard to this has to be tackled with a special arrangement. Let there be a special arrangement on behalf of the Government of India involving Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and adjoining areas.

This year, devastating flood has occurred in most of the areas of the Brahmaputra Valley. So far as Demaji and Lakhimpur districts are concerned, it was devastating and they were declared as flood affected areas but no relief has been given to that extent. The districts of Kamrup, Barpeta, and Goalpara were heavily affected. Till now, no systematic arrangement has been made to tackle the problems of the people who have been affected by flood.

17.48 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*)

The Centre has got a Fund which will release some money, perhaps, afterwards. Till now, the Government of India has not come out with any definite statement about the release of any fund from the Calamity Fund. The Assam Government has also not taken up the matter with the Central Government with that seriousness. We implore upon the hon. Minister to look into it and advance whatever amount it deems fit to face the immediate problem of the flood-affected people.

Sir, it is not a question of relief. About the medical aspect, there is already an apprehension that a large-scale epidemic will break-out in the affected areas of Goalpara, Barpeta, Nalbari, and Demaji districts. A Central team has to be sent immediately to assess the gravity of the problem not only in relation to the present flood but also to assess the present plight of the people affected by this flood. So, I would request the hon. Minister to constitute a team immediately and send them to the affected areas of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and adjoining areas and he himself should pay a visit to assess the situation personally.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and a part of Assam has been affected by the floods. In this House, every year we discuss the problem of flood and drought. Heavy losses were suffered in Maharashtra and Gujarat due to torrential rains in the beginning of June. Today, we are discussing the issue of floods but fears are writ large in the minds of all. Today Maharasthra is on the verge of drought. To avoid the possibility of discussing drought in the next session I appeal to the Government to take remedial measures so that need for discussing drought not only in Maharashtra but all over the country never arises.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, both the State Governments and the Central Government take adequate relief measures on their own during floods. However, it is quite difficult for the State or Central Governments to recover the heavy loss of life and property. Therefore, both the Union and the State Governments are required to seriously ponder over the issue of flood. There is a need to make concrete efforts to tackle the problem of flood. Entire country is aware of the flood prone areas. Flood comes every year in Orissa, Bihar and Assam. As we all are aware of flood prone areas, there is a need to chalk out a permanent action plan to solve the problem.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the discussion regarding floods taken place in the House, all the Members and Government express their concern in this regard. The issue of assistance by the Union Government becomes a bone of contention. Every time we discuss here that assistance does not reach the common man in time. To tackle the problem of floods and for providing relief to the affected people, we have to spend the funds from the funds provided by the Government for development works.

It doubles the expenditure. Due to frequent floods, both Union and State Governments are unable to pay attention towards development schemes. Even the funds allocated for the purpose remain unutilised. That's why there is the need to take some concrete steps to tackle the recurrent floods. This may requires a huge amount but a permanent solution should be evolved. The Union Government should formulate an action plan in this regard. The Government should also give directions to the States where floods are a regular feature.

When a natural calamity occurs, citizens from every nook and corner of the country try to extend every possible help. Huge sums are collected as relief fund in big cities. Crores of rupees are collected from the people living in these cities. Along with it the Union Government and the State Government also spend huge amount on this account.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Speaker, has written a letter to all the hon'ble Members to disburse 10 lakh rupees out of MPLAD funds for Orissa....*(Interruptions)* I favour that assistance should be provided to all the flood affected States. Mr. Chairman, Sir, whenever a natural calamity strikes, a demand is made first of all to provide assistance from MPLAD funds. Therefore, the amount of MPLAD funds should be enhanced to three crores from two crores....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (Cuddalore): In Tamil Nadu even that much amount is not given.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What do you want for Tamil Nadu?

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: Only Rs. 77 lakh is given, per M.P. in Tamil Nadu. Rs. 6.00 crore must be given.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: The demand is for Rs. 6.00 crore.

MR. CHAIRMAN: For each M.P. there is only an amount of Rs. 77 lakh per year.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I mentioned MPLAD Fund because a demand is always raised to provide assistance from MPLAD Funds whenever a floods strike. If the amount is enhanced under this scheme, we would be able to provide more assistance to flood affected people. In the end I request that assistance should be provided to all the flood affected areas.

18.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Four hourse have been allotted for this discussion. This discussion started at 4.18 p.m.

Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time of the discussion till 8.18 p.m.?

SEVERAL HON. MEMRERS: It should be completed today....*(Interruptions)*

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah): Sir, it may be postponed to another day....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. We have to complete the discussion today itself. The sitting of the House is extended till 8.18 p.m.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bal Krishna Chauhan, you can speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the discussion on problem of flood is taking place in the House. I am thankful to you for giving me opportunity to speak.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problem of flood is not a problem of entire country or region but it is a problem of people who are living along the bank of rivers. Despite that the loss of life and property affects the whole nation. But the Government have not been able to solve this problem permanently. It requires a lot of efforts. Flood does not mean flow of water only but it also causes erosion which occurs through out the years at the banks of rivers in monsoon season. This causes the submergence of thousands of villages situated along these rivers. I suggest that, a separate ministry of flood should be created to combat this problem. A separate rehabilitation department should be established to rehabilitate people displaced by flood. This is a national problem. Government cannot get rid of this problem simply by accepting that flood is an act of God. Thats why the solution of this problem is necessary. I wonder to find a solution of this problem debates at national level is taking place. I would like to give examples of some floods prone areas.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Ghaghara river flows through my constituency. In a meeting with Ministry of Water Resources I had placed the problem and had remained them even after that. What to say of combating the problems till date I have not even received any information from them regarding the steps taken. A historical town named Dohrighat is situated in the said region, and almost half of the town has been washed away due to the erosion by Ghaghara river. The residents of Musadohi village are living in temporary huts made of straw. Due to this erosion silt accumulate in the river which results in diverting the route of the river. This in turn causes erosion of the villages. I was present there when an incident took place. The river was eroding the banks with loud noise. People there do not sleep out of fear in the night that the river may washaway their village. Therefore, my submission is that steps may please be taken to find some permanent solution of this problem. On one hand where construction of platforms along the dam is needed to rehabilitate people affected by flood, on the other hand there is a need to control the bureaucrats also. Although

[Shri Bal Krishna Chauhan]

dams of five kilometer lengths have been constructed with the fund provided by the Central and Uttar Pradesh Government but gaps place of five metre width have been left for constructing regulators. We all are aware what it will result. But officers want that the flood keep on coming and they keep on getting funds. The intention behind leaving place for regulators in dams appears to be leaving places for flood to enter so that they could get funds. That's why it is needed to considered that dams constructed by the fund worth crores of rupees provided by the Government are not able to control flood due to the lack of regulators worth 2 to 4 lakhs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in order to save the villages situated along the river and affected by the flood, there is need to build ring dams. Considering all these facts it has become necessary for the Government to formulate a permanent policy for flood so as to save losses of life and property in future. Thousands of villages along river Ghaghara have eroded and some villages are eroding at the moment. Therefore my submission to the Government is that it should consider all these facts and established a Ministry of flood control at the earliest to solve this problem permanently.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, loss of life and property takes place every year due to flood in the country. Many people die, their houses are washed away in flood. Farmers are ruined as their crops are damaged. The cattles are killed in flood, public property and roads are damaged. In order to construct it hon. Members are raising the problems of their constituency to find out the permanent solution of the destruction occurring due to flood every year. In this regard the hon. Member of Himachal Pradesh was speaking about the heavy damages occurred in his constituency. The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh has written to all the hon. Members for help. This year the damages occurred due to flood in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Bihar where the help of military was taken for rescue and relief work. Every year destruction takes place due to flood. Government statistics also states that every year the property worth billions of rupee is damage due to the absence of measures to control flood. When the situation normalises a team of the Central Government visits there for formality. This is the ritual every year. Flood comes and creates destruction but the team never finds the trace of flood. As hon. Member Shri Naval Kishore Rai has just said that today Minister of Agriculture while conducting aerial survey has himself seen how people are living there on the roofs of their houses and dams. Their houses have inundated in flood.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, flood is a natural calamity and this natural calamity can be controlled. Specially in Bihar people say that the reason of flood in Bihar is the international rivers flowing from Nepal. Whether it is possible for State Government to control the destruction caused by international rivers. Whether the State Government is in a position to distribute relief to the people there. As per the recommendation of tenth Finance Commission, out of four shares three shares are to be contributed by the Government of India and one share by State Government. The routine relief will be looked after by the State Government. Rupees Hundred crore have been kept in national calamity fund for these propose. In a vast country like ours some times cyclone comes in Andhra Pradesh, sometimes in Orissa, sometimes destruction is caused by flood and sometimes thousands of houses of poor people are burnt in fire. For all these purposes the amount of hundred crore rupees is quite a meagre amount. We have repeatedly asked to increase the amount in the national calamity fund. Otherwise at the time of flood the State Government will send the message that they are short of fund. The State Government is not capable of carrying out relief work nor are they able to control flood because they don't have enough fund. That's why Government of India should take the responsibility to compensate the damages done due to flood because these are international rivers. Why not. India signs agreement with Nepal. There is provision of riparian right over International rivers. Every year rivers flowing from Nepal cause distruction is north Bihar, regions of Uttar Pradesh, terai regions of himalayas. That's why we expect two types of work from Government of India. First there should be a permanent solution to control the flood. In order to control flood 3400 kilometres of embankment have been constructed in Bihar. Hundreds and thousands of crores of rupees have been spent on it but the quantum of destruction due to flood remained the same as was in 1947 the problem of flood was not solved at that time also. By constructing temporary embankment the flood can be controlled but it is not a permanent solution. Construction of embankment restricts the flood which gives the impression that it benefits directly but its not so. It increases expenuiture which go waste and does not give benefits. That's why a time bound agreement between India and Nepal should be signed.

Recently the Prime Minister of Nepal had visited India. I am not aware whether this subject has been discussed but a concrete programme should be made for the agreement between India and Nepal so that the destruction caused by the International rivers could be arrested with the help of both the nations. There is vast potential of hydro power in the Gandhak, Nunthar and other rivers on bordering areas. If we make an agreement

with Nepal in this regard this will not only help in controlling flood but will also benefit the people of both countries by producing hydro electricity. That's why the Government of India should take over the work of controlling the flood in its hands. State Governments are unable to handle natural calamities due to the lack of funds. That's why Government of India should take on the responsibility in this regard and the fund of national calamity should also be increased. Right now according to the situation every State is provided advance out of the fund. It comes in the news that assistance of hundred crores of rupees have been provided but actually the States are provided their share of Central assistance in advance. Actually this is not an assistance. Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is the Chairman of the national calamities fund and the Chief Ministers of various States are the rotational members of the fund. A meeting of this Committee should be called and the finance department should be asked to increase the amount in national calamities fund. And relief work should be undertaken in various states where the destruction took place. We are yet to face flood from Ganga. It generally comes in the end of September and early October at the time of Vijaydashmi festival.

At present, only the smaller rivers such as Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Baghmati, Kareh, Kosi, Mahananda, Bhutahi Balan etc. are in spate. River Yamuna is also in spate. Flood problem is very serious in Himachal, Arunachal and also in Assam. The floods due to river Ganga comes in last. The Government should also be prepared to face the challenge of flood in future. If the flood water is not drained, the problem of water-logging will arise. In Bihar, a total of 9 lakh hectare land is affected due to water logging, of which 8 lakh hectare is in North Bihar and one lakh hectare land in Mokama, which is the constituency of the hon'ble Agriculture Minister. Projects, Gandak phase-II and Kosi phase-II which could have provided a solution to the problem of water logging, is pending with the Government of India.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Irrigation Minister of Bihar is a friend of the Union Agriculture Minister and the Government of India is sitting on the file on the pretext that it is 'under considerations'. The file is pending with the Irrigation Department. The file is not being cleared from here. We always talk about help, but if the clearance is not given, how the State Governments would be helped. Central water commission is delaying the file. Floods cause a lot of damage in my State. Government of India should take measures for that. The task of signing agreement with the Nepal Government is that of Government of India and not of Bihar Government. In this matter, you cannot hold Bihar Government responsible. The initiative has to be taken by the Government of India. The State Government is not empowered to discuss the issue with the Nepal Government. The river originating in Nepal Government. The river originating in Nepal cause flood and consequent damages in Bihar. I suggest that the Government of India take in its own hands the relief work to compensate the damages done due to floods. The solution of water-logging problem should be taken up by the Government of India. What is the state of Kosi Phase-II and Gandak Phase-II projects.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in my State many roads have been breached due to floods. The links of Sitamarhi-Muzaffarpur, Sitarhi-Sinhur have been served from the world. Therefore, these places are being supplied relief material by the helicopter. Food packets and foodgrains are being supplied with the help of helicopters. There is virtual stampede among the people to get these food pockets. Help of military has been taken there. The flood affected areas include West Champaran and East Champaran, Siwan, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Araria, Purnia, Begusarai, Khagaria, parts of Muzaffarpur, and Darbhanga. Floods of the rivers of Baghmati, Gandak, Burhi Gandak etc. is creating havoc there. The relief work in all these places should be taken over by the Government of India.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Government of India should undertake the proper steps to control floods. Total damage due to floods in Bihar is to the tune of Rs. 1100 crores, roads have been breached and they have not been repaired. Everytime, the State Government submits its proposal about the damages due to floods but the assistance is not given proportionately. I request that a Central team should be sent for monitoring the situation. If the bureaucrats are committing irregularities, they should be warned and their game plan should not be allowed to succeed. Poors are suffering a lot due to floods. I request the hon'ble Minister that efforts be made for the solution of these problems and Bihar and the other parts of the country be saved from the destruction caused by the floods.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji has presented a detailed picture of the destruction caused by floods in Bihar and I agree with him irrespective of the style of his speech. His description of and concern about the destruction due to floods in the different parts of the country is more or less true.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I tried to get some facts about the subject from the Lok Sabha library and I found that in the recent years, there have been as many as 20 discussions on the natural calamities, floods or droughts.

[Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy]

Every year we discuss flood at the time of its occurrence, we discuss drought after the budget session in the House and we discuss it on every available opportunity on one pretext or the other. We give a lot of time in the discussion over the issue. If you look at the discussion over the issue conducted in 1974, you would find that....*(Interruptions)*

Which a painful heart I am participating in the discussion, because every year, when we discuss these calamities, our Parliamentary Affairs Minister does not lose time in listing this subject. I would like to place some basic questions before the House such as how long we will have to face the damages due to floods? On the one hand we say that the flood is a natural calamity, we all agree that it is a natural calamity and it occurs in one part or the other of the country in various forms every year. But in addition to it, we also need to discuss some other issues. It seems that the hon'ble Minister of this Government, who hails from Bihar, will arrive within a few minutes and I would like to focus my attention towards a particular discussion. We will deliver speeches as we do every year. The speeches will be heard by some of my constituents and some Members of Parliament and then the discussion will be closed. We will be satisfied after delivering a speech on the subject and Government will also take no follow-up action as it does every year. We shall have to see flood from our own eyes as I am not sure that many of those present in the House have seen flood with their own eyes.

I remember an incident when I went to flood affected area along Ganga. I saw a child on a buffalo and an old man was pushing the buffalo. It was at a considerable distance. I thought to save them and took the boat towards their direction. I saw buffalo as well as the child both were dead, but the old man was confident that he will be able to save them therefore he was anyhow trying to bring him near the bank. Such type of incidents be seen. When flood comes small children climbs to the trees and you will find children sitting and snake hanging on the same tree. Such a scene are normal. At the time of flood and after flood people in large number die due to fear of snake and this has been continuing for years. The point on which I have concentrated my discussion many times in this House. I don't think the Government is neither paying any attention to it nor it intends to. The environmental imbalance is there for the last 25, 30 or 40 years and this may be the main reason, of increasing effect of flood in this country. Normally we think that 33 per cent of any land should be forest area. If we leave world Parameter aside then only 22 per cent of land in India is forest land. The way trees are being cut, it is adversely affecting the environment. During childhood we used to listen about desert areas, about Rajasthan, which are drought areas, where there is no water, no rain. But today we get information of flood also from Haryana, Himachal, Rajasthan and Punjab. Flash flood comes due to environmental imbalance, this natural calamity is increasing.

My hon'ble colleague has discussed about Nepal. Economy of Nepal is very weak. We have information about it for the last fifty years because it is our neighbour country. Trees are being cut indiscriminately in its upper region of Himalayas. Due to cutting of threes in the upper region when rain falls alongwith sand rain water enters Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Due to this lot of silt has got deposited in the river gradually. The Government does not have the means to clear the silt. If Government of India signs agreement with Nepal, and if afforestation work is done today then it may be possible that we may be able to construct flow of water in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and after 40 years when rain falls in the upper region, when cloud bursts there, and water enters in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh which we can't control today. Besides it, there are many issues. Therefore, I want to draw the attention of the House on this issue because I want to focus the level on which Government has to take remedial measures to solve this complex problem.

This work cannot be completed by only providing resources. Unless we associate technical experts and formulate a comprehensive and detailed plan on this issue, it would not be possible to control this type of natural calamities.

With these words I would like to request the House to control this natural calamities in some way or the other. If it is not possible to control it immediately at least the damages should be minimised. The way dams are getting breached or the rivers are changing their direction, villages are getting submerged in river and the way water stagnate after flood in the fields, all these problems should be controlled. These are large issues and keeping these in view the Government should formulate a plan so that we could be able to provide at least relief to the people if could not control the problem completely.

[English]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it has been a monsoon ritual for us to give a catalogue of sufferings of men and animals on the floor of the House. Come monsoon, the rivers are in mad fury, washing away crops, houses, cattle and humans too. By

the time the Monsoon Session is over, the monsoon too, enters in its petering away stage and the ritual is talked out, at least, passes into the wordy proceedings of the House.

This has been going on for so many years. Unless some serious thinking is done by the Government, I am afraid, it will end up as an eternal exercise in futility.

Coming to the flood havoc, I will not reel off a long list of damages that have been caused. It is now the third wave that hit Assam and the North-East. This region is cut off from the rest of the country, for the last couple of days. Three waves of floods since April have affected about 26 lakhs of people in 16 districts of Assam and nearly 25 people had lost their lives.

This year itself, there are 54 breaches on the embankments. The third wave, which started last week, so far affected nearly 3000 villages in 16 districts, inundating three lakh hectares of land, damaging a crop area of 1,23,569 hectares. While the situation is improving in a few districts, it continues to remain grim in the other ten districts. The water level of Brahmaputra and its tributaries continue to flow above the danger mark in Darrang, Dhubri, Lakhimpur, Jorhat, Goalpara and Morigaon districts. Road and rail communication in most of these districts also continue to remain disrupted as sections of rail tracks and highways still remain under water. Dibrugarh is one of the biggest towns of Assam, is exposed to erosion and erosion is posing a serious threat to this city. This has been going on for the last so many years, without any effective measures.

The second wave that hit in June end, was equally severe, and Lakhimpur and Dhemaji were the worst affected districts. In Dhemaji official release said that 38,840 persons of 64 villages had been affected, while in the Dhakuakhana sub-division of the Lakhimpur district alone, so far 116 villages with a population of over 28,000 had been hit. Altogether in the State 4,82,220 people of 1428 villages were affected in the second wave.

So, this is in nutshell, flood depredations caused by three waves. We have two more months to go till the monsoon goes away; and we may have at least two more waves in the course of the next two months.

Recently, in reply to a question, the hon. Minister of Agriculture has stated that an amount of Rs. 37 crore were released to Assam for various measures. The hon. Minister justified this meagre allocation on the plea that over 4560 kms. of embankments and 945 drainage channels have already been constructed in Assam. Without disputing the figure at the moment, may I ask in a span of how many years? Not less than 15 or 20 years. But construction of embankments and drainage channels is not all. These need to be annually repaired and maintained. For every year, flood or no flood, the turbulent currents of the rivers keep attacking the embankments. Now, the entire embankment of the river Brahmaputra is dotted with erosion points and vulnerable points. Funds made available for repair and maintenance over the years are scanty. So, flood and erosion are inevitable.

Sir, I would like to cite a typical case of Government bungling. Erosion at Nemati poses a threat to a premier town of Assam, Jorhat. In 1992 at my initiative, the work on preparing a scheme was started by the District Flood Control Department. In 1994, it was finally prepared at an estimated cost of Rs. 32 crore. Then it was sent to Pune Laboratory by the Ministry of Water Resources for further investigation and checks. It was cleared by the end of 1995. Since it was then too late to be taken up on Central Government assistance, the then Government were advised by the Planning Commission to initiate the project on Central Government loan assistance scheme assuring that such scheme could always be later converted into a Central Government Assistance Scheme, that is 90 per cent Central Grant and 10 per cent State's own fund. The Planning Commission even released Rs. 1 crore for starting the work. The work started by the end of 1995. Then came the 1996 elections. As soon as the elections came, the work was stalled. Till today the present State Government could not spend that Rs. 1 crore fully. Nor did it ask the Central Government for conversion of this scheme into Central Assistance Scheme. Instead this amount is converted into revenue deposit. This is how causes of flood persist.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you must have heard about Brahmaputra Board. It has not done any meaningful research so far. Let me narrate the second case. Diroi Drainage scheme was proposed for Sivasagar district. This scheme was been baffling the engineers of the Board. They have no solution to it. I accompanied the engineers to the site also for investigation. But till today there is no plan for that.

Again, there is an incisive erosion point on the embankment of river Dehing at Libilin Sivasagar District. It threatens the surrounding tribal villages. As no funds are available, no work could be done. So, flood and erosion are inevitable and naturally people have to suffer.

[Shri Bijoy Handique]

I conclude by saying that in the last year's Budget less than Rs. 100 crore were allocated to the water resources Ministry as against the Shukla Commission's recommendation of Rs. 50,000 crore for the next 50 years. Shukla Commission was constituted in 1997 to process the Prime Minister's package for implementation. It may take more than fifty years may be 60 or 70 years. But we have to make a beginning. At some point of time we have to make the beginning. Otherwise, history will not forgive us.

I do hope that the Government will look into my suggestions, particularly the one relating to Brahmaputra Board and see to it that meaningful research is done there.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of flood is being discussed in the House. This issue has not been discussed for the first time. We are new members. This issue has been discussed in House earlier also. Reply of Government also come on it. Problem of flood is not a new problem. It seems that it has become a tradition one because flood also has a season. When that season comes discussion takes place in House and reply from the side of Government comes. If we see reply of the Government we find that the Minister gives the same reply again and again after changing a few words. I think this will not solve the problem. Today many States are affected by flood. One of our colleague was just discussing about Assam. People are in distress due to flood in Bihar. Last year also Bihar's flood was discussed in House. Whole of North Bihar has been affected by flood. Lakhs of family are affected by flood. No means have been provided there by the Government to take the people or their animals to safer places so that they could be saved.

Raghuvansh Babu has said a very good thing. Irrespective of the department of the Government the reply is same that it is a State matter. State Government will take action on the issue at its own level. In some matters Bihar is fortunate because there are many holy rivers there. But flood of these rivers affect whole of North Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and some parts of Bengal. Severe floods comes every year. Today Bettiah Motihari, Sitamarhi, Samastipur, Darbanga, Madhubani and Gopalganj etc. many districts are affected in North Bihar. The conditions there is so bad it that it cannot be described. Though we get point for our speech but the severity can better be explained only by those who have suffered. In the last flood six villages near Jai Prakashji's village Sitabdiyara which is situated at the confluence of Ganga and Saryu's were submerged in the land erosion. Flood is severe in that village also. We have visited the flood affected areas. At a bank near the Saryu river I saw three cots were kept one above the other in a hut and a four year child was sleeping on the cot there. Water was flowing in that hut. When we asked how they dared to keep the child there, they said we leave everything on the mercy of mother Ganga. There is no alternative except this. Men and women have to go behind bamboo enclosures for their daily chores. This problem needs to be understood. When Shri C.P. Thakurji was the Minister for Irrigation, we had requested him to see the problem of those areas himself. It is the birth-place of Loknayak. Today everybody is playing politics in the name of Loknayak. All the Governments of Bihar are said to be the offshoots of the movement of Loknayak but none of them have cared for his home village. Dr. C.P. Thakur had visited that place on the banks of river Saryu with officer of his department and had reviewed the situation with them. The department had already prepared a map. Officials had estimated a very low outlay. Officials had said that the Sitabdiara village could be saved at an expenditure of Rs. 3 crores. Dr. Thakur had assured that he would talk directly to the Prime Minister. It is the question of saving the village of the Loknayak. He had doubts on the intention of the Bihar Government and said that to save the dam and the village he would get the work done by the personal intervention of the Prime Minister. Unfortunately Dr. C.P. Thakur shifted to another department. New Minister Shri Arjun Sethi ji is present here. I had discussed the problem of the village to him in personal meetings as well as through letters. I do not know what action has been initiated by Shri Sethiji in response to the visit of Dr. Thakur and the assurance he gave. I am sure Sethiji would give us information regarding it in his reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I will conclude in five minutes. I am the first and last speaker of my party. I believe that Shri Sethi ji would ensure the protection of Sitabdiara village so that the Sitadbiara village does not suffer this problem in future. Since hon'ble Minister for Agriculture is to reply today, I would like to bring in his knowledge the fact that this village and other villages in North Bihar are not only affected by flood but also by water logging. Most of the areas in Chhapra, Siwan and Vaishali district is affected by Water-logging. Situation could be improved with small expenditure. There are means available through which water could be drained. Rivers Narayani, Saryu and Ganga all flow in the vicinity.

If needed, the excess water could be routed in the river channel. But the State Government of Bihar is non-functional. Shri Raghuvansh Babu, I am sure you will not mind it. I am not commenting on you but I can't help it. You cannot expect anything from the State Government. I am telling you that.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Let us see what the Government of India is capable of doing.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Shri Raghuvansh Babu was saying that the hon'ble Irrigation Minister of Bihar is a friend of hon'ble Agriculture Minister. He is right but their friendship is not what it used to be. It has diminished. The hon'ble Irrigation Minister of Bihar has a misconception that he is the most knowledgeable person in the world and this misconception results in much damage to Bihar. Shri Raghuvansh ji, you must agree with me that the engineers bring the estimates to him, he terms it wrong. If he knows more, he could get right estimates prepared. In this matter of wrong and right, the work of maintenance and security of dams of Bihar suffer.

I would like to say one thing about the engineers of Bihar, that the occurrence of flood becomes an opportunity of earning money for them. You will be surprised to know that when flood occurs in Bihar, water enters the dam through the reed, it leads to the bursting of dams and scores of villages are submerged. Standing crops of the farmers are also ruined. You know this. It is not that you will know of it through me. It is also not that your level of knowledge is lower. What I want to submit is that only that person can remove the pains of Bihar who has the will to do so. We hear a variety of comments about Bihar in the public places. People go to the extent of saying that the people of Bihar are penniless and miserable, as a journalist said the other day. People of Bihar are forced to work in Punjab on low wages because the North Bihar suffers from flood and water-logging.

North Bihar suffers from the flood, otherwise, I would like to tell that pen-pusher, who dared to make such comments about Bihar, that if only the means of irrigation are made available to Bihar, the land will become so fertile that North Bihar alone would be able to feed India for 6 months. Therefore, I submit through you, that since the Bihar Government is incapable of doing anything to drain the flood waters, if you are in a position to do anything, please take measures to that end. Whatever funds are given to the Bihar Government, are misappropriated. You know this, and so I demand that efforts be made to control the problem through any another agency and also by negotiations with the Nepal Government.

With these words, I conclude and thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak.

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurdwars): Mr. Chairman, Sir, House is discussing the flood problem and first of all, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

Sir, I have been waiting for two days to participate in the discussion and now I have got the opportunity to speak. People of Jalpaigudi district in West Bengal are affected by floods. In the region, especially the rivers Redak-I, Sankush, Tursa, Basra Dima, Kaljani Daina etc. are flowing above the danger mark. Bhutan is our neighbouring country. A village named Jaigaon has been devastated due to floods. The village has submerged under the river water. 20 tea plantations of the region have also submerged. These tea plantations provide revenue not only to the State Government but the Central Government also. Rivers such as Basra, Dima, Dana, Hansimana.

18.47 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Come in the country from Bhutan. Dolomite in Bhutan is eroding away because of the soil erosion due to heavy rainfall and the floods cause the deposition of sand and stones in our country. Because of the accumulation of these the level of the river water rises and it takes the form of flood causing damage to the village. It destroys tea plantations as well as thousands of houses. One lakh thirty eight thousand are affected by flood. The flood comes from Bhutan and when it happens, the bodies of Bhutanese people and their belongings are found in India. Therefore, through you I request that a Indo-Bhutan joint River Commission be set up. I hope, the hon'ble Minister would attend to it.

Apart from this, I also have to tell you that the Jaladha Hydel power project is also threatened due to flood. Therefore, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister through you to go and personally review and observe the situation there. The losses should be compensated from the relief fund and a plan should be formulated for its permanent solution. Only permanent solution is....*(Interruptions)* the establishment of Indo-Bhutan Joint River Commission....*(Interruptions)*

Sir, with these words I thank you and conclude.

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards

[Shri Suresh Chandel]

this, a very important subject on which the discussion has been started today. Every year several parts of the country suffer damage on account of flood. While flood cause damage, sometimes it also affects the development of the region achieved so far. Such incidents have taken place in several regions. Recently such incidents have taken place in Himachal Pradesh also. As per the estimate a damage of Rs. 2000 crore has been done to Himachal Pradesh due to the flood. I feel that it will take many years for Himachal Pradesh to overcome the damage. There are several type of damages like breach of highway that led to damage in telecommunication system. The basic requirements of the people like drinking water and the buildings of the schools were destroyed.

Sir, it is very difficult to exactly assess the damage caused by the flood. I feel that tremendous damage has been caused to Himachal Pradesh in this adverse situation, where some areas that includes hill regions have suffered damage due to the flood. I would like to draw the attention towards that. It is the responsibility of the hilly region to maintain environmental balance. They can not cut their trees. When the economic condition of the region is weak, the trees are also being cut. It is due to this that erosion increases and flood becomes reoccurring phenomenon. That is why they sacrifice in the national interest. They give their valuable contribution to the development of the country so that the environment of the nation may be balanced. My request is that more budget should be provided by the Centre to the hilly regions so that they may comfortably contribute to the environmental balance and may also contribute to the national development. Although such responsibility lies with these regions, the economic condition of these regions are not so good that they may compensate these damages by their own resources. I think that a separate scheme should be formulated for the hilly regions so that justice may be done to them in case of occurrence of such incidents whether that may be as a result of flood or some other reasons but cause loss of crores of rupees.

Sir, every year flood occurs in 73 small rivers of Una district that falls in my Parliamentary constituency and due to that flood considerable part of the land of farmers are eroded. This process is going on in that regions for years and as a result of this farmers are suffering a lot. A scheme has been prepared with the approval of the Ministry of Water Resources.

Sir, that project needs a provision of Rs. 600 crore. If the Central Government assist in that project then it will not only protect the district from the flood but will also contribute to the development of the nation by way of production of foodgrains.

My Deputy Speaker, Sir, our Hon'ble Maheshwar Singh ji has described in detail the devastating incidents that have occurred in Himachal Pradesh. Today Himachal Pradesh requires financial assistance. At least five hundred crore of rupees should be given to that region which has suffered loss of Rs. 200 crore. I express my gratitude to hon'ble Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture that they have immediately released Rs. 100 crore so that the Government may be able to provide relief to the people of Himachal Pradesh.

I would like to tell one more thing that it would have been more appropriate if the Government would have borne the expenditure incurred on helicopters employed to provide urgent assistance to the people.

At the end I would like to request that keeping in view the economic condition of Himachal Pradesh the Central Government should provide more assistance to the State so that relief could be provided to the people of the State who have suffered the damage of life and property.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the very outset, I must convey my thanks to the Government that in spite of various setbacks, the Government has agreed to start this debate. Also, all the political parties have, in the wisdom of the hon. Speaker and in the wisdom of your goodself, decided to start this debate in the House.

Our area Arunchal Pradesh in the North-Eastern region is facing the worst ever flood that it faced in its history so far. People have been cut off from the rest of India. There is a feeling in that area that the Government of India renders service to other parts of the country in a devastating flood like this but it is not rendering the service in the case of the North-East. I do not know how far it is true. I do not threaten you. We have two Ministers here—Shri Nitish Kumar and Shri Arjun Sethi. They are from the grass-root level. In my area, people are in the lowest economic level. They are out of touch from the mainstream now. Their road connection is the only connection. They have no train connection. Air connection is also very irregular. Considering these things, I would make a suggestion. As one of the Members of Parliament from the North-Eastern region of India, I would request that a team must go there, evaluate the situation and take appropriate steps in this regard. Please do not forget that Arunachal Pradesh is the only State in the North-Eastern region where not a single terrorist outfit is there. They are in the national mainstream. The number of

people affected by *goondaism* and threats is minimum. If you go to the jails in Arunachal Pradesh, you can hardly see any culprit there. So, we should encourage the people of Arunachal Pradesh.

We have been trying—with the help of Shri Dasmunsi, with our leader and others—to bring this subject before the House for a discussion. I have seen the agony of the people of Arunachal Pradesh.

Shri Nitish Kumar and Shri Arjun Sethi, recently I read one of the newspapers. The point is that the Chinese delegation came to India and had some discussion about the rivers and other things. They have agreed to share some data which are not available with us about the *Brahmaputra* river. The Government of India is trying to tame the *Brahmaputra* river. As my colleague Shri Bijoy Handique has said, we have not one or two but three floods in a year. The river *Brahmaputra* has become a river of sorrow. It washes away bridges, roads, houses. crops, animals and what not. There was a time when the Government of India used to help us a lot. But because of the changed situation, probably not only in respect of Assam but also in respect of the entire country, the Department of Drainage and Embankment is getting minimum help now.

19.00 hrs.

In my own constituency, Silchar, there are as many as 120 bridges which are damaged in the last six years. Nothing has been done. Same is the condition in Karimganj, Hailakandi, and Barak Valley which is known as a land of peace. We go to the Government of Assam but it says that no money is available. There are many bridges which have been broken. No repair work has been done. We have been doing some work on the roads with the money we get from the World Bank, the NABARD, and from the MPLAD Scheme. But how long can we continue like that? Previously, we used to get assistance from the Flood Damage Fund. Now, it is not coming.

I can name Jhanger Valley in this regard. Here, women go by river, come by river and again go by river and then go to their houses. Sunapur, 32 Number Circle, Sonai, Borkhola—everywhere this is the situation. The Government of India is having a financial crisis, I know that. The present situation is existing all over the country. Something has to be done. I understand that the World Bank may come forward to help to tame the Brahmaputra. We should draw a Master Plan in collaboration with China because the source of the Brahmaputra is China. Now, our relations with China have improved a lot. I would humbly request the Government that some steps have to be taken in that respect.

The Silchar-Shillong Road is our lifeline. Shri Nitish Kumar has gone there. This is not in use for the last 15 days because of landslides. I would urge Shri Nitish Kumar or Shri Arjun Sethi to send a note to the Border Roads Organisation to complete the work on a war-footing. This road carries the traffic to Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, and Barak Valley of Assam. I have been in touch but unfortunately the progress is not very good. So, I would request the hon. Minister to kindly send a note to the Border Roads Organisation to take immediate steps in regard to Silchar-Shillong road and to see that it is repaired immediately.

Hon. Deputy-Speaker is ringing the bell. I would not like to displease him. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you are lucky. There is no flood in your area. So, you will not feel so much....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: My area is completely covered with sea. Hon. Minister has come and seen it.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I am going there in October. I would see the place.

I would request that after this discussion on flood you should have some dialogue with the Finance Ministry and the Planning Commission and try to find out some short-term and long-term solutions. The short-term solution is to call the States and tell them that the basic lifelines for an ordinary man in the village should be repaired. I know that it was once done when Shri V.C. Shukla was the Minister. He, at our request, did it and for that we are very grateful.

I know that Shri Nitish Kumar is a man of the masses and my fiend, Shri Arjun Sethi is also a common man. I would request them to please take some steps.

[Translation]

What did you debate the debate was over, then news came in the papers, you went after lecturing and the hon'ble Minister went to his home.

[English]

This is the feeling of the people about our Parliament, which, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are managing very well. You should also ask the Government to give some funds to help us. Now-a-days, the hon. Speaker, does not say anything to the Government.

[Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev]

Sir, sometimes you should give a direction to the Government as you have done today in the case of the discussion under Rule 184. I would like to congratulate you for that. The Government will not fall because of a discussion under Rule 184. You will also not go down in the esteem of the people if you give a direction. In fact, you will be known by the people of Assam that you have directed the Government to give some money for their relief. So, kindly give a direction to the Government in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH (Domariaganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India is an agricultural country and the agriculture suffers damage on account of floods and drought. There is damage of life and property also. In 1998 there was a severe flood in our eastern Uttar Pradesh and the roads, rivers and dams that were damaged in that flood have not yet been fully repaired. The entire Uttar Pradesh was in the grip of flood and my district Sidharth Nagar and Maharaj Nagar, Gorakhpur, Basti, Devaria etc. districts were also affected. Even the road from Gorakhpur to Lucknow was cut off. The communication to the Tehsils from the districts along the Nepal border was cut off and it took years to built them, Hon'ble Prime Minister had himself done air survey to the area and the central team had visited as usually happens. The damage that was done to the people due to the flood have not yet been compensated in spite of all efforts made by the Central Government and the State Government. Several villages were destroyed. All buildings were collapsed which have not yet been built. The people were given money in the name of relief, subsidy was provided to construct houses, but despite every effort of the Government their houses could not be built. That is why this should not be done after the flood. Rather a Master Plan should be prepared before the flood occurs. That is why I had given a notice to the Minister of Water Resources under Rule 377, and in reply to that it was said that the Government have been asked to control the flood of the rivers of Ganga basin. Merely arguing does not bear fruits. The rivers come from Nepal. Our Sidharth Nagar district is situated along the Nepal border. 58 km boundary of my district share with Nepal. The main projects that were prepared to check the flood in these rivers are Bhalu dam project and Jal kundi project. Unless these projects are prepared and negotiation is done with the Government of Nepal, there will not be any permanent solution of the flood. Otherwise there will be flood and devastation. Some money will be given by the Central Government to the State Governments. The State Governments will distribute petty relief amounts in the villages and thus formality will go on. That is why some concrete solution to the problem should be found out.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today it is due to the situation that the rivers have become shallow and there is need to desilt them. Although dams have been built but rivers are not so deep that is why rivers are over flowing. Therefore, Sir, through you I would like to request hon'ble Minister that there will be no benefit from this repeated formality as hon'ble Member has said. All Members who are sitting here, participating in the discussion and who are not present here should prepare such projects and utilize the assistance received from hon'ble Minister, the Prime Minister and all other sources so that the farmers could be protected from calamity that happens every year and the money that is left after expenditure on rehabilitation and relief should be utilized under the master plan to protect the people every year from the flood. A project was prepared at the time of K. Lal Saheb to connect the rivers of the northern region with the rivers of the South. So that the flood and drought situation may be tackled. Recently in previous Lok Sabha it was discussed that this project requires huge amount. I admit that this project requires huge amount but if the modest work is done then certainly one day this project will be completed. If we will continue to think that this project will require heavy amount then that will never be accomplished. That is why I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture that he should call a meeting of the people of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Bengal etc. on this subject to discuss as to what should be done in this regard as once Shri C.P. Thakur had done while he was the Minister of Water Resources. Every State had given its suggestion. We had also given our suggestions should consider those suggestions and should work after preparing master plan only then we will be able to cope with the floods that occur every year.

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me a chance. You know that I am one of the senior most Members of this House. This is my eighth term. During this long period, I think there has been no such year in which we have not discussed flood, drought or any such thing. This is the position. We are discussing it. We are debating it. We shall ask for embankment. We shall ask for afforestation. We shall ask for some other things. We shall ask for money. The hon. Minister from the Government side will say, "All Right. This much has been allotted for you".

In this connection, through you, I would like to ask a question to the hon. Minister here. Last year, he was not the Minister of Agriculture. There was his predecessor. Last year, there were floods in West Bengal. Fourteen districts were affected. At that time, the State Government had asked for Rs. 725 crore and he had sent a Central Team. They visited many places. After coming back from there, the Government gave only Rs. 29 crore. The Central Team recommended Rs. 200 crore. May I know about the estimation of sending a Central Team? Is it not an unnecessary expenditure? You could have said, "This was the lottery. Rs. 5 crore have been allotted to 'A' State, Rs. 2 crore for 'B' State and Rs. 3 crore for 'C' State." He could have distributed it in this manner. This type of thing should not be done.

From 1st August, there have been heavy rains in the northern parts of West Bengal, particularly in Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Coach Behar. The river was in spate. There has also been rain in the upper catchment area. The entire North Bengal got flooded with water. Do you know as to what is its position and dimension? About 300 houses have been washed away. About 4,000 houses have been damaged. About five lakh people are flood affected. About 2,000 cattle have lost their lives. This is the position. Have you sent a single farthing to them as yet? No.

We are discussing how we can check the floods. This has been discussed so many times. Today, I am repeating all those things. In the 1950s, there was a Commission. It was not Shri K.L. Rao's time. In 1950s, there was a mention about Brahmaputra-Krishna-Godavri Canal, that is, from North to South. Let there be a river grid. Have you taken up this position till today? No.

In 1965, just to control the flood affected areas of North Bengal and the North-Eastern Region, there was a Report of the Man Singh Committee. Have you gone through that? The reply is 'no'.

Last time also, we tried hard. Particularly that Members from Bihar, West Bengal and the North-Eastern Region demanded that let there be talks with the Governments of Nepal and Bhutan, and others. You did not do that. How can you check the water? Take the instance of North Bengal. We are very much linked with Bhutan.

In Bhutan, deforestation is going on ruthlessly. They are mining the dolomite, that means, river water is coming down very heavily in that part. The entire area is going to be flooded.

Sir, now we are speaking about embankments. But what is the position with regard to embankments? The riverbed is silted and is going to be high and high. Tomorrow, in future, we shall have to ask our children and grand children where is the river. It is not down but is flooding high and we are down. This is the condition of entire India. If this is the position, may I know from hon. Minister, has he set up any commission to check these floods throughout the country? How can he send water to the drought prone areas? All things have to be taken up at a time and in an appropriate manner.

Sir, these activities are very much condemn able. When we are floating on floods, at that time so many areas have been isolated. Rail lines have been washed away. Now, some road links have been made, but in some parts rail links could not be established.

The hon. Minister of Food and Supplies is not here. The FCI has taken a decision to stop storing activities in some parts of West Bengal and let Godown facilities to be available only in Siliguri. The facilities in Alipore Dwar and Jalpaiguri have been withdrawn. How will they supply food to others? This is the position as on now. They do not care about others.

I request the hon. Minister to come to our part, visit the affected areas and do something for the flood victims. I would also request the hon. Minister to sanction some money and not to depend on the central teams because no one knows when those teams would visit the affected areas and sanction the money for these downtrodden and poor people affected by floods.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH (Balia, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are discussing floods. It is said that flood is discussed every year but the situation remains the same. National Flood Commission had estimated that the country has a flood prone area of 40 million hectare. Out of which 32 million hectare can be given protection. Government of India has spent a lot of money on it since the first five year plan. A total length of 19000 kms of embankments were constructed whereas the drainage channels were constructed to the extent of 32,000 kms. Inspite of all this, the situation has come to such a pass that India comes only after Bangladesh as far as the flood affected area or the damage due to floods is concerned. In the decade of 50's flood used to displace 16 million persons while in the decade of 80's the figure has increased to 53 million. Situation has worsened to such an extent that 30 million persons are getting displaced due to floods every year.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, from the first five year plan to date, about Rs. 41-42 thousand crores have been lost in the form of damage of crops, damage to houses or damage to roads. Present situation is that every year 1500 lives are lost due to floods. In the year, 1977, more than 11000 people were killed in floods. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many programmes were launched, many were implemented, discussions were held on them, but what I want to say is something different. A lot of experiments were conducted regarding the drainage channels, embankments construction etc. but the situation did not improve, but it only increased. It has led to the emergence of another concept that what needs to be checked is not the flow of river but the human population. Rivers should be allowed to flow as they may. I want to share my personal experience. An old river flows adjacent to my house. A dam was breached there in 1938. At that time I was about 6-7 years old. The level of water flowing near my house was only one and a half feet. If breaches develop in the dam today the water of the river would flow above the ceiling of my house. The country has started the experiment of constructing dam on the rivers since the first five year plan. Since then water bed of the river has been rising. It leads to the rise in water level and after every five years the Government increases the height of the dam. The height of the dams have increased to such an extent that wherever there is a breach, the whole area gets inundated. Dam was constructed over river Hwang Ho. The bed of river Hwang Ho has risen about 13 feet which has posed a major threat to China. Whenever there will be a breach in the dam, it will affect large number of population. The world is now coming round to the view that the population needs to be controlled and not the flow of the river. This experiment does not call for the interference with the natural course or the nature of the river. If there is interference with the nature, it will lead to disastrous consequences, as we have seen in Orissa, Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh. It will continue to happen. That is why, I say that don't interfere with nature of the rivers, let them flow naturally. Because the country has been existing since the centuries. Even at the beginning there were rivers, we were bound by the sea from three sides, there were mountains in the neighbourhood and Nepal was also existing. River was also flowing then from Nepal but the situation was not so bad as it has become in the last 50 years.

Another point I want to make is that the rivers should be linked to one another. We have National Power Grid, similarly all the rivers should be linked to form a National Water Grid. Otherwise the different parts of the country will continue to be affected by the flood and the drought simultaneously. Even if we leave aside the whole country, in Bihar itself, it is seen that some districts are affected due to floods while others are affected by drought. If the rivers are linked together, then the surplus water would flow out to the water deficit areas and such a situation would not be created anywhere.

Thirdly, I would like to remind you that Dr. Lohia has said in 1956 that rivers should be desilted every five, ten or fifteen years. The silt depositing in the river bed should be cleared. I want to say that we have managed a certain degree of success in flood control, now we should also strive towards the drought control. It is because river water increases the fertility of fields and kills harmful insects. But the river water no longer floods the fields. Due to the absence of silt deposition in the fields, the fertility of soil is getting down. The crops are affected by the diseases due to the presence of insects which damage the crops....*(Interruptions)* Finally, I would like to conclude by suggesting that all the rivers should be linked together and only then the dams and reservoirs should be constructed so that the river water becomes a boon for us rather than a curse. Please get the rivers desilted because the method is eco-friendly. In the year 1970....*(Interruptions)* When Shri K.L. Rao was the Minister of irrigation he had suggested that the rivers Ganga and Kaveri should be linked. The Government ought to implement it. Therefore, the right thing is not to construct the dam across the rivers but to link them together. With this, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Nagina Mishra-Absent.

Shri Bwiswmuthiary-Absent.

Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak, Hon'ble Member Shri Ram ji lal Suman initiated a very serious discussion on floods under rule 193. In this connection, a number of hon'ble Members also gave their suggestions. The discussion was very informative. I thank all of them. I wish to say that flood is a natural calamity but is created by the humans, by the Government.

This discussion was conduced in this very House in the year 1977 also. A number of old Members of Parliament are present. Morarji Bhai was the Prime Minister then. He had categorically promised that the rivers of Uttar Pradesh would be connected with rivers of South India. When a Member asked about the availability of funds, he said that the funds will not be a problem. He will leave no stone unturned to raise the money. Flood is a national calamity, a calamity for humans and a problem for the cultivation also. I would try to solve the problem. As Shri Raghunath Babu said, officials are able to find a way of embezzlement from the expenditure every year. We have to plug the way. I would like to submit a few words about the suggestions of other Members.

In Maharashtra, during the current year, there was rainfall for a complete month and the area was flooded. It was unprecedented, the young son of an MLA in Jalgaon was swept away in the flood. Situation has become so serious. Since three weeks, there has been no rainfall and the situation is like drought there. I request the Central Government to send a committee there, and measures be taken to solve the national problem of flood. States should be allocated more funds for relief. With this, I conclude.

SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my colleagues have said a lot. It is correct that the issue is being discussed for the last 20 years, a number of suggestions have been made, some of them were valuable but inspite of all this the concrete measures which ought to have been taken, were not taken. Therefore, I have no hesitation in saying that this calamity is no longer a natural calamity nor a result of human failure but is a man made calamity. Therefore it is required to find out a way to solve the problem with the assistance of scientists and experts. Simply surveying the affected area by the Prime Minister or other Ministers on a helicopter during the severe floods is not going to solve the problem. In such situations, all parties ought to be represented in the tour and recommendations of this body should be implemented by the Government, more and more fund should be provided and adequate steps should be taken to solve this crisis.

This problem is existing everywhere—be it Bihar, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam or Himachal Pradesh. I want to relate here a problem of my own constituency. Dams and projects have been constructed at many places in an indiscriminate manner which has resulted in the problem of floods. In my constituency, NTPC has constructed a railway line for transporting coal in Pahalgaon which has caused the problem of submergence of an area of more than one thousand acres. Every year, water logging occurs and there is loss of lakhs of rupees of crops and also of lives and property every year. Similarly the area between Sultanganj and Pahalgam is getting eroded by the river Ganga and lakhs of people are becoming homeless.

Therefore, I demand that the Government of India, the Union Minister take adequate steps to solve the problem of land erosion and other problems of farmers. Besides, fund should be released for relief on a large scale. Adequate measures should be taken to solve all problems whether it is of providing boats or credit facilities. Besides measures should also be taken to solve the problem of rehabilitation and land erosion.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since independence measures taken to check floods every year by the State Governments and the Central Government have not been successful. Since independence crores of rupees spent to check flood, did not saved the lives of people from flood but definitely made rich the contractors and engineers. Today the need is that the Central Government should take up proper water management in the whole country and water should be included in the concurrent list. Today I want to submit through you that rivers from Nepal every year affected lakhs of families in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Water disputes between India and Nepal have caused bitterness in their relations. An anti-India campaign is going on in Nepal that India is making maximum use of water, and on this question no political party of Nepal is ready to come forward to take fruitful initiative. Nepal is our friend. There I urge the Government of India that after taking the Government of Nepal into confidence and by taking all political parties of that country into confidence

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]

the problem of flood which is there, as a result of rivers coming from Nepal, an agreement should be arrived at to solve the problem of flood by giving economic assistance. For example the four rivers Ghaghra, Rapti, Rohini and Gandak are mainly these four rivers which every year in districts Sidharathnagar, Maharajganj, Gorakhpur, Kusinagar, Deoria, Mau in Eastern Utar Pradesh cause extensive damage. Many districts of Bihar also get destroyed. These four rivers every year inflict heavy losses on more than two crore people. I would like to submit through you that the amount spent on these rivers during the last 50 to save the people from flood if had been utilized properly by formulating effective policy, then the people of that region could have been saved from the disasters of flood. Today I want to submit through you, to the Government that if honestly they want to solve this problem in these regions then merely discussing it in the House is not the solution of this problem. How serious is Parliament regarding this problem could be judged by the number of Members present in the House, and how serious is the Government could be judged by the number of Ministers present in the House. Sir, through you I want to say, if we have to solve the problem of flood permanently, a Parliamentary Committee should be constituted. For rest of term of the House a Parliamentary Committee should be constituted. To save the country from flood this Parliamentary Committee should also visit Nepal. By constituting a joint Committee comprising of scientists, engineers and flood experts, the problem of flood be solved permanently. I am concluding by saying one last thing that besides flood, problem of drought is also there. Farmers are facing the twin problems of shortage of irrigation water and the declining water table. I would like to request the hon. Minister that at present there is need to conserve rain water by scientific means to check declining water table. With these words I conclude.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: My only appeal to all of you is that it is now going to be according to the schedule. So, each speaker is given five minutes only. I request that let that be strictly adhered to.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I am sorry when my name was called I was held up for 9th August function....*(Interruptions)*

Sir, first of all, on behalf of our Party, I strongly plead the case of Arunachal Pradesh which is recently the victim of worst ever flood in the history of India. This tiny State is having no resources at their command. I was told that nothing had been given from the Centre till now. I will be grateful to the Government if they respond to this crisis immediately and rescue Arunachal Pradesh.

The second point is that I am still very confused as to who is dealing with the subject of flood. My understanding was that when Dr. C.P. Thakur, the then hon. Minister, held a meeting after the Lok Sabha was constituted that flood is his subject and I understood the flood relief is the subject of the Ministry of Agriculture. So, I am happy that both the Ministers, Shri Arjun Sethi, hon. Minister of Water Resources and the Minister of Agriculture, who is to do work after the flood, are here.

I am thankful to both the Ministers. Both the Ministers are committed, honest, sincere and are men of the public having practical experience in their lives. So, I do hope a lot that they will respond to this.

Sir, I have been arguing it a number of times. I represent an area in North Bengal. I would like to inform you that out of 11 blocks in my constituency, Raiganj, seven blocks remain under water for four months a year. During election time, out of 1500 booths, 680 polling booths are on boat. You can imagine the plight of the people whom I represent. I am told that the Ganges is changing its course in the district of Malda and within five years Malda town would be under water of Ganges. This is the threat.

The starting point of the river Phulhar in Bihar is destroying my area called Ratna. There is already an island surrounded by the river and 80 villages have already gone into erosion and people of 20 villages are crying for the last two months. I could not tell them anything. I told privately to the hon. Minister, Shri Arjun Sethi. I wrote a number of letters to the hon. Minister, but, as usual, the reply was that it is being looked into. Finally, when it will be looked into, everything will be under water and there is nothing to look into except water. Therefore, with all seriousness, I would request the hon. Minister to consider this. I would give only a few suggestions.

There is an area known as Itahaar. Hon. Member, Shri Rupchand Pal knows about it. It is under water for six months in a year. What do I do there? There is nothing, no education, etc. I represent an area called Raiganj. Half of the area is linked with Barsoi of Bihar. Hon. Minister Shri Nitish Kumar comes from that area. Nothing could move there. The National Highway number 34, which is the life-line of North-East, is under water for four months a year. Nothing moves there. Therefore, I would make a few suggestions to the hon. Minister in line with what Kunwar Akhilesh Singh has said. Please

write a letter to all the MPs of areas known as flood-prone segments and advise them. You identify the rivers connected with the border countries—rivers in Bangaldesh and Nepal- and the Indian rivers, which are causing problems.

Thirdly, you compile all those data in your computer and evaluate in the State Annual Plan as to how much is there to have a total management of the flood and how much is there for the temporary management of the flood. Thereafter, you prepare a White Paper and call a two-day brain-storming meeting of all those MPs, and bring the State Government Representatives. You understand what available resources can be there to look after the issue. Then, a comprehensive idea could be evolved because in our district, Uttar Dinajpur and Dakshin Dinajpur, we are the victims of river from Bangladesh every year. We cannot help it. Sometimes, I feel that we are paying a price. We are the victims of the river which is coming from Bihar called Phulhar. I do not blame Bihar. The river has to flow somewhere. These days it is said in the modern world that there cannot be any flood control. It could only be flood management. River cannot be resisted, nature cannot be throttled by pressure and nature should move as it is.

[Translation]

We have heard from childhood river flows and it can not be stopped.

[English]

Therefore, you have got to take three things into consideration. You have enormous funds not at your disposal, but at the disposal of the Ministry of Rural Development. I gave this idea to the District Collector of my constituency that the money in the programme of Employment Assurance Scheme should be spent like China did. During the period January to April the digging and de-silting process of the river should be done and you take this soil and put it on high embankment. Every month in these three months, it should be done permanently as a regular programme in every *Panchayat* with that money and with proper supervision. With this you can handle half of your problem.

I tell you that half of your money is not reaching for the flood management. It is taken away by thieves and dacoits. There is a lobby in Pakur and Raj Mahal areas. I would request you to visit that area. They will decide what time the stones should be put and they will decide it around the time of monsoon so that it will be washed away. If any engineer is courageous enough and shifts it much in advance, there will be attempts on his life. That is the kind of *mafia* that is there.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, he is talking very genuine thing....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am speaking about a very serious thing. When my area was devastated by floods, I told the engineer as to why he did not start the work six months before....*(Interruptions)* Sir, I cannot tell you officially. But the fact is that this *mafia* will not allow to release the tenders in time so that the span which will be built by the stones will come up in time and if it is attempted, there will be attempts on the life. I tell you that this is a serious problem.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to please consider this, without listening to the officers sitting there. I told you to take care of the Ganga Flood Control Commission in Raj Mahal and Pakur areas. Do you think that the Bengal flood is only limited upto Raj Mahal? No. There are Mahananda and Jalpaiguri divisions. The rivers, Tangon, Chiramati, Sui, Nagar, Kulik are creating havoc. I have already started collecting the tarpaulins because this is the month of August and I know that the floods are coming within a week in my constituency. So, I am only collecting the tarpaulins because I know that the Government of India will not give anything and the State Government will say that there are no funds and the Members of Parliament will be hauled up as to what we are doing.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to please not to dispose of this debate in a casual manner and have a constructive debate and discussion for two or three days. You sit in Vigyan Bhavan and call all the M.Ps. representing the flood-prone areas. You take in advance the papers from them. You call the representatives of the State Governments. You call your experts. You have a two-day meeting and then you come to the conclusion as to how to do it. You also call the Minister of Rural Development because there is a huge amount of money in the *Panchayats*. Without doing any hard work they are taking the money. You compel them that in January-April period they should take up the river programme and in May-June the drought-prone area programme. In July the monsoons will come and the rivers will be ready. If you do not do this in a business-like manner every year, I am afraid you cannot tackle the flood management. You do not resist the flow of the river. Let the river flow as it desires. The human beings should plan and allow the river to flow and then manage the flood situation by heightening the embankment and taking care of the causes of silting etc. under this Employment Assurance Scheme every year.

[Translation]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (Bijnor): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the issue of flood. Our country is known for unity in diversity. At any given point of time rains, drought, storms can be witnessed. Our country is facing several calamities. District Bijnor is located in the Terai region and 20-25 rivers of Uttranchal flow through this district. Bijnor district is located on the banks of sacred Ganga, the most sacred river. In the month of June heavy rains were experienced for 4-5 days there. People believe that such type of flood occurred nearly 80 years back in which 22 people died, 80 cattle perished, around 5000 houses were damaged and some slum-dwellers were washed away in flood. Around 25 villages located on the banks of rivers Ganga, Ram Ganga and Melan were flooded by about 20 rivers. For 5-6 days rains were experienced in the hills as well as the terai.

Heavy rains caused large damage. The Government of India as well as the Uttar Pradesh Government were informed. It was reported by all the newspapers but till now only ten lakhs of rupees have been provided. Except this till now nothing has been done. All the roads such as Bijnor to Pauri, Bijnor to Nangal, Bijnor to Kalagarh, Bijnor to Nurpur, Bijnor to Nagina-Badepur Bijnor to Panipat-Khatima etc. were damaged. Around rupees 100 crore loss took place. Two bridges, 8-10 small culverts have been damaged. The condition of roads is such that it is difficult to drive on them. Due to soil erosion by rivers thousands of acres of forest land had been washed away. Therefore, through you, my request to the hon. Minister is that rupees 50 crore should be arranged for Bijnor district. Tax on farmers should be waived off. The farmers should be given relief in the recovery of loans.

With these points I conclude.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in flood affected areas agriculture and life and property are being damaged. The Hon. Prime Minister said that we are discussing this issue for the last many years but Government has not achieved any success in this regard. My suggestion is that the water from flood prone areas should be diverted to the water scarcity areas. Konkan region of Mumbai experiences heavy rains but rain water flows into sea and is not utilised. Therefore, Shri Nitish Kumar ji should consider building of a new reservoir....*(Interruptions)* It is not to be scoffed similarly there is a need to build Flood Control Corporation. On the issue of awarding of contracts Shri Munshi ji and some other hon'ble Members have mentioned that in it incidents of corruption do take place. There is need to put restrictions on engineers and other people. My second suggestion is that there is a need to rehabilitate people affected by flood of rivers in Maharashtra such as Godawari, Krishna, Panchganga, Chandrabhaga. We should have report about the places affected by flood. The Government should go in for survey in this regard. The Hon'ble Member from Bijnor was just mentioning that floods came after 80 years in Ganga river in the district.

Many people died in that. Therefore, Wherever floods come, Government should consider seriously about how to check floods. If this Government do not make efforts to check flood then in the coming elections if flood of votes turns this side, it would be very difficult for you to come in power again. Therefore, there is need to check this flood. It might also happen that if flood comes there Shri Nithish Kumar could sail to this side. This is also like flood. Such thing also happen in politics and it is correct. Therefore, Shri Nitish Kumarji should make earnest efforts to check the flood.

Therefore, I urge you to make efforts to check the flood.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Arjun Sethi to intervene in the debate.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to intervene in this important discussion on floods in different parts of the country, and the measures to be taken to mitigate the sufferings of the people in the affected States. My senior colleague, hon. Minister of Agriculture, will deal with the issues of relief, restoration as well as rehabilitation of the affected people, and other problems arising out of these floods like landslides in different States.

At the outset, I thank the hon. Member who has initiated this debate. He and the other Members who have spoken have pointed out the seriousness as well as the damages caused to the States in different parts. They have narrated in detail the problems being faced in their respective States. I do not want to go into those details. I would only like to highlight here that after Independence, especially after the planning process started in our country, no doubt, measures have been taken, and funds have been allotted to control floods as well as to provide irrigation facilities in the States for the benefit of the people, especially the farmers. Due to this, the area under irrigation has increased from 20 million

hectares to 90 million hectares over the years. The green revolution is the result of it, and the food production has increased from 52 million tonnes to 200 million tonnes.

My hon. Friend, Shri Dasmunsi, and those who have spoken on this issue have brought to the notice of the House as well as the Ministry that the Members concerned, whose constituencies have been affected by floods, should be involved and there should be a discussion so that the flood prone areas can be known, and a master plan or some sort of task force should be constituted to deal with this problem.

Sir, I have no objection to that. But I would like to remind him that the subject of flood control is not entirely with the Central Government. Flood control and Irrigation is in the State List. The primary responsibility lies with the State Government.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I also have said that you could invite the representatives of the State Governments as well.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, I would not like to enter into any controversy. You are aware that how small matters now-a-days are blown out of proportions and how this inter-State river waters have turned into inter-State water disputes. No tangible results could be achieved to provide water or irrigation facilities to the deficit areas getting transferred from surplus areas of the country. This has been a problem for all Governments at the Centre. I would not like to blame any particular State Government or any particular area. But I would just like to highlight some of the reasons as to why this problem has become so acute in the recent years.

Sir, hon. Member Shri Suman has stated that the Government has no National Water Policy. I would like to remind him that a policy has been adopted in 1987 and is in force. The State Governments, within the framework of that National Water Policy, are trying to solve the inter-State water disputes. There are cases pending in the Tribunals; there are cases pending even in the High Courts and the Supreme Court. We all know. The Government is still trying to evolve a consensus to solve this problem. This problem could be solved only with the concurrence of the State Governments and with the concurrence of the different agencies. Now this assumed such a proportion that it is not possible to manage and control the floods.

Sir, hon. Member Shri Suman has referred to the total area that has been given protection from flood. I would like to mention here that out of the total flood prone area of 40 million hectare, the total area that could be given reasonable protection is about 32 lakh million hectare. Out of this, protection has been provided to 14.4 million hectare of land. The total amount spent for the purpose by both the Centre and State is Rs. 5,831 crore. This is the amount that has been spent till date since the inception of the Plan process. This is the cumulative spending by the Centre and the States.

Sir, it could be imagined that in spite of this much spending, this problem is on the increase and it is because of increase in population and depreciation in the value of the rupee.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, how could population be linked to floods?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: It has nothing to do with population.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, the value of rupee has come down.

20.00 hrs.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we are not discussing the fiscal policy of the country now.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri, Dasmunsi, let the Minister be heard first. You can seek clarifications later on, if you want.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: I referred to it because some hon. Members keep saying that while the Government spending on flood management is on the increase, there has been no improvement in flood management.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we mean to say that the money that is allocated should not be misappropriated.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record now except the Minister.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The convention is that when a Member wants to seek some information, he has to request the Minister to yield first.

---

*Not recorded.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, as I have stated earlier, as the population grows over the years, the density of population in particular areas increases tremendously. As a consequence of that, the number of people affected by floods also increases. That is the connection between growth in population and flood management. The is what I meant when I talked about it.

Some Members have talked about interlinking of Himalayan rivers and the peninsular rivers. The National Water Development Agency, which was set up in the 80s, is taking up this issue. Most probably they would be achieving their target by, as reported to me, the year 2010. However, unless this Agency gets the cooperation of the States concerned, it will not be possible to complete the feasibility studies in time.

Some problems of flood management have been pointed out. My friend hon. Shri Prabhunath Singh has referred to the Lok Nayak Jayaprakash's native village Sitab Diara. The Central Water Commission has prepared a plan in this regard. I assure him that the money required for this work would be found and the work will be taken up in time. I understand that my predecessor who visited that place earlier assured the people of this. Necessary funds are being arranged so that this village is saved from floods in time.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Once the Central Water Commission had visited and taken a decision, it no longer remains a State subject. That was the point I was making. There are agencies under the Union Ministry which take the State Governments for their own programmes and the Minister straightaway says that he cannot do anything because it is a State subject.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: The Central Government may prepare a feasibility study, prepare a scheme but who is to execute it? My senior colleague knows all these things. Ultimately it is the State Governments which have to execute such schemes. If the State Governments do not execute them properly and in time all the schemes will go in vain.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I agree with that.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister for the assurance that he has given. Alongwith this my submission is that if the State Government does not work properly, the Central Government should protect the village of Lok Nayak Jaiprakash Narayan by assigning the task to some other agency.

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Sir, I have not been given a chance to speak on this very serious matter although I also gave my name to participate in the discussion. I should be allowed to speak now.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bwismuthiary, I called your name but you were not present here. All of us were there but you were not there. Where were you?

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: I was told that my turn would come after one hour....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I called your name. But you were absent.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Can you not give me a chance to speak now?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, you cannot, please.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, some hon. Members mentioned about the Indo-Nepal cooperation, and in regard to problems with Bangladesh and Bhutan. At this stage, I can say this much that recently the Prime Minister of Nepal visited our country and had discussion with the Government. From that discussion, what I gather is that they are very much positive in their approach to this problem. I hope, whatever problems which are there, will be discussed mutually and something positive will come out. I am very much optimistic about having some of the projects executed to save the people not only of Nepal but also of our country.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar): What abbot Bhutan?

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: About Bhutan, I was told that my predecessor Dr. C.P. Thakur was about to visit Bhutan. But because of his shifting from this Ministry to the other Ministry, this could not take place. But I hope, in the near future, we will have a discussion with the Government of Bhutan and find a solution.

Similarly with regard to problem concerning Bangladesh, we will have discussion with the Government of Bangladesh and try to solve it.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: What about China?

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: I cannot say anything about China....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: After he visits China, he will tell about it....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: So, about Indo-Nepal, Indo-Bhutan and Indo-Bangladesh cooperation, we are optimistic. We hope that we will achieve something positive because all these Governments are very positive in their approach. In this regard I want to assure all the Members, especially from Bihar and West Bengal that we will achieve something positive.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister regarding this subject that last time in 1996 while hon'ble Minister was replying on this subject we had requested that the committee that is to be formed....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Are you yielding Mr. Minister?

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: No, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Rudy, he is not yielding.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: There is no participation of the Ministry of Water Resources in that committee. Just now he was saying that the Prime Minister of Nepal had come for talks. It is a very important matter. All these things are meaningless. It does not make any sense to time and again debate on this subject. All the hon. Members have dwelt at length about the various aspects of this problem and the role of various people in solving this problem. There should be representation of the State Government, there should be representation of this House, the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Environment. However, who will coordinate it? Nobody is ready to take responsibility. Every time this is discussed....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: First, hear me.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: No one is ready to bell the cat.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: My hon. friend has also mentioned it....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Rudy, you cannot stand up and start seeking clarification when he is not yielding.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, you must appreciate that this issue is very important.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The issue may be very important but at the same time when he is on his legs, he has to yield first. It is not that without his yielding you would stand up and ask clarification.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, we want a solution to the problem.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The moment you want to seek any clarification, he has to yield first.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, it is not the question of clarification. We are only requesting the hon. Minister. We want to know as to whether he is a party to that big Committee which is there; whether he is a part of the negotiations with Indo-Nepal team; and whether the Ministry of External Affairs takes him into confidence. We want to know all these things.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Rudy, you have also spoken on the same subject earlier also. He is giving reply also.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, as my friend Shri Rudy has rightly pointed, the Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of External Affairs and also the Governments of Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh will sit together and find out the solution. Everybody will be taken into confidence.

I cannot, by standing here, say that this will be done or that will be done. I cannot assure that. But efforts are being made. With the previous Government in Nepal, the discussions almost stopped. But after the take over of the new Government in Nepal, they have come here and they have had discussions. They are positive in their approach. Only this much I can say. The Ministry of External Affairs is also very much involved; they will

[Shri Arjun Sethi]

arrange everything. We will be a part of that and I think, something positive would come up.

My senior colleague will speak about other things like the steps that the Government has taken. He has visited Arunachal Pradesh and he would inform the House about that. He will also inform as to what is the amount of funds that has been allotted and also about the relief that has been given to those people. He will also deal with the situation in Himachal Pradesh and in other parts of the country.

I would say only this much that the occurrence of flood is not new; it has been there since long. The Government is taking all possible steps. With the cooperation of the State Governments and with the cooperation of all the hon. Members here, the Government as a whole can take steps to mitigate the sufferings of the people. There is no doubt about that. At the same time, I would say this that controlling of flood to one hundred per cent cannot be achieved because flood-prone area is very vast. That cannot be stopped, but its fury can be lessened.

With these words, I once again thank you very much.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bwiswmuthiary, I have called out your name, but you were not present. Nothing will go on record. No. I cannot allow you now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bwiswmuthiary, I called out your name, but you were not present here. Nothing will go on record now.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Janardhana Reddy, you can seek a clarification after the Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar's reply. The Minister is going to give reply now; and after that, you can seek a clarification.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (Narasaraopet): Sir, I have got only a few things to mention to the hon. Minister, Shri Sethi, Shri Nitish Kumar will talk about the rehabilitation, etc. His subject is clear.

*Not recorded.

I feel that Shri Sethi seems to have slightly got into the groove. I would only mention to him, through you, Sir, that Dr. K.L. Rao was holding this subject. He was the man who started studying the nature of rivers. He was mentioning about controlling the flood. 'Flood control' has gone and 'flood management' is the order of the day.

Here, one of the experienced hon. Members was mentioning that river is rising and not the floods. That means, it is getting silted. The natures of Himalayan rivers and the ground rivers are different. You may say that river water is a State subject. But River Godavari starts in Maharashtra and ends in Andhra Pradesh; River Krishna starts in Maharashtra and ends in Andhra Pradesh. So, it is not that one State alone can be asked to do it. So, it is the study, the research about the nature of rivers and planning control or management that is necessary.

So, I only earnestly ask the Minister, through you, Sir whether he is going to continue the research in the CPWD or not.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is CWC.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: That is right, Sir. I stand corrected.

You study these rivers and help the nation. You cannot say that this is a State subject.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Shri Janardhana Reddy is a senior Member. He has made some suggestions. The CWC is already doing that.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: About the water released in Maharashtra, they would warn at Bhadrachalam or Rajhamundry by which time the water flows. This is the kind of work they are doing.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Janardhana Reddy, the Minister says that the research, about which you were talking, is already being done by the CWC, may be in Bhadrachalam or in some other place. That is what he said.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: What I mentioned to the hon. Minister is different and what he is talking about is different. I am talking about studying the nature of individual rivers.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is also being studied.

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have given a chance to Shri Reddy of Congress party to ask clarification but you are not giving me opportunity to speak. The crores of rupees that are being given by the Central Government to the Assam Government for taming Brahmputra river should be divided into two parts and Brahmputra flood Control Board should also be bifurcated....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I am a lone Member of my party. I should have been given a chance to raise a few points which are very-very important.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bwiswmuthiary, your name was called. You were not here. Is it my fault?

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: I am very sorry for that. Since the matter is very serious, I should have been given a chance to speak.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, Shri Bwiswmuthiary has mentioned some points to me. I have taken note of them. I will write to him.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have mentioned some points to him. He has already taken note of them.

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the project that is coming up in Assam should be done away with. My submission to the Government is that the project that benefits the tribal people are not executed and the project that harm the tribal people are executed....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is this you are doing?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bwiswmuthiary, you are a senior Member. You have to behave well in this House.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bwiswmuthiary, you have to speak with the permission of the Chair. I called you. You were not here. Can you speak as and when you stand up. Is it the convention here?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the issue of damage to life and property due to the flood in different parts of the country is being discussed and in the discussion 27 hon'ble Members have expressed their views. I would like to thank all of them.

My hon'ble colleague the Minister of Water Resources has just now intervened in the discussion. During the discussion, the hon'ble Members have demanded permanent solution of the flood problem and it is but natural too that whenever there will be a discussion on the problem of flood, the hon'ble Members will express their views on its various aspects. In this regard I would like to tell you about the steps which are being taken to control the flood and what step has been taken by the Government towards finding the permanent solution of this problem has also been explained by Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources in brief by way of intervention in the discussion Naturally all the hon'ble Members of the House have expressed their deep concern regarding the loss of life and property in all parts of the country due to the flood. The hon. Members have also discussed the situation in various areas affected by the flood in different parts of the country. Certain hon'ble Members, particularly Congress MPs, have raised the issue of floods in Arunachal Pradesh. I would have been glad had all the hon. Members who had participated in the discussion on this serious issue would have stayed here till the end of the discussion then. I would have told them about the steps that have been taken to solve the problem. However, even then I will have to reply to all those points that had been raised by them in their absence.

As far as the Arunachal Pradesh is concerned, there were severe floods in the State in June this year. There was no excess rainfall, rather the rainfall was normal. But the flood was so severe that such flood had never occurred in the living memory of the people. The Chief Minister of that State had come here. He met both the Hon. Prime Minister and had met me too. After listening him I decided to visit there and see the situation. Thereafter I went there along with a team of officers of the Central Government. The Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh was always with us. The floods had occurred in

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

Siyang river that originates in Tibet and there is a reservoir and a dam too. That river is called Siyang in India. While it is known by some other name in China. It takes U-turn at a specific place. We saw that part of this river that falls in India. There was severe flood, the current was swift. Many important bridges had been washed away. It was known to everybody there that the flood was not due to any incident related to Arunachal Pradesh. The people living in those area of Arunachal Pradesh are also aware of the fact that this flood was also not of nature's making. Certain incident must have happened across the border in Tibet, in China that has led to this flood. The Government of Arunachal Pradesh and we also appealed after returning from those to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take up this issue with China.

As far as I know the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs has made a mention regarding this. We will get detailed information about this. But it is certain that this flood is related to some incident that has occurred in China. It may be concerned with the structure or there may have been land slide or some other natural phenomenon that led to blocking of water and once the blockade was removed, the flow of the river became so swift that it devastated everything. There was severe damage. Keeping in view the special situation for which we had gone there on return we gave detailed report regarding the prevailing situation there to the Hon. Prime Minister. During those days the Hon. Prime Minister was abroad. I gave him full information after he returned. I apprised him of the report of the team. The steps are being taken in this matter by the Central Government. The State Government has given the report about the estimated damage and our team has also recommended that assistance should be provided to Arunachal Pradesh. However you know that this assistance will be in the form of non-plan assistance. So it takes time. Now we have a difficulty before us that on the basis of the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission besides Calamity Relief Fund, one more fund was set up which is known as National Fund for Calamity Relief. Several hon. Members especially hon'ble Shri Raghuvansh Babu had referred to that fund. But that fund was set up on the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission and National Fund for Calamity Relief was over on 31 March, 2000. You stated that fund was Rs. 700 crore and not of Rs. 100 crore. But approximately Rs 2800 crore was given from that fund. There is no benefit to discuss that thing because it is all over....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: How much amount was given to Arunachal Pradesh?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I am coming to that. The floods had occurred in Arunachal Pradesh in June while the fund had got exhausted on 31 March. On the request of the Chief Minister, I had immediately released the amount that was possible, I had also released the quarterly funds. One hon'ble Member from Arunachal Pradesh was saying that the quarterly release was only 2.208. I would like to inform them that I had recommended for the immediate release of second quarter and so far as my knowledge goes, it has already been released.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Is it plan fund or there is separate fund for relief?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: If you had listened to carefully then you would have understood as I have clearly explained everything. After returning from there, the situation that I had witnessed there I said that they need additional assistance. Normally it is not a metter of relief, as the mandate of relief is different. The immediate relief operations are conducted by Calamity Relief Fund or National Fund of Calamity Relief and when the amount of calamity relief fund is not sufficient to run relief operations then assistance can be provided by the national fund for calamity relief if it is a case of rare severity. This was the system prevailing prior to the Tenth Finance Commission. It does not exist today. The Hon. Prime Minister has initiated the proceedings. He took in seriously and the concrete steps are being taken in this direction by the Central Government. But it is time consuming process so the additional damage to the infrastructure should be compensated. I had also said that speedy work on such bridges should be carried on through the Border Roads Organisation.

It is not true that no action has been taken after the visit. Very swift action has been taken after that visit. Today it is said that you pay a visit there but what could be achieved from the visit. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture to coordinate relief operations and to operate CRF in the event of natural calamity. I am eager to visit such areas. Earlier there was a national fund for calamity relief. As per the previous system, we would have sent a team on the basis of the memorandum and would have considered it in the national committee. The Minister of Agriculture used to be the Chairman of that national committee. But these days it is demanded that I should go there. I wish to go there but as the hon. Members from Arunachal Pradesh have raised the question that what was done after visit. Though works are going on but they are not satisfied with it. I would like to inform about that. The situation at other places is not like that. If we visit there then naturally the people will ask as to what we are going to give. Anyone visiting

anywhere, whether goes by road, by air or boat it depends on the Government there as to what means of transport is provided by them to visiting there. If I want to survey the flood affected area of Bihar, there Raghuvansh Babu's party is in power and they will say you go to survey the area by boat. That you can survey by any means. Go by road as long as there is road you can go by boat or by air. That is a different issue and I would not like to go into it. But after that the people will immediately ask as to what we are going to provide. I will tell that one quarter of calamity relief fund is being released. The people will ask as to what we are giving apart from the calamity relief fund. What should I reply? It will lead to further problem. The same thing happened with Himachal Pradesh. The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh told me.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar): As you have arranged for the construction of the road in Arunachal from border road fund similarly you can provide to them. Whatever you have provided to Arunachal you may given them from the Central Fund.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It seems that I could not explain it to you, I said that after returning I have taken up the issue with all the persons concerned and have also said that it should be disposed of immediately. I said that the process has been initiated and the action is being taken on that. The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh also told us about his State. All the MPs of Himachal Pradesh urge me to go there. One team has been sent there.; One team had been sent there to make assessment. In the meantime the report of the 11th Finance Commission was submitted and it was approved by the Government and also laid in the House. You might have seen the recommendations of the Finance Commission regarding the calamity relief fund, however I would like to mention salient features of that report. They have made provision for calamity relief fund and have increased the amount of calamity relief fund. But the shares of the Central Government and the State Government are the same. There fourth will be given by the Government of India and one fourth will be given by the State Government. This system is in existence and they have suggested to continue this system. But they have abolished Calamity Relief Fund. In place of that they said that.

[English]

"A National centre for calamity Management be established under the Ministry of Agriculture to monitor all types of natural calamities without any reference from Central or State Government. The centre to be empowered to recommend requirement of financial assistance to the affected States over and above CRF."

[Translation]

It is their recommendation. Now a centre will be constituted on the basis of this and thereafter action will be initiated. From this point of view we will do whatever is possible. They have suggested to impose cess on central taxes. If there is a national calamity at any place, cess should be imposed on central taxes. The centre should also contribute Rs. 500 crore for this. For this a legislation will have to be brought in the House. The Ministry of Finance is also taking steps in this direction. After giving the legal shape of it, fresh steps will be taken for the national calamity in the light of the recommendations of the 11th Finance Commission. However, as on date we have the same calamity relief fund. Wherever it is demanded, we release on quarter of its instalment. But naturally it will take time in the effective implementation of their measure in the light of the recommendation of the 11th finance commission as some legal process will have to be completed. It will facilitate a lots of things. It is pertinent for the permanent solution of the problem of floods in all the States whether it is Bihar, or Assam, Uttar Pradesh or West Bengal, Maharashtra or any other State about which discussion have been initiated. Our colleague has said that it would be better if all things are done after inviting suggestions of all the people. But as for the question of flood is concerned it is certain that the steps can be taken only towards checking the devastating impact of flood. If any body says that he will fully stop the flood then to my mind it is not possible and no body can stop it. But there is difference of opinion among the experts regarding the modus operandi and measures to be taken to check the flood. The environmentalists tell us not to interfere in this matter and let the rivers flow, as just now Ram Jiwan Babu has remarked. The persons who are working in the Government have also said that embankment should be constructed at a distance from the river then the issue of the flood proofing was also raised. The people are talking about the flood plan zoning that such zone will be demarcated and after survey a team will be formed. Sethiji's ministry will prepare a plan and will handover it to the State Governments marking out places where settlements should be allowed and where settlements should not be allowed. It flood plan zoning is done about everything then it will become convenient. Where you should allow people to settle and where you should not allow people to settle. It could be done this way. One there are structural measures for the flood and the second is non-structural measures. The

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

structural measures include embankment, drainage channel, and all other things.

[Translation]

Such steps should be taken as part of non-structural measures, but as far as the question of flood is concerned when mankind faces any sort of crisis, we want to assure you that we will definitely take all possible steps to provide them relief. In addition to provisions under Calamity Relief Fund we will expedite action on the recommendation of 11th Finance Commission. Certain States, especially Bihar, and a suggestion from Assam too has been received have demanded that a Central Team should visit the affected States. We would try to send a team to assess the damage....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am inviting you to visit our State to see our sufferings.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Regarding the States whose names have been omitted....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: You have to send a Central team to the Bodoland area also as it is very much neglected.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Be it the question of Bihar or Assam or Himachal Pradesh a team has been sent.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: When team visits Assam it comes back from Guwahati.

[English]

But the internal places are not being visited.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make submission within a minute.

[English]

Sir, I would like to seek a clarification.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please let him complete.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Sir, he is yielding.

[Translation]

The way Arunachal Pradesh was flooded, Himachal Pradesh also faced similar situation. There were no heavy rains on 31st July. Flood caused by excess water from Tibet. Would the Government like to find out the reason behind this sudden flood which caused extensive damage. Even the Chief Minister had requested you to visit that area but you said that it will be of no use. You have mentioned about 11th Finance Commission. It will take considerable time to act upon the recommendation of 11th Finance Commission. Kinnaur is a tribal area which is cut off rest of the country. I request you to visit that area, because after your recommendation for relief Special Grant will be provided from Prime Minister's Relief Fund or from any other source. It is not possible for the Government of Himachal Pradesh to construct 15-16 bridges simultaneously.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: As far as Himachal Pradesh is concerned, as per latest information available the State had to face the furry of flood not because of some natural or unnatural calamity occurring inside the Indian territory. This unprecedented flood has caused so much damage. There is no doubt that there is a need to take special steps to tackle the situation arising out of extensive damage caused by unprecedented flood in Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. Centre has agreed to provide some plan assistance on a request made by the Chief Minister. Later on, we will take up the matter after the report is received. I would like to assure that the Government would take all possible steps to help other States also. The Hon'ble Prime Minister raised a point regarding the demand put forth last time by West Bengal Government and perhaps the Central Government provided Rs. 29 crores. There is a separate procedure under National Fund for Calamity Relief. Under that process the concerned State Government was required to send a memorandum and if it is found that calamity is of rare severity then an inter-ministerial team visits the affected State. Inter-ministerial group considers the report submitted by the Central team. Subsequently National Committee on Relief considers the recommendations made by Inter-ministerial group and then the grant is released on the basis of their conclusions.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: The State Government demanded Rs. 200 crore whereas State has got only Rs. 29 crore.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It is not so. If you are interested I will provide you complete information as to how much amount was demanded by the West Bengal Government. Recommendations of Inter-ministerial group

is meant for the Committee, who then considers it. Off hand, I have no information as to the amount recommended by Inter-ministerial group and how much money was allocated. However, since the fund is exhausted, therefore, there is no use of this discussion. It is immaterial what all you or Raghuvansh Babu mentioned in the discussion, the only thing is that we should be cautious about the future.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: How much amount was granted to West Bengal?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I do not want to go into it. However, I would like to tell Shri Roy that the Government of West Bengal did not submit report regarding flood in North and South Dinajpur in his district. I wrote to Chief Minister Shri Jyoti Basu that people in your State are badly affected by flood and you have not even sent us a report. What could be done? As far as Relief Fund is concerned the State Government is to act on it. We will help them but at least they should come forward. Many States have asked as to monitor the relief work, but how can the Central Government monitor everything. The State Government is also an elected Government which works as per the provisions of constitution. The Central Government perform its role in accordance with recommendation of Finance Commission. Disbursement of relief is a State subject and they are expected to disburse it appropriately. And whenever we receive a complaint we forward it to them with a request to investigate the matter and take suitable action because the country can be run on the basis of mutual cooperation and confidence. Sometimes it is possible that the points raised may not find a place in the report. But it is the State Government, which send report to Central Government. Whenever any point is raised in the House attention is paid towards it. Now one problem has definitely arisen for Bihar. The amount under Calamity Relief Fund meant for Bihar has not been released. It is not released for Maharashtra also. There is a problem in it and that is about opening a separate account for this purpose. The money is to be transferred to this separate account. CAG has raised certain objections to it. In the light of this they have been asked to open a separate account. Such great tragedies strike almost every year. Raghuvansh Babu has rightly said that it is the first blow. After that we face some more blows. We have been noticing right from the beginning that interrupted relief work in affected States is to be carried out from that amount. Under these conditions, they face a problem. Therefore, I urge Shri Raghuvansh Babu ji, who is present here, to use his influence and put pressure on the State Government to open a separate account for calamity relief fund expeditiously. The Finance Ministry has to release this amount. When the Ministry releases the amount then only you open the account since this step has been taken after serious observation were made by CAG. Same thing applies to Maharashtra too. They will have to take similar action for Maharashtra too. They, too will have to open an account separately so that the fund released by the Central Government get's transferred in it to facilitate relief work....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: How much is Maharashtra's share?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I will tell you, I have the figures. Funds meant for Maharashtra could not be released, which we have discussed, but....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): What about Assam?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: He wants information. We will provide him information. Since it is a general information and is available so it will be provided to him. The Calamity Relief Fund for Maharashtra for the year 2000-2001 is Rs. 157 crores and 20 lakhs. Out of this, the Central Share is Rs. 117 crores and 90 lakhs. The State's share is Rs. 29 crores and 30 lakhs. Though it will take time, but every States's share can be spelt out.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: When the name of Shri Bwismuthiary was called, he was not present in the House. Mr. Minister, he would like a few questions.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very much thankful to you for giving me a chance to raise some very genuine points.

[Translation]

There is a point regarding discrepancy that Government of India replies to any issue raised after a long time gap. Often, this plea is given that it is a State subject. But there are some regions, some districts towards whom no State Government pays any attention. The Government of India should formulate some policy for such States.

[Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary]

[English]

Entire North Eastern Brahmputra Valley is the bed of Heavy rainfall the bed of perennial rains.

[Translation]

A characteristic study should be conducted with regard to rivers originating in Bhutan. An exclusive survey should be carried out and a Multi Purpose Hydel Project should be taken up, whereas so far nothing has been done.

I would like to say one more thing, that very project is taken up which does not benefit the tribal people and the scheme which benefits them, is not taken up. If we take up the Pagladia Dam project, then people of 27 villages shall have to be rehabilitated, people of Bodoland have not get any benefit out of it, so this scheme on which the Government of India is going to spend Rs. 548 crore should be cancelled. This amount may be spent on some other scheme, which may provide benefit to the people of that area.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Members have raised a number of questions. I will collect information from the States as to which scheme is being implemented and which is not in a particular State and would provide them, so that they may be able to take action at their own level. As Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi said in Parliament, if he has any information and he furnishes it to my Ministry, then I will certainly discuss it with the State Government and can ask as to what steps they have taken in this connection. I can collect information.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, if the money of Panchayati Raj is used in Rural Development Scheme for desilting of rivers, then natural asset would be built. Would you like to consider this point?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: This suggestion, is related to a number of ministries, we can talk about this, but it is their own opinion. Ministry of Water Resources and various State Governments are of the opinion that the level of water should be raised, more steps for situation and desiltation should be taken. We can have a separate discussion on whether there are any guidelines under the J.R.Y. or Employment Assurance Scheme in this area for this purpose.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, there are two funds—first one is C.R.F. According to recommendation of 10th Finance Commission three parts of the fund are contributed by the Union Government and one part is contributed by the State Government, it has now become a routine wherein there is no scope of change and the second one is N.R.F. where there is a budget of rupees hundred crores and Union Minister of Agriculture is the Chairman and Chief Ministers of various States are its members and report is received from the State Governments for implementation. This amount of rupees hundred crore was to be raised to rupees one thousand crore so that funds could be given to various States. The Union Minister of Agriculture and concerned State Chief Ministers may decide the issue of increasing the money. You have sufficient right over this fund, you can give financial assistance from this fund as and when you like. You have merged both the funds into one.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I have already told you, one fund is C.R.F. and the second fund you are talking about has rupees 700 crores instead of hundred crores out of which rupees 2800 crores have been spent. The term of fund expired on 31.3.2000. Now there is no such fund. I have told you that the 11th Finance Commission has recommended to discontinue it. But the C.R.F. would be continued. Its amount has also been raised. The term of N.F.C.R., which you are calling as N.R.F., has expired on 31.3.2000.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Last year this fund contained rupees hundred crore, and I am asking you to increase it....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It was once increased....*(Interruptions)* You knew that the Union Minister of Agriculture used to be its Chairman, Finance Minister was its Member and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and two other Union Ministers were its members. Five Chief Ministers were also there by rotation. This system ended on 31st March, 2000....*(Interruptions)* I have already explained the new arrangement made for national calamity as per the recommendation of 11th Finance Commission....*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: 11th Finance Commission has dissolved it....*(Interruptions)* But the calamity is increasing in the country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Raghuvansh, please try to understand.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The 11th Finance Commission has given certain recommendation for tackling the national calamity, but their suggestion is not regarding national fund for calamity relief, its for something else. For this

purpose, a new law shall have to be introduced in the Parliament and then on this basis, the fund will start operating, which I have already explained....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has said quite elaboratively on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Ministry of Finance is taking steps for this purpose....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): River Swarna Rekha flows from Bihar, and comes into my constituency in Orissa. I very well know, hon. Sethi ji and Nitish ji have also stated about the fact that flood cannot be totally prevented, but it can be reduced. Sir, two projects are being implemented for the last 20-30 years in two places viz Galudi and Chandel and 95 percent of the work of these projects has been completed, but they are not finishing remaining five percent work. Sethi ji has gone there personally and after coming back he was saying that he talked to the officers in Bihar and felt that they would not complete it. Every year people are dying due to floods. I therefore, suggest that Government should make a National River policy so that flood of every river could be controlled. Centre may prepare a project for this purpose and the State Government my work as per that project, otherwise any M.L.A. in an area will dictate the term if he is more powerful and influential than others he would ask for doing some work in his area which will be done. For example he may ask for making a spur at a certain place, then a spur will be constructed there. ..*(Interruptions)* And as a result water flows at the side where there is no flood....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Suggestion of hon. Member is towards a permanent solution, regarding which hon. Sethi ji has already said that a separate discussion should be held on this issue, now please keep this matter aside for discussion.

At the end, before concluding, through you I would like to inform the House that keeping in view the entire situation, second instalment of calamity fund has already been released in various States, viz, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim and West Bengal. Third instalment has also been released in Gujarat at their request and has also been given to Rajasthan due to the famine situation there....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: How much amount was given in the second instalment to West Bengal?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: First instalment to West Bengal is of rupees 16 crore 6 lakh and fifty six thousand and that of second instalment is also rupees 16 crore 6 lakh and 56 thousand. Apart from this, we would give consideration to the suggestions made by hon. Members and I will provide written answer to the queries I have not been able to reply. With these words, I conclude my speech.

20.54 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Twelfth Report

[English]

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, I beg to present the Twelfth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

20.55 hrs.

MOTION RE: CONTEMPT OF THE HOUSE BY A PERSON FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: As the House is aware, at about 1125 hours today, a visitor calling himself Velu Chandra aged 74 years, son of late Chinnanan, attempted to shout slogan and threw papers from the Visitors' Gallery. The Security Officers took him into custody immediately and interrogated him. The visitor has made statement but has not expressed regrets for his action.

I bring it to the notice of the House for such action as the House may deem fit.

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): I beg to move:

> "That this House resolves that a person calling himself Velu Chandra, aged 74 years, son of late Chinnanan, who attempted to shout slogan and threw papers from the Visitors' Gallery, at about 1125 hours today, and whom the Security Officers took into custody

[Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar]

immediately, has committed a grave offence and is guilty of the contempt of the House.

The House further resolves that he be let off with stern warning on the rising of the House today."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House resolves that a person calling himself Velu Chandra, aged 74 years, son of late Chinnanan, who attempted to shout slogan and threw papers from the Visitors' Gallery, at about 1125 hours today, and whom the Security Officers took into custody immediately, has committed a grave offence and is guilty of the contempt of the House.

The House further resolves that he be let off with stern warning on the rising of the House today."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow the 10th August, 2000 at 11.00 a.m.

20.57 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, August 10, 2000/Sravana 19, 1922 (Saka).