

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



11/9/2000

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, July, 26, 2000/Sravana 4, 1922 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR. SPEAKER : Today, the House is very calm!

MEMBER SWORN

Dr. Bikram Sarkar (Panskura)

11.03 hours

REFERENCE RE : FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF INDIA'S
VICTORY IN THE KARGIL CONFLICT

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, July, 26, 2000 marks the first anniversary of India's victory in the Kargil conflict when the last of the Pakistani aggressors was evicted from our territory. Recalling the sacrifices of many of our brave soldiers and airmen who laid down their lives to protect the territorial integrity of India and the acts of courage and gallantry displayed by our troops, this House salutes the memory of those who were killed in defending the motherland and applauds the dedication and professional commitment of the members of our Armed Forces. This House reaffirms the nation's commitment to the welfare of the families of the martyrs and of those who were disabled. This House also recalls with pride and joy the great unity, solidarity and sense of purpose that the entire nation displayed during the crisis which demonstrated India's unshakeable resolve to foil any misadventure of the kind that our neighbour regrettably engaged herself in.

Today, on the occasion of the *Kargil Vijay Diwas*, this House reiterates India's resolve to beat back any aggression as well as our commitment to the path of peace and maintenance of good relations with our neighbours.

11.05 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Specific Area Crop Varieties

+

*41. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased
to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated a scheme to promote 'Specific area' crop varieties in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether any financial assistance has been made available to each State for implementation of this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has designed and developed "All India Coordinate Research Projects" (AICRP) for coordinating and developing location specific crop varieties and technologies for increasing the productivity and production of all important crops namely wheat, rice, pulses, oilseeds, millets and commercial/cas crops. The above projects are implemented through State Agricultural Universities including National Research Institutes, National Research Centres, Project Directorate of different Crops etc. The varieties and technologies so developed are tested at diverse agro-climatic condition before recommending for adoption under specific location.

In addition, in order to promote area specific crop varieties, the Seed Minikit programme in respect of Rice, Wheat, Coarse Cereals, Pulses and Oilseeds are being implemented in various states of the country. Under this programme pre-released/recently released location specific High Yielding /Improved varieties of these crops are demonstrated to popularize their cultivation among the farmers.

A sum of Rs. 707 lakh for Seed Minikit programme for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals has been allocated during 2000-2001. The Seed Minikit of Pulses and Oilseeds are covered under Centrally Sponsored Schemes-National Pulse Development Project and Oilseeds Production Programme respectively. The Minikits of Pulses and Oilseeds are being supplied through central agencies to the different states as per their requirement. A sum of Rs. 800 lakhs has been allocated for implementation of this programme during 2000-2001.

[Translation]

SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question pertains to agriculture and incidently the new agriculture policy is going to be implemented today, for this I would like to extend heartiest congratulations to the Hon'ble Prime Minister. India is an agricultural country. Our economy is based on agriculture and there is a special need to give incentives to the farmers and to pass the benefits of the research to them. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister as to whether the arrangements have been made to provide any subsidy as incentives for particular crops and medicinal plants, whether any central scheme has been formulated for the export of such crops and whether there is any plan to establish Krishi Vigyan Kendra in every district?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second question is the same as I have mentioned in my original question.

MR. SPEAKER : You please ask the second question later on.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the original question of the hon'ble member is whether some financial assistance is being given by the government for any scheme to provide specific area crop of seed varieties I have tried to answer it. But he has asked about the medicinal plants and after that about the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, which is not related directly to it. But as for as Krishi Vigyan Kendras are concerned, this is the government's policy that there should be a Krishi Vigyan Kendra in each district and as for as development of specific area crop variety is concerned, there is a programme for this namely, All India co-ordinated Research Project of I.C.A.R. which is being implemented with the help of Agricultural Universities of the states and through the resources of Indian Council for Agricultural Research and especially which variety would be better in a particular area, and it also puts on trial and thereafter recommendations are made to adopt it, programme of minikit is organised by the government, by which the minikits of the new varieties or even the prereleased varieties or released varieties are given to the farmers through state governments. The Central Government provides hundred percent contribution in it and the farmers are provided with the minikits at quite a nominal rate of about 10 percent. For different seeds, different plants, different prices are fixed and the quantity of minikit is also fixed separately. These different schemes are for different crops, the subsidy is provided by the Union Government for the certified seeds for their development.

SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the hon'ble minister of Agriculture is not complete, the intent of my question was as to whether the Government have any scheme to promote the production of

the particular crops, in which export oriented crops are also included.

My Second supplementary question is that I had asked for state wise details of the financial assistance. You have mentioned about assistance of Rs. 800 lakh in the year 2000-2001 but the state wise details is not given in it. I would like to know that how much financial grant is being given to Madhya Pradesh and areas of Madhya Pradesh where the districts have been identified for the particular crops.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : His question is related to Madhya Pradesh. If the hon'ble member likes to have it he would be provided each and every information, but I would have to read many pages for full information. If he so desires we will provide the information to the hon'ble member. Besides this, if any member would like to know the information about other states, we will provide the information to them.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Is Gwalior included in it or not?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : That will also be communicated.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Mr. Speaker Sir, in a particular area for particular variety of crop and its upgraded seeds yield good production for some years, subsequently, these very seeds are affected by several diseases. For example : there was a very good production of Soyabean in Madhya Pradesh during previous years and it become the largest producer state of Soya in the country, but despite the best quality of seeds the Soyabean Crop is suffering continuously for the last 3-4 years and the farmers are severely affected by it. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister through you as to whether they conduct any such research by which the farmers can be saved from the damage by giving them a before hand warning undertaking the research in that very area where the specific crop begins to suffer or whether he has some guidelines under which the farmers may be asked to adopt crop rotation? Just now the Minister has said that minikit programme is being run by the Central Government.

The State Seeds Development Corporation supplies high quality seeds to the farmers several times but many a times they are found to be of extremely poor quality. Last time, the Soyabean seeds supplied in Madhya Pradesh could not be germinated which left the farmers in great loss. Whether the Union Government have taken any steps to ensure that the farmers get good quality seeds.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The Union Government have as mentioned by the hon'ble member, such scheme under All India Coordinated Research Project. It works in this field and the work goes on through the research work done by Agriculture University of the States and I.C.A.R. In this context, the responsibility to develop some specific variety in some specific areas of any state rest mainly with the State. Agriculture Universities and these state Universities are covered through the All India Coordinated Research Project, we tell them about it. So far as the question of unsatisfactory

performance of the seeds are concerned we address these problems and the varieties that are meant for three years mainly in the case of paddy, wheat and coarse cereals are included in seed minikit programme but the varieties of pulses and oil seeds which are meant for ten years, are given in between this period. But continuous work in the field of Seeds goes on and the developed new varieties are made popular through these programmes. Any shortcomings detected during trial period are rectified and same certified seeds are supplied either through National Seeds Corporation or Seed Corporation of India at national level or State Seeds Corporation at the State level. Sometimes, complaints regarding certain seeds are received. In Seeds Corporation we are fully equipped with meeting the situation and constant monitoring is done, but if certain complaint regarding any specific area is received we would certainly like to look into it.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, hon. Minister has mentioned in the written reply that many steps have been taken to increase the productivity of coarse cereals and cash crops through Indian Council of Agricultural Research. I want to know through you from the hon. Minister on the same basic that Bihar has got two areas—the area of Begusarai and Bhagalpur comes under the Diara area where coarse cereals are produced and another area is spread from Patna to Mokamah, Barshirya Shekhpura, Lakhisarai where large scale production of pulses and oilseeds are taken up. Hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that kits are supplied to farmers but its quantity is very low. I want to know from the Government as to what directions you would like to give the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the time likely to be taken up to fulfil it in order to increase the production of the cash crops, pulses and oil seeds.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker Sir, as far as the main question of the hon. Member regarding Diara area and North Bihar is concerned I would like to bring to his notice that research work on maize is going on there under a national level centre named as 'Project Directorate'. It has been set up there and it is functioning. There is great potential for the production of maize in north Bihar. The area mentioned by the hon. Member from Patna to Lakhisarai is known as the 'Taal' area. There is great potential of the production of pulses there. Recently, we have received complaints from the farmers of that area that a particular type of pest is infecting the crops. We referred this entire matter to the Pulses Research Centre which has its headquarter at Kanpur. The said institute is constituting a team of scientists which would study and examine all the diseases likely to be infected in the pulses and develop pest management technique and submit its report to the institute and adequate guidelines would be issued by the institute to overcome such diseases. On that basis whatever assistance is needed in this regard would be provided and the state government and Agriculture University would be asked to carry out further research in this regard on the basis of the said report.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Hon. Minister Sir, kindly inform us about its time schedule.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The said work has been started.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, coconut and rubber are the major cash crops in India and they are facing a crisis now. This project is intended to promote area-specific crop varieties. Coconut cultivation is facing a crisis in the sense that widespread coconut mite has infected almost all trees. What steps have the Government taken to remedy this? So also, rubber is facing some crisis. Due to globalisation and many other reasons, the price of coconut is coming down everyday. It has reached such an enormous proportion that coconut farmers are facing starvation. The economy of the State of Kerala is in peril. Under the circumstances, what help can the Central Government render to the States cultivating cash crops like coconut and rubber?

MR. SPEAKER : It is a good question. It deserves a good reply.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I share the hon. Member's concern. But my problem is that this supplementary does not relate to the original question.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : But, Sir, the Minister has referred to the cash crops.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, the Government has initiated several measures to improve the conditions of farmers in Kerala and the other southern parts of the country in regard to the crops mentioned by the hon. Member.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any encouraging result has come from increasing the production of these crops like rice, wheat and oilseeds. I would also like to know as to what are the States in which this Seed Minikit Programme was implemented, and how much money was allotted to the State of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I can give the figures of each and every State.

MR. SPEAKER : You may supply the information to the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister that a countrywide drive was started for growing the crops in the particular area after considering the quality of land and the availability of water etc. but most of the reports of that drive are kept in files only,

no publicity has been done in any area and the farmer is not aware as to which crops are more beneficial to grow in that area.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very strange thing in our country, if in a particular year the yield of such a particular crop is in abundance, then rates fall down to such a level that discourages the farmer to grow that crop next year and as a result price of it increases next year. Therefore, the government should make an arrangement to assess the demand of that crop in a particular year in the country and the crops should be grown according to demand and in case the yield of crops is more than its demand. The government should make an ample arrangement to buy the additional crops. The production of onions was much higher than its original demand and due to it the additional crop of onions got rotten and the farmer found himself in a very awkward position. A number of times the yield of onions is much lower as compared to its demand and due to its high soaring prices, the people start complaining. This type of situation needed to be controlled immediately. Will the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture would like to inform this August House about the particular areas where the crops are needed to be grown as per the demand and if you provide this information to the people, the people will automatically decide it. But the information is not being provided and publicised. Would you like to comment in this regard?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very ordinary question. The concern of the Hon'ble Member is somewhat natural. But after considering all these factors the government have accorded its approval to National Agriculture Policy yesterday which is being placed on the Table of the House with your approval. We desire that the agriculture position should improve, the people get better price, the farmer does not sell its yield under distress and our demands are met. We shall be able to export our agricultural products in international market after meeting our domestic demands. Considering all these factors, the National Agriculture Policy has been framed which we would like to place on the Table of the House.

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Sir, a number of schemes and programmes after being sanctioned by the Central Government have been forwarded to the concerned State Governments for implementation. But is it a fact that several State Governments are not utilising the funds in this regard provided by the Central Government?

Sir, there are about 19-20 programmes, including those relating to Pulses and Oil Seed Production, which have been cleared by the Central Government and sent to the State

Governments. Is it a fact that several State Governments are not implementing all those programmes and not utilising the actual expenditure?

Secondly, is there any proposal to establish new *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* in each district in the Ninth Plan?

MR. SPEAKER : A question had already been asked about the *Krishi Vigyan Kendras*. That has been replied to also.

DR. S. VENUGOPAL : No, Sir, that has not been replied.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Though this question does not relate to *Krishi Vigyan Kendras*, yet for the information of the hon. Member, I would like to say that it is the policy of the Government to establish one *Krishi Vigyan Kendra* in each district(Interruptions)

Sir, it is the Government-declared policy to have one *Krishi Vigyan Kendra* in each district but we have not achieved that target. We are still far behind the target.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : With your permission, Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I ask....

MR. SPEAKER : You are asking the supplementary or the clarification!

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : There was a *Krishi Vigyan Kendra* assured in the district of Bhind seven years ago but it has not come yet.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We will face whatever the situation arises. First of all, let me give reply to his question.

[English]

So far as the first part of his Supplementary is concerned, the Government is of the view that agriculture being a State subject, the State Governments must have more freedom to implement programmes according to their needs.

So, we are formulating one scheme converging at least 27 Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Government of India, and this will be known as Macro Management in Agriculture. The State Governments will have freedom to spend on the different components as they desire.

So far as the oilseeds are concerned, they are not covered under this Macro Management in Agriculture. It is under a different programmes, namely, Technology Mission on Oil Seeds and Pulses. That will still remain as it is.

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has stated that the Indian Council of Agriculture Research has designed and developed All India Coordinated Research Projects for coordinating and developing location-specific crop varieties for increasing the productivity and production of all important crops.

In this regard, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the research on mite, which is very adversely affecting the coconut cultivation, is included in this project. The hon. Minister may be remembering the meeting he held with the MPs of coconut growing States. In that meeting, he had assured that the research activities on mite would be intensified. Has anything been substantially done on this? If so, give the details.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : That is being done.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is with regard to mite.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : With regard to mite, it is being done separately. The agriculture universities and the ICAR institutions are working in close co-ordination....(Interruptions) We are providing assistance also.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Would you kindly check up the result?....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete. Please do not interrupt.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Would you check up the results of that research?.... (Interruptions) I would like to know whether any tangible result has come out of it.

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : What has been said by the hon. Minister is wrong....(Interruptions) There is no research that is going on.

MR. SPEAKER : He is giving the reply. Please let the hon. Minister complete his reply.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : This question is not related to coconut mite....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, please take your seat. You hear him first.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : This question does not relate to coconut mite. So, I have replied in a general way. If they put a specific on coconut mite, I would be willing to respond to that question....(Interruptions) But this question does not relate to

coconut mite....(Interruptions) That is why I do not have the details about the result of their co-ordinated efforts.... (Interruptions)

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Sir, this question relates to research.

MR. SPEAKER : It is about the research regarding mite.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We can provide that information separately. I would be willing to provide that information separately.

MR. SPEAKER : His question is whether there is any research on mite.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : That is being done. I have replied to this in the Winter Session itself....(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, I have one submission.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us now go to Q.No. 42.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Before that, let me make my submission in one minute.

MR. SPEAKER : But I have gone to the second question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, I am not asking any Supplementary. I have only a small submission to make....(Interruptions)

Agriculture is the most important subject. Yesterday, the Government of India has announced the Agricultural Policy. The Government of India has decided to double the production. In this context, we have to discuss various aspects. Please allow a Half-an-hour discussion on this subject where everybody can participate. This is very important subject. So, we have to discuss this thoroughly. This is my humble request to you.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : There would be a full-fledged discussion on Agriculture Policy. We are going to place the whole Agriculture Policy document in the House in the very near future. It is now being printed. The Cabinet has taken a decision just yesterday....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know through you from the Hon'ble Minister Agriculture when would the work of establishing the Krishi Vigyan Kendras in each district would be completed?(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have gone to the next question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please hear me. I have gone to the next question.

Coup in Fiji

[Translation]

+
*42. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the manner in which the democratically elected Government in Fiji was toppled and the Prime Minister and others were held hostages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the coup has resulted in the exodus of ethnic Indians;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the names of the countries where they have taken shelter;

(e) whether following the coup properties of persons of Indian origin were looted;

(f) if so, the extent of loss and damage suffered by them;

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the lives and properties of ethnic Indians and strive for the restoration of legitimately elected Government there; and

(h) the strategy proposed to be chalked out by the Government to protect the interests of persons of Indian origin living in other countries?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 19 May, 2000, a group of armed men under George Speight took Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry and several other Ministers/ Parliamentarians as hostage.

(c) So far the coup has not resulted in any exodus of ethnic Indians.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. On the day of the coup, some shops and other businesses in Suva, owned by Fijians of Indian origin were looted. Since then, there have been reports of such looting but mostly in one province of Fiji, namely, Tailevu from where the coup leader comes. The Fiji police put the loss in looting and burning on 19 May, 2000 in Suva at Fijian \$ 30 million. No such monetary estimate has been reported for incidents in other areas.

(g) The Government of India has taken every step that was possible in the circumstances to safeguard democracy, rule of law and the interests of all peace-loving Fijians, along with those of Indian origin, too. I have been in frequent touch with Foreign Ministers of several countries, in particular those of Australia and United Kingdom on the crisis in Fiji. A senior official delegation of the Ministry of External Affairs was sent in early June, 2000 to Australia and New Zealand for consultations with these Governments and to Fiji to study the situation at first hand. The situation in Fiji was discussed by PM with Australian PM John Howard during his official visit to India from 10-11 July, 2000.

India's stress is on the restoration of the lawfully constituted Government of PM Chaudhry, resumption of the democratic processes and restoration of racial harmony in Fiji. The 1997 Constitution provides an appropriate framework for these ends.

(h) The Persons of Indian origin if they are citizens of foreign countries should have democratic and political rights as any other citizen. As with Fiji, it will be our endeavour to protect these rights in coordination with the efforts of the international community wherever they are thwarted in the world.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker Sir, the elected government of Fiji, as per the constitution of 1997, was dethroned and George Speight, an insolvent businessman had captivated Shri Mahendra Chaudhry, The Prime Minister, and Member of Parliament and all other people for 55 days. 44 per cent population of Fiji is of Indian origin and Shri Mahendra Chaudhary's Government was voted to Power with 62 per cent of votes polled. It seems that Government of India didn't act quickly in the affairs of Fiji as it should had acted. Hon'ble Foreign Minister has said in his reply that all possible steps have been taken to protect the interests of Fiji people. First of all I will request the hon. Minister to tell the House the necessary steps taken for the interests of the Fijians. Secondly

Mr. Mahendra Chaudhry has demanded that his government should be reinstated after referendum under the monitoring of United Nations. I want a reply from the Minister of External Affairs on these two questions.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, hon. member has asked two questions and had made a remark. Hon. Member has remarked that the Government of India has not acted, what it should have done in the context of Fiji. I will try to remove this confusion. The priority of the Government of India is very clear. Prime Minister and other members of his Government who are cultivated illegally and until they could have been released, well thought steps with patience should have been taken because their lives were in risk. To protect their interest, a new constitution was promulgated in 1987. It should be known that Fiji got independence 30 years back and in these 30 years, it had adopted three new constitutions and this is the second time that government had been overthrown by this way. Government has always made efforts to secure the economic and social interests of Fijians of Indian Origin and for this purpose we took many steps like sending a team of Ministry of External Affairs, discussed this issue with Common Wealth Countries, held discussions with other countries also.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has told in his reply that he is in constant touch with the foreign ministers of U.K. & Australian Prime Minister of Australia had visited here on 10th & 11th July. John Harward had said,

[English]

India has not played as active role as expected.

[Translation]

This is the opinion of the John Harward regarding India. I also request you that the collective responsibility of the Government of India was missing in and outside of the House. A statement of Hon. Prime Minister has been published.

[English]

A strong action needed for restoring democracy in Fiji.

[Translation]

"The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri Ajit Panja ji, who is sitting here, his statement has been published from Chennai."

[English]

India will not insist on Chaudhary's reinstatement .

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am of the opinion that steps were not taken in favour of Fiji, while having a dialogue with democratic country, but it was not done. Prime Minister has said that strong action is needed. I would like to know from the Foreign Minister that please explain what is strong action?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to clarify that there is no such contradiction which hon. member is pointing out. Hon. Member talked about collective responsibility but it is not related to this. He tried to say so many things at a time. Hon. Prime Minister has said that a strong action is needed. In this connections Hon'ble Member has referred a statement by the Prime Minister of Australia. I would like to clarify that Prime Minister of Australia had come here and we have talked with him in this regard in detail. The sentiments which the Hon'ble Member has mentioned here, he did not made us aware about this sentiment in any of his statement. I think that Fiji is geographically much nearer to Australia and Newzealand, in spite of that Fiji has economic relations with them, without thinking on racial lines and it was necessary to take steps tactfully that Australia and Newzealand should have taken initiative. Previously Fiji was a British colony. Therefore it was necessary that they should also be involved in this and action should be taken particularly from Commonwealth side. Therefore, a meeting of Commonwealth Ministerial Group is being held on this subject. They have had consultation on this subject. whatever they have done, they had done with our suggestions. This was the indication of all these steps behind the strong action of hon. Prime Minister. Prime Minister say about strong action and foreign ministry do not take strong action, I do not understand this.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 44 percent citizens in Fiji are of Indian origin and majority of them are...(Interruptions) Mahendra Chaudhary was appointed Prime Minister under the constitution of Fiji. He is also of Indian origin. The rebel leader of Fiji George Speight and his colleagues have damaged the property of the citizens of Indian origin. There is great contribution in the development of Fiji of the people of Indian origin. Now the foreign minister has said so many things in his reply. If injustice is done to foreigners or attack is being done on them, in India, then the Government of that country from where they belong warns Government of India. This sentiment has emerged among the people of this country. I want to know from the Government that how much citizens of Indian origin has been attacked and property been damaged by the rebels and how much people returned to India? Alongwith it, you also clarify that what help is rendered by the Government of India to them?

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : He belongs to Haryana, therefore opportunity must be given to me....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please keep quiet.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Hon. Speaker Sir, hon. member has again tried to say so many things at a time. I want to make it fully clear to all the hon. members that they are indeed citizen of Indian origin but they are the citizen of Fiji.

[English]

They are the citizens of Fiji. It would be a great error to treat them as some kind of entitled Indian Citizens.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : It is a technical matter. It happened because they are Indians.

[Translation]

If they were not Indian, they were not attacked.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to make it clear to Mr. Vaghela that there is also a generalisation in his statement and I do not want to go in detail that they were attacked only because they are of Indian origin. Today, the situation which we are watching in Fiji... (Interruptions) There are so many other social and economic causes lying behind this situation.

It is necessary for all the hon. Members of Parliament that they consider on those causes. This is not the only cause that they are of Indian origin and therefore there is reaction. You should not follow this idea because we are doing so which we want to stop the developments in Fiji. It is a special matter that they are of Indian origin. Some of them are living since three or fourth generations. They all are the citizens of Fiji. There is certain responsibility of Indian Government and not only for the citizens of Fiji who are of Indian origin but wherever Indian origin people are living and whatever could be done for them, the Government do and the Government have also taken a decision. This the first time when a division has been created in the Ministry of External Affairs for the people of Indian Origin non-residents and hon. Prime Minister is also considering to take a step that this government is fully committed to protect the interests of the peoples of Indian Origin as much as possible but being the citizen of India it is also a fact that they are the citizen of Fiji and they are living in Fiji since last three to fourth generations. It is necessary to clear this fact their place should be in Fiji. Their contribution in the development of Fiji is much greater and this contribution must be utilise further. The Government is making effort towards this and we are encouraging it.

[English]

SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Sir, the Fiji situation has created an

impression about the Government of India that all the Indians who have settled abroad in different countries feel that the Government of India has not come to the resource of the people of Indian origin in Fiji. The hon. Minister has given an explanation of his inability to take action because, according to him, he was waiting for the release of Shri Chaudhary. Now Shri Chaudhary has been released. The Prime Minister has made a statement that strong action will be taken. What steps the Government of India now propose to take to see that normalcy as also the democratic process continue in Fiji?

Earlier also, during Shri Rajiv Gandhi's time, a coup had taken place in Fiji when India played a very important role. At that time, the Commonwealth countries refused to treat Fiji as a Member and it was thrown out. Later on when Fiji applied for membership, a firm commitment was taken from the Commonwealth leaders that this thing will not repeat in Fiji. Since it has repeated, I would like to know whether you have contacted the Commonwealth countries. What about the assurance that Fiji gave to them? Did you ask them why the second coup has taken place? Why all of you have become inactive in this regard?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I must express some disappointment at the confused question that my hon. friend, Shri R.L. Bhatia has asked. He has, in the process of asking the question, kept on suggesting that strong action was not taken - of course, he is entitled to, sitting here. But he must specify what the strong action should be.

There are two aspects about the earlier Commonwealth action and the proposed steps that the Government of India has in mind now. So far as the earlier step is concerned, the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group met after the Rabuka coup and it took certain steps about expelling Fiji from the Commonwealth. That was the step that followed upon Harare Declaration of the Commonwealth as also the Millbrook Action Programme. This is a part of the Commonwealth's reaction to any coup, military or otherwise. In like fashion this was not a military coup but a criminal overturn of a Constitutionally-elected civilian Government.

When this took place, the first person that I contacted was the Secretary General of the Commonwealth. He immediately convened a meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group. The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group sent a team to Suva. It submitted its report. The report was to be discussed by the Commonwealth Prime Ministers at the sidelines of the UN Millennium Summit in September. But now that the hostages have been released, we have already initiated action. In fact, this week, a meeting is taking place in Pretoria of the Preparatory Group to the Commonwealth meeting. In that meeting, we have urged that the report of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group which was earlier

going to be discussed in September, must now be taken up, and that the Commonwealth must take all the necessary steps that follow from both Harare Declaration and Millbrook Action Programme.

Sir, I do not wish to specify all the additional points that the Government has in its mind to take in regard to the evolving situation in Fiji. But I can assure the hon. Member now that the first part of the inhibition regarding restraint on the Government's action which we desired for the safety and welfare of the hostages is adequately taken care of. Please be assured that firm steps will be taken from now onwards.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : I would like to know from the hon. Minister the details about the new Pact. I would also like to know whether the people of Indian origin will have similar rights as they had before the coup.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, what the hon. Member has asked requires for me to explain at least the essentials of the 1997 Constitution. The 1997 Constitution that was adopted by Fiji after consultation with all concerned still enables the Fijian people to have a President and a Vice-President nominated by the Great Council of the Chiefs. They were still not part of the electoral processes of Fiji. All that the 1997 Constitution did was, it enabled without racial discrimination, any Fijian citizen, irrespective of his origin, to become the Prime Minister. On matters of land and on other aspects of Fijian society's particularities and sensitivities, the 1997 Constitution remained as it has always been. Now, the reality is that we do not recognise that the criminal method of over-turning a Government is to be accepted. The Government continues to say that the essence of 1997 Constitution must be maintained because we continue to stand for peace and order in Fiji as also racial harmony and restoration of democratic Government.

[Translation]

Indo-Nepal Dispute Over Kalapani Issue

*43. YOGI ADITYA NATH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any dispute between India and Nepal over Kalapani issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain vested interests are out to create rift between the two countries over this issue; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made to resolve the dispute amicably?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI

JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) There is a difference in perception between India and Nepal on the boundary alignment in the western sector of the India-Nepal border, where the Kalapani area is located. While both sides accept the 1815 Sugauli Treaty, according to which the Kali River forms the India-Nepal border in that region, the difference in perception is over the correct source of this river.

(c) The Government of India is aware that attempts could be made to exploit such perceived differences between two friendly neighbours.

(d) During the visit of the Prime Minister to Nepal in June 1997, it was decided that the expert level India-Nepal Joint Working Group (JWG), constituted by the Joint Technical Level Boundary Committee (JTC), should meet to examine relevant facts relating to the demarcation of the boundary alignment in the western sector, including the Kalapani area, and to propose, if necessary, further measures in this regard. Three meetings of the JWG have been held since then and the discussions continue at the expert level on this issue.

YOGI ADITYA NATH : Mr. Speaker, today discontent is simmering about Kalapani in Nepal some mischievous elements are trying to create wedge between India and Nepal on the issue of Kalapani. Hon. Minister in reply to my question has stated, I want to ask the hon. Minister through you whether this is a part of India or not?

What is the intention of Nepal in making this area, of strategic importance, as disputed area.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I would like to ensure the hon. member that India has never any intention or desire to occupy even an inch of land of other country. These type of questions, he has asked, reflect such feelings. The elements he is referring to get encouragement from such type of feelings. Relations between India and Nepal is such that India can never think of occupying Nepalese territory. There are number of rivers which passes through both sides of Indo Nepalese border. Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you know, several rivers passes through Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and it is difficult to demarcate these rivers. India's viewpoint and thinking regarding Kalapani is absolutely clear. I think it will not be wise to create a dispute on such matter.

YOGI ADITYA NATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Hon. Minister as to when Nepal first make his claim on Kalapani? Startigically Kalapani is very important as it touches the boundaries of India, Nepal and Tibet. When the Kalapani treaty was signed, the Chinese lobby at that time influenced the communists in Nepal to start an agitation which created tension in border areas of India and Nepal. Hence I

want to know when did Nepal first lay its claim on Kalapani? This area has been a part of India because even prior to independence, this was the revenue collecting centre of Garhwal kings later on Indian border check post was established there. Indian forces are deployed there since 1962. What diplomatic efforts India had made with Nepal to keep this part with India and to overcome Nepalese objections?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. members have tried to place the facts. I am clarifying there is no dispute regarding Kalapani. Hence it would not be correct to say there is a dispute regarding Kalapani between India and Nepal. Kalapani is a river and there are two opinions regarding its source. I am not aware whether the king of Garhwal or the King of Kumaun ruled there. Besides, it is a part of Kumaun in Pithoragarh district. Therefore, I request that unless some one is aware of the fact such sensitive issue should not be raised on the floor of the Parliament.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister that under the Sugauli Treaty of 1815, the areas which were ceded by India to Nepal and the areas given to India by Nepal?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, whatever hon. member was stated about the treaty is true. I will give all the information in this regard to the hon. member in writing.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDUARI : Sir, the hon. Minister has just said that there is difference regarding the source of this river. It has also been said that discussions and talks in this regard were held for the first time in June, 1997. If the talks are being held on the basis of Sugauli treaty of 1815, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when did this dispute arise and when did the Government of India try to solve this. And is it correct that no talks were held on this issue prior to June, 1997?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is implied in the answer to the question that some political elements in Nepal had certainly tried to arouse passions in this regard. The mention of Sugauli treaty is correct this issue was raised once or twice after June, 1997. Whenever this question was raised, we made it clear that the Boundary Commission was examining this technically. Last time when India's Prime Minister visited Nepal, even then it was clarified and I believe we will solve this problem.

[English]

India-Israel Ties

*44. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether he and Home Minister made a visit to Israel recently;
- (b) if so, the details of different sectors for which discussions were held between the two countries;
- (c) the outcome of the discussions, sector-wise;
- (d) whether Israel is likely to transfer any advanced technology to India;
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the likely gains therefrom; and
- (f) the further steps proposed for better diplomatic relations between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. External Affairs Minister and Home Minister made separate visits to Israel recently.

(b) On-going cooperation between India and Israel is multi-faceted, it encompasses areas like trade, economy, investment, agriculture, tourism, culture, science & technology. The main thrust of these visits revolved around improvement of Indo-Israeli bilateral relations. It was agreed to establish a dialogue on counter terrorism. Possibilities for cooperation in other fields, including information technology and knowledge based industries were also explored during these visits.

(c) It was agreed to set up a Ministerial-level Joint Commission which will bring together and monitor, on a continuing basis, various interactions between the two countries.

(d) and (e) Cooperation between India and Israel includes the areas of science & technology.

(f) We remain engaged with Israel with a view to broadening the content of our mutually beneficial interactions.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Hon. Speaker Sir, though you, I would like to tell the hon. Foreign Minister....

MR. SPEAKER : You may ask the hon. Minister and not tell the hon. Minister.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : I have got an answer which has been very sketchy and primarily, the word 'defence' has been omitted from the entire answer. I would like to ask the hon. Foreign Minister that on his visit to Israel, the purchase of all the equipment including defence technology, survei-

llance technology, arms, air-borne warning and control systems and all the intelligence equipment which were code named as 'FALCON' were being made during the Kargil war, when a high-level delegation had gone to Israel. After that, there was no mention of all those purchases to anybody except we got to hear that Washington had objected to the sale of those arms to India. Is it a fact and is it correct?....
(Interruptions)

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Sir, I am on a point of order. The question is asked by Shrimati Shyama Singh and the Minister is replying as 'Yes, Sir'....(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : You have made the mistake on gender. You have made a woman into a man!....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The time is very short. One more male Member is also there who will be putting his Question.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I will endeavour to answer both the question and the interruption....(Interruptions) So far as the interruptions is concerned, the reply is addressed to the Chair as indeed now and therefore, I have said 'Yes, Sir'. There is no difficulty or mistake in the gender.

Secondly, the hon. Member has asked me a question and accused that the reply is inadequate because the word 'defence' has not been used. I am astonished at the accusation. But the accurate reply to all the questions have been given and I am also somewhat bewildered by the various citations of purchase of equipment, etc. which are perhaps being collected by her from a variety of sources. This was discussed by me when I was there but I kept it away from the House. Please let me reassure you on that score, that is not at all so. The matters relating to defence or security were not discussed by me. But on the question of whether the US has raised any objections to the sale of any mythical equipment, if the hon. Member would write to me, I would certainly try and find out what the details and specifics in that regard are, and subject to the routine security aspects of the land, I would, of course, attempt to enlighten her on the subject.

But more than that I do know what I can do in this regard(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, please allow a Half-an-Hour Discussion on this subject particularly with reference to the observations made by the hon. External Affairs Minister(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, please allow a Half-an-Hour Discussion on this subject....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, the hon. Members are asking for a Half-an-Hour Discussion. Do you want to say anything?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : May I respond to this? I would

request the hon. Members not to be so agitated on this issue. Kindly resume your seats. I have no difficulty at all in having not simply a Half-an-Hour Discussion but a full-fledged discussion on foreign policy. We wanted to discuss it....
(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNS : We should discuss this subject including the hon. Home Minister's visit to Israel, his comments and the entire thing....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You will discuss all these things at that time.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Sir, I have to put my second supplementary....(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Production of Pulses

*45. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether per hectare production of pulses in the country is less than that of countries like China and Australia;

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

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) The production of pulses per hectare in India, China and Australia from 1995 to 1997 is given below :

Country	Production in Kgs/ha.		
	1995	1996	1997
India	567	537	587
China	1409	1610	1478
Australia	1172	1227	1065

The per hectare production of pulses in country is less than the countries like China and Australia because of several constraints in production of pulses such as:

1. Cultivation of pulses in marginal/submarginal lands under rainfed situations.
2. Pulses are highly prone to a number of pests & diseases.
3. Minimal Input application.
4. Cultivation of pulses is less remunerative than that of cereals and commercial crops. The farmers, therefore, divert the better lands and resources for the cultivation of such crops.

(c) To enhance the production and productivity of pulses in the country, the Government of India brought pulses under Technology Mission in 1990. A scheme of National Pulses Development Project is being implemented for this purpose. Under the scheme, assistance is being provided for critical inputs like production and distribution of certified seeds, seed minikits, rhizobium culture, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements etc. Besides this field demonstration and farmers training are also being organised for the transfer of improved production and protection technologies to the farmers field for increasing the production and productivity of pulses in the country.

International Conference on Nuclear Issue

*46. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a UN-sponsored international conference to review nuclear non-proliferation was held at New York recently;
- (b) if so, the details and outcome thereof;
- (c) the stand taken by India at the conference;
- (d) whether the five nuclear powers refused to accept a time table for the total elimination of their nuclear arsenal; and
- (e) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The 6th Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) was held in New York from 24th April-20th May. The work of the Conference was organised around three Main Committees on Nuclear disarmament, Safeguards & Nuclear Weapon Free Zones and on Nuclear energy and peaceful applications. A subsidiary body on 'regional issues including with respect to Israel' was

set up under the second Main Committee. The Conference adopted a final document.

(c) As in the past and consistent with our position on the treaty, India did not participate in the Conference.

(d) and (e) The final document of the Conference has a reference to an "unequivocal undertaking" on nuclear disarmament and some practical steps to further nuclear disarmament under Article VI of the treaty. There is, however, no substantive change in the position of the NPT nuclear weapons States on nuclear disarmament. Government's position on this issue was stated by the external Affairs Minister in Parliament on 9 May, 2000.

C.T.B.T.

*47. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN :

SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government feel the need of consensus in the country on the question of signing CTBT;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether India and US after several rounds of strategic talks are moving towards an agreement on CTBT;
- (d) if so, the details of talks held in this regard;
- (e) the total number of countries which have signed the treaty;
- (f) whether there is any move on the part of the Government to sign the treaty before the Prime Minister's proposed visit to America; and
- (g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A number of steps to develop such a consensus have been undertaken, including through statements and discussions in Parliamentary Committee, as well as meetings with representatives of political parties. The Government intends to pursue this approach of consultation and dialogue.

(c) and (d) Since June, 1998, India has been engaged in discussions with the US, as also other key interlocutors, on a range of issues including the CTBT. This dialogue has been conducted on the basis of a set of comprehensive proposals

put forward by India after the May 1998 tests. After the rejection of the CTBT by the US Senate, there is greater appreciation of the importance of building a national consensus on this issue in the countries concerned. While there is no deadline for the conclusion of these talks, it is the intention of the two countries that a stable understanding on the remaining issues should be reached at an early date.

(e) 155 countries have so far signed the treaty.

(f) and (g) Government's position on the CTBT has been and shall continue to be based on considerations of national security and national interest alone.

Amendment to IT ACT

*48. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to enact amendment to Information Technology Act to bring intellectual property rights and regulation of electronic payment gateways under its purview;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the details of the alternative arrangements made to deal with these key areas?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to enact amendment to Information Technology Act, 2000 to bring intellectual property rights and regulations of electronic payment gateways under its purview.

(c) Government is considering to bring separate amendment to the Copyright Act and also a new Electronic Fund Transfer Act to address the issue of intellectual property right arising from the use of Information Technology, and regulation of electronic payment gateways respectively.

[Translation]

Pakistan's Nuclear Capability

*49. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWARE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan's nuclear arsenal and means of the delivery are more effective, sophisticated and much larger than India's;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether China and North Korea are providing assistance to Pakistan in building its nuclear capability;

(d) if so, the factual position in this regard; and

(e) the manner in which the Government propose to meet the threat posed by Pakistan as well as raise this issue in various international forums in order to mobilise international opinion against the nuclear stockpile?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government is aware of media reports, claiming to be based on assessments by US officials, that Pakistan's nuclear and missile programmes are more advanced than previously assessed. Government relies on its own assessment of Pakistan's nuclear and missile capabilities.

(c) and (d) It is established that North Korea has assisted Pakistan with long range missiles, missile technology and components; Ghauri is a Pakistani version of the North Korean 'Nodong' missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads. Pakistan has also received nuclear capable M-11 solid fuel missiles from China. It has also acquired technology and components related to the production of solid fuel missiles, including from China. In the nuclear field, China has provided assistance, inter-alia in setting up unsafeguarded research reactor and plutonium reprocessing facility, provided ring magnets for Uranium enrichment, heavy water, diagnostic equipment etc. It is assessed that external assistance to Pakistan's missile and nuclear programmes is continuing.

(e) Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security in accordance with its own assessment to threats to our security. The Government has consistently highlighted, in various fora, the adverse effect on India's security if continuing nuclear and missile proliferation in Pakistan despite the existence of various export control regimes, and declarations restraint and restrictions by supplier countries.

[English]

Production of Cotton

*50. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether yield of cotton in cotton producing countries in the world is 550 Kgs; per hectare whereas in India it is around 266 kgs per hectare;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the yield of cotton per hectare in the country;

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The average yield of cotton lint in the country during 1995-96 to 1997-98 was 239 kg. per hectare as compared to world average of 574 kg. per hectare during above period.

(c) In order to improve the yield and the quality of cotton, the Government of India has approved the implementation of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Technology Mission on Cotton in January, 2000. The Mission consists of four Mini-Missions. The Mini-Mission-I on research is to be dealt by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for evolving newer and better varieties/technologies suited to different agro-climatic conditions of the country for improving the yield and quality of cotton.

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is responsible for the implementation of Mini-Mission-II for enhancing production through the modification of on-going Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme. The Intensive Cotton Development Programme envisages to enhance production and productivity through various extension/developmental activities such as transfer of technologies by field demonstration/farmer training, supply of certified seeds of varieties released during last fifteen years, use of water saving devices like sprinkler and drip system, establishment of seed delinting machines and various activities of pest control including setting up of bio-agent unit, surveillance, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), demonstration cum training supply of sprayers/pheromone trap/bio-agents.

The Ministry of Textile is nodal Ministry for implementation of Mini-Mission-III & Mini Mission-IV. The Mini Mission-III is meant for the development of marketing infrastructure by undertaking activities like construction of marketing yards, auction centres, grading facilities, laboratories for testing quality of cotton. The Mini Mission-IV aims at upgradation and modernisation of ginning and pressing factories for the production of better quality cotton.

[Translation]

Production of Sugarcane

*51. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh and other States have diverted to other crops for not getting remunerative price of their produce;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the impact on the sugar production;

(d) whether the Government have reviewed the situation in the aftermath of the decision; and

(e) if so, the concrete steps taken/being taken by the Government for immediate payment of the outstanding amount of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The figures of area and production of sugarcane in the State of Uttar Pradesh and at All India level are given in Table I below :

Table - I

(Area in Lakh Hectares, Production in Lakh Tonnes)

Year	U.P.		All-India	
	Area	Production	Area	Production
1993-94	17.61	1040.82	34.22	2296.59
1998-99	19.71	1163.02	40.76	2957.26
1999-2000*	19.63	1199.74	40.56	3093.07

* (Advance Estimates)

It is seen from table-I that though there is expected to be a marginal decline in area under sugarcane in 1999-2000 over 1998-99, there is a long term increase in area production under sugarcane in the State of U.P. and at all-India level. Even in 1999-2000, the production of sugarcane is likely to be higher than in 1998-99 because of higher yield.

(d) and (e) To reduce arrears of payment due to farmers, the Government of India have taken the following remedial measures:

- (i) Steps have been taken to restrict the inflow of imported sugar in the country, and towards this end the custom duty has been increased to 60% along with the existing countervailing duty of Rs. 850/- per tonne.
- (ii) The levy obligation of domestic sugar factories has also been reduced from 40% to 30% with effect from 1.1.2000. This would improve the financial position of sugar factories which would enable them to pay the cane prices to farmers promptly.
- (iii) Judicious release of free sale sugar quotas so as to encourage stability and maintaining reasonable level of sugar price in the domestic market. This will also enable the sugar factories to improve their earnings and help in clearing arrears.

[English]

Mid-Term Appraisal

*52. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there has been any Mid-Term Appraisal (MTA) of the Ninth Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the major findings thereof; and
- (c) steps proposed to be taken by the Government in regard thereto?

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) Yes, Sir. The Mid-Term Appraisal (MTA) 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 in progress. The Editorial Committee of the Planning Commission constituted for the Mid-Term Appraisal document has reviewed the draft chapters and the document is in the process of finalisation. After the finalisation of the draft MTA document internally in the Planning Commission, it would be put up for the consideration of the Full Planning Commission.

IT Professionals

*53. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Germany, Japan and other foreign countries have opened up doors for a large number of Indian IT professionals for taking up employment in those countries;
- (b) whether the Government have prepared any plan/scheme/terms and condition for Indian professionals before taking up assignments in foreign countries;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Government has not placed any restriction in movement of IT professionals and has favoured free movement which increases the long term opportunities of Indian IT companies in the international global market.

Sri Lankan Ethnic Problem

*54. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the US Under Secretary of State visited New Delhi in May to discuss the situation in Sri Lanka and the role that the two countries could play in ending militancy and restoring peace there;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken in pursuance of the decisions taken during the visit;
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government to evolve a consensus on India's role in the ongoing ethnic strife;
- (d) the details thereof;
- (e) the number of Tamil refugees who reached India following the outbreak of the conflict;
- (f) the steps taken to rehabilitate them including the number, location and capacity of the camps, if any, set up for the purpose;
- (g) the total expenditure incurred on them; and
- (h) the steps taken to check the exodus of Tamil refugees?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Mr. Thomas Pickering, the US Under Secretary of State for political Affairs, visited New Delhi on May 24-25, 2000 for Foreign Office Consultations and the Asian Security Dialogue with the Foreign Secretary. As part of discussions on regional and international issues, the two sides also reviewed the situation in Sri Lanka.

The two sides expressed their support for the unity and

territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. They called for a lasting peace and for a political solution by which all communities in Sri Lanka could realise their aspirations.

(c) and (d) The Govt. has been in close consultation with all concerned in this connection. the Prime Minister chaired an inter-party meeting on May 8, 2000.

(e) to (h) Available figures indicate that since the current phase of hostilities broke out in April, 2000, 686 refugees have entered India as of June, 2000. Most of the refugees have been accommodated in camps, of which these are 129 in Tamil Nadu and one in Orissa.

Facilities provided to the Sri Lankan refugees include shelter in camps, cash doles, clothing, subsidised rations, utensils, educational assistance and medical care. Since July 1983 till March, 2000, Government has spent approximately Rs. 229 crores for the relief of Sri Lankan refugees.

The movement of refugees from Sri Lanka is reflective of disturbed conditions there resulting in the displacement of people both internally and into India. Government of India have conveyed to the Sri Lankan Government their commitment to the establishment of a lasting peace in Sri Lanka through a peaceful, political settlement which would enable Sri Lankan Tamils and other communities to realize their aspirations in Sri Lanka.

[Translation]

Development of I.T. and Computer Education in Rural Areas

*55. DR. BALIRAM :

SHRI RAJESH RANJANALIAS PAPPU YADAV:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the scheme and programmes slated to be launched by the Government to develop the information technology and computer education in rural areas of the country;

(b) the amount earmarked for this purpose in the current year;

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help villages in various fields; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure uninterrupted supply of power for smooth operation of Internet?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) A detailed Statement in this regard is enclosed.

(d) Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) and standby generators are planned to be provided at Community Information Centres.

Statement

Details of schemes and programmes :

- (i) Ministry of Information Technology is implementing an Employment Generation Training Scheme (EGTS) for North East States, and SC/ST/OBCs in other States including rural areas for imparting IT training and education. An amount of Rs. 3 crores has been earmarked for this purpose during year 2000-2001. To date an amount of Rs. 7.39 crores has been spent and 43 institutions have been supported. 5000 trainees are likely to be trained during the 9th Plan period.
- (ii) In the IT application for Rural and Social areas, the following projects are being implemented and the budget outlay for year 2000-2001 is Rs. 2.50 crores.
 - * Preparation of Geographic Information System (GIS) for Jhabua block of Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh.
 - * Development of Utility package on watershed management
 - * Design and development of software for Planning and Management of different types of watersheds for rural areas
 - * "Computer Applications for Village Information Network" at Centre for Ecology and Rural Development (CERD), Pondicherry.
 - * Development of Low Cost Audio Visual System for Adult Literacy Programme for Teaching Indian Languages.
 - * These projects would among other result in developing Geographical Information System, Software Methodologies and data, information system in the rural areas. This is expected to assist village administration, village panchayat for crop planning and management, village level resource maps,

watershed management, public health, soil preservation and fertility management and education and training.

(iii) The Government is in the process of setting up Community Information Centres (CICs) in the 486 blocks in 7 North Eastern states and Sikkim. The main aim is to promote Information Technology and its applications at grass root level. To begin with a pilot project covering 30 blocks has been taken up for implementation.

(iv) The total cost of pilot project for (iii) above is estimated to be Rs. 14.98 crores. An amount of approx. Rs. 9.98 crores is expected to be spent during the current year.

This project is expected to :

* Facilitate information exchange between the block level administration and District level through Communication network.

* Provide the Communication infrastructure supporting the following

- Interactive applications
- Database queries
- File transfers
- E-mail
- Internet access
- Web Publishing
- Promote E-Governance and E-Commerce

(v) NIC has been implementing a Land Record Computerisation project and Computerised Rural Information Systems Project (CRISP). A budgetary provision of Rs. 2.5 crores has been made during the year 2000-2001.

(vi) These projects are expected to strengthen effective land revenue management in rural areas and monitoring of rural development schemes.

[English]

Mutual Nuclear Restraint

*56. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Islamabad had sent a proposal for mutual nuclear restraint; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) On 13th June 2000, Pakistan suggested through an official statement that India and Pakistan adhere to a "strategic restraint regime for avoidance of an arms race, nuclear and conventional, and confidence building in the region...on a reciprocal basis". The statement was issued on the eve of resumption of Pakistan's dialogue with the US on non-proliferation.

Reservation for Handicapped

*57. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a huge backlog in the appointment of Handicapped persons in the handicapped category both at the State and Central level;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor and steps being taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government are considering to amend the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protections of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 to make it mandatory for corporate and Private Sector to provide reservation for disabled persons;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and other measures being taken to make them socially and economically independent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The Government is aware that there is a backlog in the appointment of handicapped persons at the State & Central level. As per information available, various steps have been initiated at the Central and State level. These include identification of Posts, launching of Special Recruitment Drives and lifting of the ban on filling up vacancies in so far as recruitment of the disabled is concerned.

(c) to (e) There is a proposal to amend the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act, 1995. The Government has also taken other measures to promote socio-economic rehabilitation of the disabled by providing soft-loans and micro-credit through National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) for self employment and grants to NGO's for

vocational training and placement. The Ministry of Labour is implementing the Scheme of Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRC), through which disabled persons are assessed for residual ability and provided appropriate training for economic rehabilitation. There are 17 VRC's in the country.

US Political Visit to Kashmir

*58. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in the recent past top U.S. political figures visited Kashmir;
- (b) if so, the purpose of visit;
- (c) whether the Government were aware of their itinerary in the State; and
- (d) if not, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) The only US political figure to have visited Kashmir recently is Mr. David Bonior, a member of the US Congress, who visited Srinager on April 27-28, 2000 in the course of his visit to India from April 24-29, 2000.

(b) Mr. Bonior had stated that the visit was for familiarising himself with India and to better understand the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Such visits by foreign political personalities provide an opportunity to convey India's position on Jammu & Kashmir and to present an accurate picture of the situation in that State, including the extent of cross-border terrorism in the State as well as the efforts being made by the Central and State Governments to promote the welfare of the people.

(c) Government had received prior intimation through the Embassy of India, Washington of Congressman Bonior's programme.

(d) Does not arise.

World Bank Loan

*59. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) had received a loan of Rs. 1000 crore from World Bank or its National Agriculture Technology Projects in 1998;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount of loan spent so far;

(d) whether the Government have received some complaints regarding financial irregularities.

(e) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiries in this regard;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(g) the action taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Agriculture has received US\$ 239.70 million or Rs. 861.30 crores (at August, 1997 price) including US \$ 100.00 million as credit from the International Development Association (IDA) and US \$ 96.8 million as loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).

(b) and (c) Project is being implemented jointly by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). So far, an investment of Rs. 174.40 crores has been made under the project, which includes Rs. 94.5 crores in Research, Rs. 62.9 crores in Organisation & Management System and the remaining Rs. 16.7 crores in Innovation in Technology Dissemination.

(d) to (g) Some Complaints relating to purchase of computers have been received which are being examined.

Employees Provident Fund

*60. SHRI KRISHNAMARAJU :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the interest rate from 12 per cent to 11 per cent on E.P.F.;

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

(c) the extent to which the reduction in interest rate is likely to affect resources mobilisation for pension payments and other welfare activities.

(d) whether the CITU and other unions have opposed this move of the Government;

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

(f) the manner in which the Government is likely to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN

JATIYA) : (a) and (b) Keeping in view the decline in average income of the Fund from April 2000 onwards and general reduction in interest rates, the Government has since decided to reduce rate of interest on employees' provident fund (EPF) from 12% to 11% for the year 2000-01. However, in respect of the employees who retired during April-June, 2000 over-payment on account of 12% interest on monthly balances of April - June, 2000, has been condoned/written off.

(c) Interest on EPF is credited in the accounts of the subscribers and as such, reduction in rate of interest on PF is unlikely to have any effect on resource mobilisation for pension payments and other activities of the EPF Organisation.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) As average earning of the Employees Provident Fund from April, 2000 onwards is around 11%, declaration of interest at the rate of 11% for EPF subscribers is considered adequate.

Import of Fish

449. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fishermen have launched agitation against the move of Government to import fish;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to save the interests of fishing community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. One of the demands of the National Fish Worker's Forum which launched an agitation from 12th June, 2000 was to stop import of fish.

(b) and (c) The fear that import of fish will destroy the fishing industry is misplaced. The import of fish into the country is limited. Presently, the fish processing infrastructure to the country is utilised to the extent of about 20 per cent of the installed capacity only. Import of fish as raw material by the processors/exporters generally is for re-export. This encourages greater employment generation apart from increasing exporters.

[Translation]

Ratio Between Candidates and Vacancies

450. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any guidelines have been formulated by the Union Government regarding the ratio between the number of vacancies available and the number of candidates to be called for interview under selections procedure for direct recruitment to various posts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI MATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the number of candidates to be called for interview is decided by the recruiting agencies/departments.

[English]

World Bank Assistance to Tackle Drought

451. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Technical Team of World Bank visited Andhra Pradesh on May 15, 2000 to consider the State Government's request for granting loan of Rs. 150 crore to Rs. 200 crore as emergency assistance to tackle drought; and;

(b) if so, the extent to which the World Bank has provided aid to take up drought relief measures in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) No details have been reported to this Ministry by the Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding visit of a Technical Team of World Bank to the drought affected areas of the State and their request for loan from the World Bank if any.

Memorandum from Fishermen of Kerala

452. SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fishermen community in Kerala have submitted any memorandum regarding their demands recently ;

- (b) if so, the action taken in this regard;
- (c) whether there is a demand to build fish ice storage in Kerala; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir, the Kerala Swathanthara Matsya Thozhilali Federation State Committee had submitted a memorandum regarding demands of traditional fishermen of Kerala to the Government of Kerala in March, 2000.

(b) The Minister for Fisheries, Government of Kerala had conveyed a meeting with the representatives of Federation on 5.6.2000 and the following decisions were taken:-

- (i) To initiate action for importing Kerosene oil, and for its distribution to fishermen through Kerala State Co-operative Federation for Fisheries Development Ltd. (Matsyafed);
- (ii) Distribution of pension arrears to fishermen at an early date;
- (iii) Preparation of model projects so that the saving cum-relief scheme for fisherwomen could be included in the local plan for benefiting fisherwomen;
- (iv) Renovation of the retail fish markets under Grama Panchayats for which an amount of Rs. 4 lakh per market has been allotted by the State Government.
- (v) Extend the scope of saving-cum-relief scheme to fisherwomen after detailed discussion with the Central Government. The comments of the State Government have been requested by the Central Government on this subject.

(c) and (d) Matsyafed has established a sold storage Plant at Cochin with an installed capacity of 600 tonnes. Besides, it has taken over the defunct ice plants and cold storages from State Department of Fisheries for renovation and for establishment of more storage facilities.

[Translation]

Atomic Power Generation

453. PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is continuous decline in atomic power generation in Rajasthan due to recurring faults in the atomic power stations;

- (b) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (c) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase power generation and better disposal of nuclear waste of these stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN 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 DEPTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The effective steps taken to further increase power generation involve continuing activities and measures like reduction in planned and forced outages, root cause analysis of outages and corrective actions thereof. Appropriate measures do exist for disposal of the waste from these nuclear power stations and the discharges are within the stipulations laid down by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).

[English]

Scheme to Promote Horticulture

454. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government have provided financial assistance during each of the last three years and current year so far to promote the horticulture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise particularly in the State of Bihar;
- (c) whether the Central Government propose to formulate any other scheme to promote the horticulture; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATAYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Government have provided financial assistance during each of the last three years and the current year (2000-01) to promote horticulture industry in the country.

(b) The State-wise details of financial assistance provided by Central Government under its various schemes including the State of Bihar are given in the enclosed statement-I and II.

(c) and (d) The Central Government has taken a number of new initiatives in the horticultural sectors. For example schemes on Human Resource Development in Horticultural and integrated Development of Horticulture in Backward and

Tribal Areas which have already been approved and are being implemented during the current financial year. Another scheme on Technology Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern Region including Sikkim is at final stage of approval for implementation.

Statement

*Statement of Financial Assistance Provided by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (Horticulture Division)
for Horticultural Schemes During each of the last three years and the current year*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1314.49	2750.67	1558.22	143.66
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	142.75	224.17	195.35	35.62
3.	Assam	43.51	28.00	42.55	7.83
4.	Bihar	127.82	169.65	150.33	14.16
5.	Goa	46.90	200.72	26.27	9.41
6.	Gujarat	206.65	258.60	372.87	162.16
7.	Haryana	88.07	342.06	263.16	74.26
8.	Himachal Pradesh	37.00	106.27	95.05	21.71
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	825.94	267.00	225.89	95.40
10.	Karnataka	2752.18	3521.93	3109.95	85.22
11.	Kerala	1904.28	1943.54	1422.49	127.22
12.	Madhya Pradesh	297.66	478.41	474.70	102.18
13.	Maharashtra	3270.05	4205.26	3168.55	311.72
14.	Manipur	300.12	109.59	146.03	35.36
15.	Meghalaya	64.48	118.00	64.01	22.25
16.	Mizoram	71.27	167.00	148.44	34.28
17.	Nagaland	169.24	249.60	196.27	33.64
18.	Orissa	739.30	749.72	1809.38	185.18
19.	Punjab	103.00	168.22	59.98	9.54
20.	Rajasthan	443.53	192.29	623.90	74.22
21.	Tamil Nadu	88.29	1646.54	1485.69	189.68

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Tripura	69.58	89.38	91.17	17.17
23.	Uttar Pradesh	198.32	174.14	505.46	126.16
24.	West Bengal	110.00	37.00	45.35	24.22
25.	Sikkim	147.85	388.83	220.00	47.69
26.	A & N Island	34.62	24.99	24.96	11.50
27.	Chandigarh	12.50	1.00	5.00	0.45
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	13.30	2.50	11.41	4.50
29.	Daman & Diu	14.80	5.00	11.20	2.50
30.	Delhi	57.00	88.47	6.30	10.60
31.	Lakshadweep	15.40	14.00	17.09	2.70
32.	Pondicherry	10.50	110.40	11.00	11.75

Statement-II

Statement of Financial Assistance Provided by other Government of India Agencies for Horticultural Schemes during each of the last three years and the current year

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
1	2	3	4	5	6
(a)	National Horticulture Board				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	150.20	111.50	107.38	—
2.	Goa	3.00	—	—	—
3.	Maharashtra	204.95	467.58	270.16	59.40
4.	Tamil Nadu	242.47	17.77	35.69	—
5.	Karnataka	642.36	493.81	213.26	24.33
6.	Kerala	46.65	4.80	34.11	24.99
7.	Uttar Pradesh	330.00	182.34	58.405	1.00
8.	Madhya Pradesh	93.00	314.45	126.70	—
9.	Orissa	5.00	82.20	94.40	—
10.	Gujarat	121.80	53.30	23.822	10.00
11.	Bihar	30.875	24.77	112.09	0.50

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	West Bengal	53.40	296.75	98.16	—
13.	Meghalaya	—	7.50	—	—
14.	Manipur	12.40	10.50	2.025	—
15.	Mizoram	4.50	—	4.50	—
16.	Assam	—	—	6.33	—
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.30	8.75	—	—
18.	Nagaland	7.00	22.75	14.50	—
19.	Tripura	—	1.30	—	—
20.	Sikkim	—	7.50	2.10	—
21.	Rajasthan	22.10	146.48	28.90	6.74
22.	Haryana	37.24	18.70	20.44	—
23.	Himachal Pradesh	55.08	68.12	55.385	—
24.	Punjab	99.24	171.02	136.66	20.76
25.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.50	5.00	37.00	—
26.	Delhi	17.10	8.85	17.28	1.00
(b) National Co-operative Development Corporation					
1.	Gujarat	11.50	3.00	—	—
2.	Himachal Pradesh	8.55	—	8.00	39.55
3.	Karnataka	39.739	55.02	36.00	—
4.	Kerala	7.11	37.764	60.80	—
5.	Madhya Pradesh	251.699	105.28	129.99	—
6.	Maharashtra	169.20	11.325	836.48	32.625
7.	Manipur	—	15.925	—	—
8.	Nagaland	12.878	38.265	—	—
9.	Orissa	24.75	49.00	87.90	—
10.	Tamil Nadu	—	105.75	—	—
11.	West Bengal	257.968	82.727	885.489	2.138

[Translation]

Self Employment Scheme

455. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

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

(a) the details of the Government schemes being run for the upliftment of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes and also to generate self employment for them;

(b) the amount of financial aid given to each of State Government particularly the Government of Maharashtra under these schemes during the last three years;

(c) the number of people benefited under these schemes, Schemes-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the details of the process through which an applicant has to pass through to get the benefit of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Raising of Bonus

455. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to raise the limit of Bonus in respect of workers and employees of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LAL) : (a) and (b) The proposal to amend the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 so as to raise the eligibility limit and calculation ceiling is under consideration of the Government.

Uranium Mines

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

(a) whether any study has been conducted

regarding the hazardous impact Uranium mines in Bihar and Kerala on environment and mankind;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. On the recommendations of a Committee of the Bihar State Legislative Council, a team consisting of radiation experts from the Health Physics Unit of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and medical officers of the State Government as well as Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL) Hospital, carried out a door-to-door survey of 17 villages around Jaduguda and examined about 4000 persons. This initial survey was followed by detailed pathological and other tests of selected persons at the UCIL Hospital and Tata Main Hospital, Jamshedpur. This team finally shortlisted 29 cases for further examination by radiation experts of BARC to assess if these cases could be attributed to effects of radiation. Accordingly, a team of medical officers and health Physicists of BARC Visited Jaduguda and alongwith doctors of the State Government, UCIL Hospital and Tata Main Hospital, re-examined the short listed cases. As per the findings of this team of experts, the disease pattern cannot be ascribed to radiation exposure in any of these cases.

In short there is no hazardous impact on account to UCIL's operations on the local people or the environment including plants, fish, food, water, earth etc. in the area.

There are no uranium mines in Kerala. Beach sand minerals containing some monazite are being mined and processed for recovery of heavy minerals.

(c) Appropriate mechanisms are already in place to ensure the safety of mine workers. The radiation levels in and around Jaduguda on account of releases from the mines/plants of UCIL are regularly measured and are found to be within the limits prescribed in this behalf by the Atomic Energy regulatory Board (AERB) which are, in turn, based on the recommendations of the international Radiological Protection (ICRP).

[Translation]

Setting up of Missiles Data Centre

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

(a) whether Russia has completely ignored India's interest by the signing an agreement with America with regard to setting up of Missiles Data Centre;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement;

(c) whether Russia has signed agreement at the cost of its relations with India and China; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereof?

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

(b) At a summit meeting in Moscow last month, US and Russia agreed through a joint MOU to establish a Joint Data Exchanges Centre for exchanging data generated by the two countries' space and ground based warning systems on launches of missiles or Satellite Launch Vehicles. This would be expanded through a phased programme to include exchange of information on launches conducted by other States. The MOU also refers to the creation of conditions for a database that can be used as part of a multilateral regime.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Hundred Days Employment

459. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide hundred days employment to the people living below poverty line under the Employment Assurance Scheme; and

(b) if so, the number of such families of which more than two members have been provided hundred days employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The Employment Assurance Scheme has been restructured with effect from 1.4.1999 and the scheme is open to all rural poor who are in need of wage employment. As per the restructured Employment Assurance Scheme, there is no provision for providing 100 days' employment. However, the wage employment is provided to

the maximum extent by taking up labour intensive works (60:40 wage-material ratio is maintained) within given resources.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Milk Booths

460. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that DMS milk booths constructed eight years ago are not operational till date and occupied by bad elements particularly in South Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of such booths referred above;

(c) whether the Government propose to use or demolish these milk booths; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (d) All DMS milk booths constructed eight years ago are operational and are not occupied by bad elements particularly in South Delhi.

ESI Health Facilities

461. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the places in Karnataka where ESI health facilities are available;

(b) whether the Government propose to extend the ESI health care facilities to some other areas in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) There are 35 Centres in Karnataka where the ESI health facilities are available.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per the phased programme formulated by the ESIC in consultation with the State Government, it has been planned to extend the ESI Scheme to Manchanahalli, Bidar, Vyasanakere and Karwar/Binaga.

Vacant Posts of SC/ST

462. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4817 dated April 26, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected by the Government; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN 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 details are as under :

Number of SCs/STs/OBCs provided with jobs in the Department during the last three years:

Year	SC	ST	OBC
1997	224	56	97
1998	288	51	221
1999	174	37	342

Number of SCs/STs/OBCs posts lying vacant as on 31.3.2000 :

(i) SCs = 78

(ii) STs = 413

(iii) OBCs = 453

The steps taken/being taken by the department for filling up these vacant posts:-

(i) Necessary notifications are being sent to Employment Exchange/Welfare Associations for SC/ST for nomination of suitable candidates and,

(ii) the vacancies are also being advertised.

Accidents in Mines

463. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of accidents that took place in mines in the country during the last three years;

(b) the total number of casualties that took place during the said period, year-wise alongwith the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) The total number of accidents and the casualties that took place in mines in the country during the last three years are as under :-

Year	No. of accidents	No. of candidates
1997	1155	242
1998	967	218
1999*	761	219

*Provisional

These accidents mainly occurred in mines due to fall of roof, fall of sides, rope haulages, dumpers, truck tanker, other machinery, explosives, fall of persons and fall of object etc.

(c) Details safety measures to improve safety in mines have been laid down in the Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. It is the responsibility of the mines management to comply with the same. The owners and agents of each mine are responsible for making financial and other provisions and for taking other such steps as may be necessary for compliance with the safety laws. The Directorate General of Mines Safety has the responsibility to see that the safety statute kept updated taking into account the technical advancements as well as to make the same comprehensive, practical and legally sound and also to carry out periodic inspections of mines to oversee compliance of safety laws. Each and every accident involving a fatality is enquired into by an officer of the Directorate General of Mines Safety.

Besides the legislative measures, Government is also taking promotional initiatives which inter-alia include:-

1. Organisational of conference on safety in Mines.
2. National Safety Awards
3. Vocational Training
4. Observance of Safety weeks, campaigns etc.

5. Holding of First Aid and Rescue Competition.

Statement

6. Participation of workers in Safety management.

Statewise release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2000-01

7. Self Regulation by management .

(Rs. in crore)

8. Imparting of training to the inspecting staff in advanced countries to update their functional capabilities.

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

Additional Assistance to States

464. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the heavy rains has adversely affected many States including Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether any team of Central Government has visited or propose to visit the States to assess the losses;

(c) if so, loss of lives, livestock and crops suffered as a result thereof; State-wise;

(d) whether any additional central assistance other than the National calamity fund is being provided to the rains affected States;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE : (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Teams had visited Goa and Arunachal Pradesh.

(c) The Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Kerala and Punjab have reported loss of 26, 13, 5, 17 and 1 human lives, respectively while Arunachal Pradesh has reported loss of more than 6000 heads of cattle, 1060 buffaloes and 2071 pigs, besides number of goats and poultry. Arunachal Pradesh and Assam have reported loss of 0.03 lakh ha. and 0.55 lakh ha. cropped area. Other States have not reported these details.

(d) to (f) Instalments of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been released to the States for undertaking immediate relief measures. Statement indicating the release of funds of various States during 2000-01 is attached.

[Translation]

Machine-Printed Passport

465. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have started the machine-printed passport facility at the Regional Passport Office, Delhi;

(b) the minimum time likely to be taken in making passport now in Delhi after the introduction of the above method; and

(c) the time by which the above facility is likely to be introduced in the remaining Regional Passport Offices?

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

(b) The procedure for issue of a passport remains the same except that instead of the manual writing of the passport booklet, it will be machine written. The police verification report is a prerequisite for the issue of a passport and this normally takes at least 4 weeks. Hence, the overall time for issue of a passport would remain unchanged at 35 days.

(c) The machine writing of passports has been started at Regional Passport Office, Delhi as a pilot project and after the technology is successfully tested the machine writing of passports would be introduced at other computerised Passport Offices in a phased manner.

Foreign Minister Visit to China

466. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :

KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been rapid improvement in the relations with China in recent days;

(b) if so, whether he visited Beijing recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether both the countries have expressed their desire to cooperate in many important areas;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (f) External Affairs Minister, Shri Jaswant Singh visited China in June 1999. During the visit, the two sides reached important conclusions on furthering the CBM process, initiating a security dialogue, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and on further enhancing our cultural, economic and functional co-operation. More recently, the President paid a State-visit to China on May 28 - June 3, 2000 against the backdrop of the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations. The two sides agreed to further enhance bilateral co-operation in diverse fields and to promote greater people-to-people contacts.

Our relations are improving and developing in diverse fields, with exchanges, inter alia, at the level of government, parliamentarians, scholars and others. From the Indian side, the Minister of Commerce & Industry and Minister of Information Technology visited China in February and July, 2000 respectively. From the Chinese side, Dai Bingguo, Minister in the International Department of Central Committee of Communist Party of China and Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan visited India in March and July, 2000 respectively. Both sides have agreed to promote friendly, cooperative, good neighbourly and mutually beneficial relationship with China on the basis of Panchsheel.

Development of Border Areas

467. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme is under consideration of the Government for the development of border areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) 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, 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 Border Area Development Programme (BADP) is already in operation in the border blocks of all the States which have an international land border. BADP covers 16 states namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram,

Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

The main objective of the programme is to meet the special needs of the people living in remote, inaccessible areas situated near the border. BADP is a 100% Centrally Funded Area Programme. The schemes to be taken up under the programme are decided by the State Level Screening Committee under the chairmanship of the concerned State Chief Secretary. The schemes are to be designed to take care of the special problems faced by the people living in the border areas.

[English]

Allowance for Unemployed

468. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide unemployment allowance to unemployed graduates in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rehabilitation Centres for Handicapped Persons

469. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Rehabilitation Centres for handicapped persons functioning in Bihar;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to open more integrated Rehabilitation Centres in Bihar for the treatment of handicapped persons;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (d) It is proposed to set up 11 District Centres in the following Districts of Bihar. (1) Sahibganj,

(2) Champaran, (3) Bhagalpur, (4) Muzaffarpur, (5) Gaya, (6) Hazaribagh, (7) Ranchi, (8) Darbhanga, (9) Singhbhum, (10) Deogarh and (11) Nawadah in collaboration with the State Government/District authorities.

[Translation]

Employees Unions

470. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Central Secretariat Employees Unions given recognition under the provisions of the C.C.S. (R.S.A.) Rules, 1993;

(b) whether these recognised Employees Unions had more than 35 per cent membership as desired; and

(c) if so, the total number of employees from Class-II to Class IV in each of the Ministry and the number of membership of the recognised Employees Unions out of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN 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) In terms of the provisions of the Central Civil Services (Recognition of Service Associations) Rules, 1993, ten service Associations had applied for recognition, out of which, two, namely, the Central Secretariat Service Section Officers, 'Association and the Central Secretariat Non-Gazetted Employees' Union, have been granted recognition based on the criterion of 35 per cent or more membership. Three Associations representing Promotees Assistants, UDCs/LDCs and Group 'D' staff have been merged into one composite Association, i.e. Central Secretariat Non-Gazetted Employee's Union.

(c) There are 33 cadre-controlling authorities comprising various Ministries/Departments participating in the Central Secretariat Service Scheme who control employees from Group 'B' to Group 'D' (Class II to Class IV) belonging to the respective cadres. Statement-I indicating the cadre-wise number of employees from Group 'B' to Group 'D' is enclosed. In terms of the Central Civil Services (Recognition of Service Associations) Rules 1993, recognition of Service Associations of Central Secretariat is accorded category-wise and not

cadre-wise. Service Associations, representing a minimum 35% of the total number of employees in a particular category are accorded recognition in terms of the above rules.

Statement-I

Statement showing cadre wise total number of employees from Group 'B' (Class II) to Group 'D' (Class IV) in the Central Secretariat

As In June, 1998

Sl.No.	Cadre	Total number of employees (Group 'B' to Group 'D')
1	2	3
1.	Agriculture & Cooperation	772
2.	Civil Aviation	462
3.	Coal	127
4.	Commerce	976
5.	Company Affairs	196
6.	Consumer Affairs	137
7.	Defence	1308
8.	Education	1469
9.	Environment	587
10.	Fertilizer	358
11.	Finance	2285
12.	Food	534
13.	Health & Family Welfare	926
14.	Home Affairs	3654

Statement-II indicating the category-wise total number of employees and the membership represented by the recognised unions including percentage thereof in enclosed.

1	2	3
15.	Industrial Development	1462
16.	Information & Broadcasting	1120
17.	Labour	926
18.	Law	460
19.	Mines	180
20.	Petroleum & Natural Gas	234
21.	Planning Commission	774
22.	Posts	566
23.	Power	1419
24.	Rural Development	450
25.	Science & Technology	430
26.	Steel	221
27.	Supply	1259
28.	Surface Transport	722
29.	Telecommunication	1488
30.	UPSC	1464
31.	Urban Development	1463
32.	Water Resources	1197
33.	Social Justice & Empowerment	365
Total		29,991

Statement-II

Statement indicating the category-wise total number of employees and the membership of the recognised unions of the Central Secretariat

As In June, 1998

Sl. No.	Category of Staff	Total number in position	Name of the Association	Membership as per check-off system	Percentage of membership
1.	Promotec Section Officers	1986	Central Secretariat Service Section Officers, Association	0765	38.52
2.	Promotee Assistants	3353	Central Secretariat Non-Gazetted Employees' Union*	1923	57.35
3.	Upper Division Clerks/ Lower Division Clerks	9218	-do-	4400	47.73
4.	Group 'D' staff	7649	-do-	3713	48.54

* Central Secretariat Non-Gazetted Employees' Union represents three categories of staff of the Central Secretariat-Promotee Assistants, UDCs/ LDCs/ and Group 'D'.

Safety Rules Against Radiation

471. SHRIASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to set up State Level Directorates and permit them to frame safety rules against radiation;

(b) if so, the time frame worked out therefor; and

(c) if not, other preventive measures being taken 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) There is no proposal to constitute State Level Directorates to monitor radiation safety.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The existing system of safety review in the cases of projects and operating plants will continue. In view of this, no further preventive measures are necessary.

[English]

Constitution Amendment on Reservation

472. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Parliament had passed amendment to the Constitution to remove disability arising out of one of the Department of Personnel and Training circulars with reference to filling up of backlog vacancies;

(b) the details of further instructions issued by the Department of Personnel and Training to various Central Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings to fill up backlog vacancies;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the DOPT is proposed to issue instructions to fill up backlog vacancies?

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

OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) In pursuance of the Constitution (Eighty-First Amendment) Act, 2000 passed by the Parliament, the Government have already issued instructions on 20-07-2000, to treat backlog vacancies reserved for SCs and STs as a distinct group and exclude such vacancies from the 50 per cent ceiling on reservation.

[Translation]

Procurement of Fish

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

(a) the details of the losses incurred by the Government during the last three years due to dumping of fish on ships and loading centres;

(b) whether the Government have taken any initiative to prepare commercial products like protein concentrates, fish wafer, fish sauce, fish soup, fish-balls and fish-feed from the use of fish which available at cheaper rate;

(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) No such case of losses due to dumping of fish on ships and loading centres has been reported during the last 3 years.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Various measures have been taken to prepare commercial products like protein concentrates, fish wafer, fish sauce, fish soup, fish-balls and fish-feed by utilising low value fish through implementation of the following schemes :-

- (i) Central sector scheme for poor harvest technology and marketing through the Integrated Fisheries Project, Cochin under this Ministry;
- (ii) Schemes for infrastructural facilities for processing, preservation and marketing of fish including utilisation of low value fish to make value added products by Department of Food Processing Industries;
- (iii) Development of transferable technologies for production of aforesaid commercial products by the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology,

Cochin, under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

- (d) Does not arise.

Scarcity of Water

474. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI :

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether per capita availability of water has been declining rapidly in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether experts have pointed out that the Maharashtra State was heading the Rajasthan way and might face severe water scarcity in future;
- (d) if so, whether Government propose to educate the people for the judicious use of water;
- (e) whether several other States are facing great water scarcity in the country;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government in this regard;
- (h) if so, the details thereof; and
- (i) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (i) 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 in the country is reducing progressively owing to increasing population. The average annual per capita water availability is estimated to be about 1869 Cu.m. in 2000 AD at national level.

Availability of water in rivers is assessed River-basin-wise. As per assessment of water resources potential made by Central Water Commission in 1993 the average annual availability of water in major river basins in the country and the per capita availability for projected population for 2000 AD is given in enclosed statement. As per the criteria adopted by some international agencies any situation of water

availability of less than 1000 Cubic meters per capita per year is considered as a scarcity condition. According to this criterion, the scarcity situations exists in eight of the river basins namely: Pennar, East flowing rivers between Pennar and Kanyakumari, Cauvery, West flowing rivers of Kutch and Saurashtra including Luni, Sabarmati, Tapi, Mahi and East flowing rivers between Mahanadi and Godavari. A part of Maharashtra State which falls in the Tapi Basin is also therefore facing water scarcity.

The Government 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 resource development which envisages inter-linking between various Penninsular 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.

Statement

Basin-wise Water Resources Potential of India and Per Capita Water Availability

Sl. No.	River Basin	Average Annual Surface Water Availability	Per Capita Water Availability
1	2	3	4
1	Indus	73.31	1482
2	Ganga	525.02	1239
3	Brahmaputra & Barak	585.6	14057
4	Godavari	110.54	1734
5	Krishna	78.12	1088
6	Cauvery	21.36	619
7	Subernrekha	12.37	1118
8	Brahmani Baitarni	28.48	2463
9	Mahanadi	66.88	2131
10	Pennar	6.32	550

1	2	3	4
11	Mahi	11.02	888
12	Sabarmati	3.81	307
13	Narmada	45.64	2628
14	Tapi	14.88	853
West flowing Rivers between			
15	a. Tapi to Tadri	87.41	2870
16	b. Tadri to Kanya- kumari	113.51	2950
	c. Kutch and Saurashtra incl.		
17	Luni	15.1	579
East Flowing rivers			
18	East Flowing rivers	22.52	808
19	b. Pennar to Kanyakumari	16.46	311
Area of Inland Drainage in			
20	Rajasthan		
21	Minor Rivers draining into Bangladesh and Myanmar	31	12500
Total		1869.35	

[English]

Coir Technology Parks in Gujarat

475. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Coir Technology Parks in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Action Plan of the Government of Gujarat?

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) Does not arise.

Promotion of Rural Industries

476. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of main programmes sponsored under the Ministry; and

(b) the efforts made by the Government so far to promote the rural industries and the future schemes of the Government?

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) This Ministry is implementing a number of schemes for the promotion and development of small, tiny, khadi and village industries. Some of the important schemes are the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), the Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres (IIDs) and the National Programme for Rural Industrialisation (NPRI).

The PMRY was launched in 1993 with the aim to provide employment to more than 1 million persons in both urban and rural areas of the country. The REGP provides interest subsidy for Khadi sector and margin money assistance for village industries for promotion and development of Khadi and Village Industry activities in rural areas. Under the IID Scheme, the Central Government provides Rs. 2 crores (Rs.4 crores for the North -Eastern States and Sikkim) as grant to each centre and Rs. 3 crores is provided as loan by the SIDBI or as share by the concerned State Government. Land for the project is made available by the State Government concerned.

In the year 1999-2000, this Ministry launched the National Programme for Rural Industrialisation (NPRI) under which rural clusters with forward and backward linkages are developed by dovetailing the existing programmes for Rural Development.

[Translation]

Changes in Reserved List of Items in SSI

477. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI J.S. BRAR :

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

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Ministerial level committee for bringing in changes in the list reserved for small scale industries;

(b) if so, the date on which this committee was constituted, the names of its members and the duties assigned to the committee for submitting its report;

(c) whether the terms of reference includes bringing in changes in the list of items reserved to be manufactured by small scale industries; and

(d) if so, the need for changes in the said reserved list and likely effect thereof on 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 (c) The Government have constituted a Group of Ministers on the 28th June, 2000 with the following composition and terms of reference :

Shri L.K. Advani	-	Minister of Home Affairs
Shri Murasoli Maran	-	Minister of Commerce and Industry
Shri Kashiram Rana	-	Minister of Textiles
Shri Yashwant Sinha	-	Minister of Finance
Shri K.C. Pant	-	Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission
Smt. Vasundhara Raje	-	Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries, Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, and Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space.

The terms of reference are :

(i) After consideration of various recommendations including the specific suggestions made by the Ministry of SSI and ARI, to formulate an integrated and balanced package of policy measures necessary to strengthen the SSI sector, particularly in the context of the dismantling of QRs and the consequent increase in international competition; and

(ii) to consider and evolve a road map for selective de-reservation in respect of certain products presently reserved for the SSI sector, as may be considered necessary for enabling a phased and orderly transition and increasing national competitiveness.

(d) The issue of reservation/de-reservation of items for exclusive manufacture in the SSI Sector is examined on a continual basis by the Government and decisions in this respect are taken after considering all relevant aspects.

Rain Water Harvesting

478. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a two day national seminar on rain water harvesting was held recently;

(b) if so, the main points suggested by the Prime Minister in the seminar;

(c) the action taken thereon; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for proper management of available water resources and to overcome ensuing water crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. A two days national seminar on Rain Water Harvesting was held on 22nd and 23rd May, 2000 at New Delhi.

(b) The Prime Minister stressed the need to conserve and store water and to devise an effective policy for scientific and equitable harnessing of ground water. He also invited a nationwide debate on this issue to evolve proper policies and practices.

(c) The action taken in respect of the suggestions made by the Prime Minister in the seminar include implementation of a Central Sector Scheme for Artificial Recharge of Ground Water at an estimated cost of Rs. 25.00 crore during the IX Plan period. The scheme is implemented in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, and NCT of Delhi. The Government has also taken initiative to promote rain water harvesting and making roof top rain water harvesting mandatory in buildings in the urban areas. With a view to ensure scientific and equitable harnessing of ground water and to check its over-exploitation, the Government have constituted a Central Ground Water Authority which is empowered to notify areas. It also registers ground water extraction structures. As regards evolving proper policies and practices through a nation wide debate on the issue, this is a continuous process, which is going on.

(d) As regards the steps taken by the Government for proper management of available water resources and to overcome ensuring water crisis, the Union Government has taken various policy and programme initiatives for the optimum utilisation of available water resources in the country. These include adoption of National Water Policy (1987), Command Area Development Programme, Preparation of National Perspective Plan for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit areas, water management practices promoting efficient and economic use of water for various purposes, emphasis on water conservation through various methods including use of latest technologies and peoples participation in management of water for diverse use, setting up of National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan in September, 1996 as well as launching of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme since 1996-97 for expeditious completion of selected ongoing major and medium irrigation and multi-purpose projects. Government is also promoting rain water harvesting and watershed management to replenish ground water.

[English]

Liberalisation and Globalisation

479. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

SHRI ANANT GUDHE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to liberalisation and World Trade Organisation (WTO), the Indian farmers are not able to recover the cost of their agriculture produce on account of large scale import of farm products;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to make use of provisions of tariff restrictions on import of agriculture produces;

(c) whether any representations has been received;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken proposed to be taken thereon; and

(e) if not, the other measures being taken to safeguard the interest of Indian farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) In order to protect the interest of the farmers, the Government has been implementing a Scheme of Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural crops such as paddy, wheat, coarse cereals, oilseeds, pulses, etc. The MSPs fixed by the Government not only cover the cost of production but also a reasonable margin of profit as an incentive to the farmers. The Government has also been using import tariff as an instrument to discourage imports wherever necessary and to protect the domestic farmers.

(c) to (e) Representations have been received from growers/organisations representing growers of cotton, coconut, rubber, tea, coffee, sugarcane, edible oils and arecanut regarding reimposition of import restrictions/enhancement of tariffs on these items. Taking into account, inter-alia, such representations and other relevant factors, the Government has, recently, increased the basic import tariffs on a number of agricultural items as under :

(i)	Rice	70-80%
(ii)	Maize	50% (upto 3.5 lakh tonnes at 15%)
(iii)	Grain Sorghum	50%
(iv)	Millet (Jowar)	50%
(v)	Arecanut	100%
(vi)	Apples	50%
(vii)	Tea	35%
(viii)	Coffee	35%
(ix)	Rubber	35%
(x)	Sugar	60% (in addition to a countervailing duty of Rs. 850 per tonne)
(xi)	Edible Oils	

- (a) Edible grade 25%

crude vegetable oils
(excluding coconut oil,
palm oil and its fractions
whether refined or not)
imported in loose or bulk
form for the manufacture
of vanaspati or for refining.

- (b) Olive oil other than virgin 40%
whether or not refined.

- (c) Refined vegetable oils 35%
(other than coconut oil,
RBD palm oil, RBD
Palm kernel oil and
palm stearin) of edible
grade in loose or bulk form

- (d) All other edible oils 45%
whether refined or not
(including coconut oil
and refined palm oil)

Besides, Government has been implementing several programmes for enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of Indian farmers.

[Translation]

Musharraf's Support to Terrorist Outfits

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received any information with regard to Pakistan's military ruler openly defending the Pakistani terrorist outfits, who have given a call of 'Jehad' (religious war) against India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in the State of Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India continues. Official agencies of Pakistan support various terrorist groups that are based in Pakistan. Pakistani leaders have repeatedly sought to justify terrorist actions of these groups as *jehad*.

[English]

Indians held Hostage Abroad

481. SHRI KAMAL NATH :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Indian soldiers and other comprising the Indian contingent to the UN Peace Keeping Force in Sierra Leone and elsewhere are in detention abroad as hostage or otherwise;

(b) if so, the details in this regard including since when they are in captivity;

(c) the number of those, if any, missing;

(d) the efforts made/proposed to be made to get them released;

(e) whether the United Nations had made any move/decided to replace the commander of the UN Peace Keeping Force in Sierra Leone;

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

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present there are no Indian soldiers in detention or under siege in Sierra Leone or elsewhere.

(c) There are no Indian peacekeepers missing.

(d) to (g) The United Nations is considering upgradation of post of the Force Commander of the UN Peace Keeping Force in Sierra Leone in view of rapid expansion of the force level, and in accordance with its norms.

Killing of Fishermen by Sri Lankan Army

482. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI :

SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of fishermen have been killed by Sri Lankan Navy when they were venturing into the sea between India and Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the number of fishermen shot dead between 1983 and 1999;

(c) whether the issue has been taken up with the Sri Lankan Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps being taken to safeguard the traditional right of Indian fishermen as per the provision of Maritime Agreement between the two countries;

(f) whether the Government propose to reclaim Katcha-Thevu Island from Sri Lanka; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) Incidents of shooting of Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy resulting in injury and death of fishermen have been reported from time to time. India takes up every reported incident. The Sri Lankan Government has denied involvement of its Navy in a large majority of cases. Government have impressed upon the Sri Lankan Government the need to act with restraint and they have agreed to do so. According to available figures, the number of fishermen who have died as a result of firing incidents was eight in 1992, seven in 1997 and four in 2000.

The problems faced by the fishermen of both countries straying in to each other's waters in the Palk Bay area have been a regular subject of discussion. Both sides agree that these cases should be dealt with in a spirit of mutual accommodation and understanding in accordance with established legal procedures and in a humane manner.

Government have been pressing the Sri Lankan Government to agree to licensed fishing in their north-eastern waters but they have not agreed so far.

Figures on the number of fishermen shot dead between 1983 and 1999 are being compiled and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(e) The Maritime Boundary Agreements of 1974 and 1976 safeguard the traditional rights of Indian fishermen for access to Kachchhativu. Fulfilment of these traditional rights has been in abeyance since 1983 due to the adverse security situation prevailing in the Palk Straits as a result of the conflict between the Sri Lanka Government and the LTTE. The question of their restoration has been under discussion between the two Governments.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. The Government is committed to abide by the India - Sri Lanka agreement on the Boundary in Historic Waters, signed in June, 1974.

[Translation]

Indo-French Cooperation on Terrorism

483. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and France to evolve comprehensive, strong and global consensus against international terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said agreement is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. No specific agreement has been signed with France to combat international terrorism. Both countries have, however, agreed to cooperate with each other to evolve a global consensus against international terrorism. France supports India's draft for a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. The India-EU Summit Joint Declaration, issued in Lisbon on 28th June, 2000, also commits both sides to the further strengthening of cooperation in preventing and combating terrorism.

Sale of Substandard Milk

484. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

SHRI RASHID ALVI :

KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWAL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a racket has recently been unearthed in Delhi involved in the sale of substandard milk in the name of Mother Dairy Milk in neighbouring areas of Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of persons arrested so far and action taken against them;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to check the fraudulent sale of substandard milk in the country particularly in Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether NDDB has developed a kit for detection of synthetic milk and if so, how many of these have been sold so far;

(f) the sensitivity of this kit indicating how much adulteration it can detect;

(g) whether the Government propose to adopt new techniques for milk collection; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) and (d) The sampling of milk is being done regularly but at random by the Director, Prevention of Food Adulteration. The Government of NCT Delhi has not formulated any scheme in this regard.

(e) NDDDB has developed a kit for detection of synthetic milk consisting of ready to use reagents for detecting presence of various adulterants. So far the kit has not been produced on commercial basis.

(f) The kit can detect traces of various adulterants.

(g) No proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(h) Does not arise in view of (g) above.

[English]

Patent Laws

485. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government plan to consider the demand from the IT Industry to allow them to register software/computer/business patent programme under Indian Patent Act;

(b) If so, facts and present status thereof;

(c) whether some computer companies from India had registered their programme under the Patent Act in U.S.A but could not get it patented in India due to non-availability of such provisions in Indian Patent Act;

(d) if so, facts thereof;

(e) whether his Ministry has favoured registration of software computer business programme under Patent Act instead of Copyright Act to facilitate Indian Software Industries to market their product in USA; and

(f) if so, facts thereof and steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Currently computer software in India is protected under the Indian Copyright Act 1957 as amended in 1999. The Patents (IInd) Amendment Bill is presently under consideration of the Joint Committee of the Parliament.

(c) Information in this regard is not readily available.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Target Fixed for Promoting Agro and Rural Industries

486. SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any target has been fixed by the Government for promoting agro and rural industries during the current year 2000-2001; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The KVIC has set a target of creating 3.50 lakhs additional employment for the year 2000-2001.

Unemployed Youth

487. SHRI UTTAM RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of educated and uneducated unemployed in the country at present particularly in Maharashtra alongwith their category-wise details viz. physically handicapped, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes etc.; and

(b) the time by which they are likely to be provided employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The total number of educated and uneducated job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, registered with the employment exchanges in the country and Maharashtra category-wise is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The primary objective of the Ninth Plan is to generate greater productive employment in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are more labour intensive in regions characterised by higher rate of unemployment and under employment. A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Ahluwalia, Member, Planning Commission has also been set up to look into the employment generation taking place and suggest measures to generate at least one hundred million jobs in a period of 10 years (Ten million in each year). These measures would be helpful in tackling the problem of unemployment.

Statement

*Number of Job Seekers on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as on 31.12.1997
(All India and Maharashtra)*

(In Lakhs)

Description	Number on Live Register	
	All India	Maharashtra
1. Uneducated (Below 10th standard including illiterates)	118.58	10.19
2. Educated (10th standard & above)	272.82	29.05
3. Scheduled Caste	56.26	57.31
4. Scheduled Tribes	15.87	1.39
5. Physically Handicapped	3.93	0.29

[English]

ICAR and Tobacco Farmers

488. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether ICAR propose to extend adequate research and land knowledge for the tobacco growing farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps being taken to ensure proper coordination between ICAR and tobacco growing farmers;

(d) whether funds granted to various Institute under ICAR are not being fully utilised;

(e) if so, reasons therefor; and

(f) the measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) and the Centres of All India Coordinated Research Project on Tobacco located at different State Agricultural Universities have developed a number of high yielding varieties, integrated pest and disease management practices, suitable manurial schedules and cultural practices for different types of tobacco and recommended to tobacco farmers. The results are being popularized among farmers through development departments/agencies, like State Depts. of Agriculture, Tobacco Board, Lead Banks. Also, awareness about technologies is being created among the farmers through radio, newspapers, Farmer's Days and Agricultural Market Committee (AMC) level farmer's meetings.

(c) The CTRI of ICAR and Centres of All India Coordinated Research Project on Tobacco located at different State Agricultural Universities are in contact with farmers through different Government and Non-Government Organisations for popularization of technologies developed by them.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Social Security of Agricultural Workers

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to enact law for providing social security to agricultural workers and regulating conditions of service for them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) A proposal to enact a comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers is under consideration of the Government. It includes provision for regulating the working conditions, working hours, minimum harvesting wages, speedy dispute resolution, security of employment and creation of Welfare Fund for providing certain welfare/social security measures including health, maternity benefit, old age pension, children's education, housing etc. to these workers.

- (c) Question does not arise.

Deadwood in Government offices

490. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has ordered the removal of deadwood in Government offices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon;
- (c) the number of Joint Secretaries, Additional Secretaries and Secretaries in the age-group of 58-60 who are not pulling their weights but are a source of burden on the State exchequer alongwith details thereof;
- (d) whether any proposal to scan their records of service and to weed out the deadwoods;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the issue of downsize the Government have also discussed in Cabinet meeting recently; and
- (g) if so, the outcome of the said meeting?

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 observations made by the Hon'ble Supreme Court are in the context of a Judicial Service Officer of a State Government and that Court, while dismissing the Petition filed by Shri Ramesh Chandra Acharya, Civil Judge, Government of Orissa, against his compulsory retirement, has observed that only such persons who can render useful service be continued and not the indolent, infirm and those of doubtful integrity, reputation or utility. Periodical exercise of reviewing or evaluating the utility is required for better administration and for removal of dead wood or persons having doubtful integrity and reputation.

- (b) The existing Government instructions provide

for review of service rendered by a Government servant after completion of 30 years of qualifying service or attaining the age of 50 years whichever is earlier and the norms observed by the Supreme Court are on the similar lines.

(c) to (e) Rule 16 (3) of the All India Service (DCRB) Rules, 1958 and Fundamental Rule 56 (j) and Rule 48 of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 permit the Central Government to retire a government servant in public interest from service on the date on which such Government servant completes 30 years of qualifying service or attains 50 years of age or on any date thereafter to be specified in the notice. In terms of these Rules, a review is conducted on such Government servant to adjudge whether he is fit or unfit to be retained in Government service.

(f) and (g) No decision has been taken by the Government in the matter.

Animal Welfare Societies

491. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN :

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any financial assistance has been provided to Animal Welfare Societies for building veterinary hospitals/clinics as well as ambulance facilities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the number of proposals received so far from various animal welfare societies in this regard, State-wise; and
- (d) the amount earmarked for live stock and dairy development during Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has provided assistance to Animal Welfare Societies.

(b) and (c) The State-wise details are indicated in the enclosed statement.

(d) An amount of Rs. 1545.64 crores has been earmarked for livestock and dairy development for the Ninth Plan.

Statement

Details of financial assistance provided to Animal Welfare Societies during 1998-99 to 2000-2001 with details of proposals for assistance

State/UTs	Assistance provided for Shelter houses for animals										Assistance for Ambulance facilities					(Rs. in lakh)						
	1998-99					2000-2001 (upto 20.07.2000)					1999-2000							2000-2001 (upto 20.07.2000)				
	No. of 'Organi- sations	Assis- tance provided	No. of Organi- sations	Assis- tance provided	No. of Organi- sations	Assis- tance provided	No. of Organi- sations	Assis- tance provided	No. of Organi- sations	Assis- tance provided	No. of Organi- sations	Assis- tance provided	No. of Organi- sations	Assis- tance provided	No. of Shelter houses			No. of Ambulance				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15								
Andhra Pradesh	1	4.50	1	4.70	4	29.78	3	11.50	2	8.00	0	0	15	28								
Assam	1	11.25	1	11.25	0	0	1	4.50	0	0	0	0	3	3								
Bihar	1	5.27	2	16.52	0	0	3	11.51	2	8.45	0	0	7	10								
Goa	0	0	0	0	1	3.83	0	0	2	7.57	0	0	2	3								
Gujarat	0	0	0	0	1	9.90	1	4.50	7	25.38	1	4.50	22	13								
Haryana	5	29.40	7	45.74	1	4.56	6	21.11	4	13.23	1	0.92	30	19								
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1								
Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	1	8.51	0	0	0	0	1	4.50	0	0	1	2								
Karnataka	3	24.27	4	34.78	2	21.47	2	7.69	3	12.50	0	0	16	14								
Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4.50	0	0	0	4								
M.P.	2	14.63	2	15.75	3	7.98	0	0	4	16.20	0	0	14	12								
Maharashtra	1	11.25	5	47.19	2	6.53	3	12.40	2	8.00	1	4.50	15	16								
Manipur	1	4.95	2	7.46	0	0	1	3.59	3	9.82	0	0	8	12								
Orissa	1	5.00	1	11.25	1	5.00	2	7.98	1	3.70	0	0	8	24								
Punjab	0	0	4	29.96	0	0	1	4.50	3	12.95	0	0	15	17								
Rajasthan	1	11.25	9	53.85	3	17.74	4	14.74	2	8.02	2	7.67	28	18								
Tamil Nadu	4	35.25	3	28.50	2	5.57	5	21.04	5	18.26	0	0	17	19								
Tripura	0	0	1	3.25	0	0	0	0	1	3.89	0	0	1	3								
U.P.	1	6.30	5	34.94	3	24.26	4	16.25	3	11.32	0	0	38	31								
West Bengal	3	10.92	6	50.73	0	0	5	17.07	4	14.69	0	0	13	18								
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1								
Delhi	4	30.13	8	93.34	4	33.04	4	14.71	6	22.65	0	0	20	18								
Pondicherry	0	0	1	3.15	0	0	0	0	1	4.50	0	0	1	1								

Note : Second instalment for modification of vehicle was sanctioned to 8 organisations in 1998-99

Welfare Scheme for Agriculture Labour

492. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Agriculture Workers Welfare Board to formulate and implement welfare schemes to raise their standard of living; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to enact a comprehensive Central legislation for agricultural worker which inter-alia provides for setting up of Agricultural Workers's Welfare Boards in the States to implement certain welfare / social security measures including health, maternity benefit, old age pension, children's education, housing, immediate assistance to family of agricultural workers in case of death or injury etc.

Indo-US Co-operation

493. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether bilateral co-operation between India and United States in the area of knowledge based industries and the issue of fighting cyber crimes were discussed during the visit of Indian delegation to USA alongwith the Minister;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent both the countries have reached agreement in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) No bilateral Co-operation between India and United States in the areas of knowledge based industries and issue of fighting cyber crimes were discussed during the visit of the Indian delegation to USA. However, the Indian delegation visited the Headquarters of Federal Bureau of Investigation to know as to how the cyber crimes are being handled in USA.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Foreign Tours by Ministers

494. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Ministers who undertook foreign tours after the present Government came into power till date alongwith the names of the countries visited by them and the number of times these countries were visited;

(b) the number of Government officials who accompanied them;

(c) the expenditure incurred on these visits;

(d) the purpose and outcome of their visits;

(e) whether the tour of some of the Ministers were not approved; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Price of Paddy

495. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that on the one hand there is rise of urea price and on the other there is almost a serious downfall in the paddy price specially of high yield varieties causing tremendous hardships to the farmers; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to protect the interests of the farmers and to provide remunerative price of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) The price of urea was increased with effect from 29th February, 2000. The WPI of rice has fluctuated during the year and as on 8th July, 2000, the WPI of rice was lower by 0.5% over the corresponding period last year.

(b) To ensure the remunerative prices to the farmers the government announces each year the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of paddy which, interalia are based on the cost of cultivation of the crop and include costs of input like fertilizers used by the farmers. The procurement of paddy at MSP is also ensured through central/state nodal agencies.

Implementation of Reservation

496. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether none of the officer has been held responsible till date for not implementing the reservation policy properly;

(b) if so, the reasons for not fixing the responsibility; and

(c) the action taken/propose to be taken by the Government to fix the responsibility 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) to (c) Implementation of reservation policy is the responsibility of the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments and no data on fixation of responsibility for non-implementation of reservation policy is centrally maintained. However, flouting of relevant instructions amounts to misconduct making the delinquent official (s) liable to disciplinary action under the Conduct Rules.

[Translation]

Wages and Health Facilities

497. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the norms fixed by the Government for wages and health facilities to be provided to temporary/permanent workers employed in big and small companies are not being adhered to by the companies;

(b) if so, whether the Government have issued guidelines for strict compliance of these norms; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The Department of Public Enterprises have issued guidelines for wage negotiation in the Central Public Sector Undertakings with effect from 1.1.97. As per the guidelines, the managements of PSUs would be free to negotiate the wage structure consistent with

the generation of resources/profits by them. The enterprises implement the negotiated wages after ensuring that the revision has taken place within the approved parameters. As regards health facilities, these have been left to the individual units. As regards factories, the workers are covered under the Employees State Insurance (ESI) Scheme. The ESI Corporation has set up 130 hospitals and 1452 dispensaries for medical care and treatment of the factory workers covered under the scheme. The workers deposit necessary contributions in this regard to the employer. In case of default the employers are liable for legal and penal action under the ESI Act, 1948.

[English]

PMRY

498. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any action plan to promote mini and small industries under Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana;

(b) if so, the progress made by these industries during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether some irregularities have been found; 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. The Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana envisages setting up 2.20 lakhs self employed tiny units annually in industry, service and business sectors. Separate targets for tiny and small scale industries are not laid down under the scheme.

(b) The statement showing progress (for industry, service and business units) under the Scheme for the first three years of the IX Plan i.e. 1997-98; 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are reported by the Reserve Bank of India is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The concerned bank branch takes appropriate necessary action in case of irregularities, if any.

Statement

Progress (For industry, Service and Business Units) under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for the IX Plan i.e. 1997-98; 1998-99 and 1999-2000

As reported by the Reserve Bank of India

S.No.	Year	Plan target (Nos.)	Sanctioned by banks (Nos.)	Disbursed by banks (Nos.)
1.	1997-98	2,20,000	2,63,623	2,08,979
2.	1998-99	2,20,000	2,72,704	1,89,850
3.	1999-2000	2,20,000	2,50,544	1,37,774*

* Disbursement may go up.

Safety of Nuclear Workers

499. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that workers employed in Indian nuclear reactor projects are exposed to high level of tritium, a radio-active isotope of hydrogen that triggers health hazards including cancer; and

(b) if so, safety measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save the workmen from the ill effects of radiation?

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) All the operating Nuclear Power Reactors in India have achieved near total compliance with the limits prescribed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). So far no employee has been affected by any health hazard including cancer due to exposure to Tritium or any other radiation. Epidemiological studies carried out by Tata Memorial Centre indicate that the cancer incidence among the workers or their family members is similar to the relevant control group of population.

(b) In our Nuclear Reactors, the process system and components containing heavy water are designed and engineered to international standards in such a manner that,

during normal operation there is no significant out-leakages of Tritium laden heavy water into the working environment. In addition, adequate instrumentation is provided to detect even very small leakage at the incipient stage itself. Also a number of Tritium air monitors are provided to detect the presence of Tritium in air, so that mitigatory actions can be taken, if required. Whenever plant workers have to perform maintenance work in areas having even low levels of Tritium activity, they are provided with protective clothing/equipment such as ventilated plastic suits and fresh air breathing respirators. All the plant workers are medically examined periodically to ensure that radiation doses to the workers are below the regulatory limits. These medical examinations have not so far revealed any adverse health effects on workers due to exposure to Tritium or any other radiation.

[Translation]

Marginal and Medium Farmers

500. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to improve the condition of marginal and medium farmers;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been formulated by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, whether the condition of the marginal farmers has not improved in spite of Government's efforts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of central sector and centrally sponsored schemes are being implemented by the Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation to improve the production and

productivity of crops and thereby improve the condition of all categories of farmers, including marginal and medium. A list of major schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in this regard is given in enclosed statement.

(c) There is no evidence on record to indicate that the condition of farmers has not improved, though cases of distress are occasionally reported from some regions.

Statement

List of Major Schemes implemented by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation

Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes
1	2
1.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme for Rice Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice).
2.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme for Wheat Based Cropping System Area (ICDP-Wheat).
3.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme for Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals).
4.	Technology Mission on Cotton (formally Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP-Cotton)
5.	Special Jute Development Programme.
6.	Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System.
7.	Oilseed Production Programme.
8.	National Pulses Development Project.
9.	Oil Palm Development Programme.
10.	Accelerated Maize Development Programme.
11.	Integrated Programme for Development of Spices.
12.	Development of Cashews including Cocoa.
13.	Use of Plastic in Agriculture.
14.	Balanced and Integrated use of Fertilizers.
15.	Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among small farmers.
16.	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA).

1	2
17.	Soil Conservation in Catchments of River Valley Project and Food Prone Areas.
18.	Reclamation and Development of Alkali (Ussar) Soils.

India-Syria Ties

501. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to establish bilateral relations with Syria in some more areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any talks were held between the two countries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) We value our ongoing cooperation with Syria. This mutually beneficial interaction between the two countries encompasses various areas, namely trade, industry, economy, science & technology, information, culture etc. India-Syria Joint Trade Committee will be meeting in New Delhi on 25-26 July. During the meeting the bilateral relations in above mentioned fields will be reviewed and decisions will be taken on the ways & means to further diversify our mutually beneficial interactions.

Capital Venture Scheme

502. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that information technology experts and guides are not available in all District Industry Centres of Gujarat;

(b) whether the much talked Capital Venture Scheme has not yet been implemented;

(c) whether the guidelines regarding ISO Certification 9002 are not available either with informatics or District Industry Centres;

(d) if so, the efforts being made by the Government for the development of this technology in the country, particularly in Gujarat; and

(e) the time frame worked out therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND

MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the information received from the State Government of Gujarat, the Information Technology Policy of the Gujarat State has provided for setting up of Venture Capital Fund to promote Information Technology industry in the State. The State Government had earmarked a sum of Rs. 9 crores during 1999-2000 for Venture Capital Fund for promoting first generation entrepreneurs on the cutting edge of Information Technology. In the current year Rs. 15 crores has been earmarked for this fund.

Ministry of Information Technology (MIT), Government of India has already, in December 1999 launched National Venture Fund for Software and IT industry (NFSIT) with a corpus of Rs. 100 crores in association with Small Industry Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI). Out of 123 cases received, ten cases have been sanctioned involving an amount of about Rs. 25 crores.

(c) to (e) According to the information received from the State Government of Gujarat, the guidelines regarding ISO Certification 9002 are available with District Industry Centres. The State Government has introduced the scheme for incentive for industries to obtain ISO 9002 Certification. District Industries Centres are organising awareness programmes / Seminars at District level in coordination with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)/Small Industries Service Institute (SISI), Government of India and respective Industry Associations of the District for necessary guidance to industries and for implementation of ISO Scheme.

[English]

Cheating of Indian Labour

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

(a) whether the Government have chalked out any action plan against travel agents who are cheating Indian labourers seeking jobs in foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) With a view to curbing the activities of unregistered recruiting agents indulge in cheating of emigrants, detailed guidelines have been issued to the various State Governments for issuing necessary instructions right upto the level of police stations for keeping a strict vigil on the activities of such agencies and for registration of cases against those found guilty. As and when

any such case is brought to the notice of the Central Government, the same is referred to the concerned police authorities for necessary action.

Juvenile Justice Act

504. **DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :**

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

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

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to amend Juvenile Justice Act to rehabilitate delinquent and the neglected children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new law is proposed to be in conformity with UN Convention of Child Welfare;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Government is considering replacement of Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 for care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of neglected and delinquent juveniles and for the adjudication of certain matters relating to delinquent juveniles.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, the proposed bill is in conformity with UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The General Assembly of the United Nations had adopted CRC on 20th November, 1989. This Convention has prescribed a set of standards to be adhered to by all State parties in securing the best interests of a child. This Convention also emphasizes social re-integration of child victims to the extent possible without restoring to judicial proceedings. Government of India has ratified the Convention on 11th December, 1992. As CRC is a development subsequent to the passage and enforcement of the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 and India is a signatory to CRC, the Government is considering to bring Juvenile Law in conformity with CRC.

(e) It is difficult to indicate any time frame for enactment of the proposed legislation.

Irregularities in ICAR

505. **SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints of corruption, irregularities and misappropriation in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR), Port Blair in A&N Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiries;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken /proposed to be taken against those found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) The complaints in respect of purchase of equipments and financial irregularities at Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), Port Blair were received in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research since 1998.

(c) and (d) The complaints in respect of purchase of equipments were investigated. No procedural lapse was found.

(e) Does not arise.

Krishna Water Dispute

506. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Krishna river water disputes between Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra remain unsolved;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to constitute a fresh tribunal to resolve the dispute;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps initiated by the Union Government to resolve the disputes permanently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) At present, there is no dispute between Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra regarding Krishna River Waters. The allocation of Krishna River Waters are governed by the award of Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal. The award of Tribunal is, however, open for review on any day after 31.05.2000 by a competent authority of tribunal on a reference

received from any of the three Krishna Basin States by the Central Government. However, none of the three Krishna Basin States has requested Central Government so far to constitute a new Tribunal.

[Translation]

Flood and Famine

507. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

SHRI ANANT GUDHE :

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make long term or short term plan to face the flood and drought situation, every year, in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated for the purpose during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(d) the proposals received from the States for additional relief to tackle the problem of flood and famine in the country during 1999-2000 and till date; and

(e) the details of recommendations made by the 11th Finance Commission in regard to National Calamity Relief Fund and accepted by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) In addition to release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) to the States every year, a number of Central Plan schemes like Flood Control Schemes, Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers, Disaster Prone Areas Programme, Desert Development Programme, already being implemented, have components for disaster mitigation towards long term rehabilitation measures.

(c) A statement indicating the State-wise allocation of funds during the last three years under CRF is attached.

(d) The Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tripura had submitted proposals for additional Central assistance.

(e) As per the interim recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, instalments of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund for the year 2000-2001 have been released to the States.

Statement

Calamity Relief Fund for 1997-2000

(Rs. Lakhs)

State	Calamity Relief Fund		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	13105	13773	14359
Arunachal Pradesh	743	781	813
Assam	5277	5547	5783
Bihar	5483	5763	6007
Goa	113	119	124
Gujarat	14731	15483	16140
Haryana	2644	2779	2897
Himachal Pradesh	2844	2989	3116
Jammu & Kashmir	2079	2184	2279
Karnataka	4416	4641	4839
Kerala	5847	6144	6405
Madhya Pradesh	5389	5665	5905
Maharashtra	7197	7564	7885
Manipur	261	275	287
Meghalaya	295	309	323
Mizoram	133	140	147
Nagaland	180	188	196
Orissa	5172	5436	5667
Punjab	5715	6005	6261

1	2	3	4
Rajasthan	18893	19856	20700
Sikkim	497	523	544
Tamil Nadu	6263	6583	6863
Tripura	475	499	520
Uttar Pradesh	13203	13876	14467
West Bengal	5416	5692	5933
Total	126371	132815	138460

[English]

Indo-Central and South American Ties

508. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the efforts being made to foster closer ties with Central and South American countries; and

(b) the details of different Sectors in which these countries are collaborating with India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) India's ties with all Central and South American countries are warm and friendly. Several high level visits have taken place, including Foreign Office level consultations, which have further enhanced our relations. In recent years, efforts have been made to give a strong economic content to our relationship through the Focus-LAC Programme jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of External Affairs. India also extends cooperation to several countries in the region under its Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme. Cultural activities are promoted through such agencies as the Department of Culture of the Ministry of HRD and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

(b) Collaboration between India and the countries of the region cover wide-ranging sectors including agriculture, health, science & technology, non-conventional energy resources and railways. Much of the collaboration takes place under our ITEC programme which provides for sending of experts to these countries and training of foreign personnel in India.

[Translation]

Pay Scales of Journalists

509. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received the report of the Commission constituted to go into the pay-scales of the working journalists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the time by which it is likely to be received; and

(e) the position of the implementation of the recommendations of the Bachawat Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Manisana Wage Board set up to fix and revise the rates of wages for Working Journalists and Non-Journalist Newspaper & News-agency Employees has submitted its final report to the Government on 25th July, 2000. The Government would make all efforts to implement, within the shortest possible period, the recommendations of the Wage Board.

(d) As on 30.6.2000, out of a total of 1716 newspaper establishments in the country, 643 have fully implemented, 26 have partially implemented and 1047 have not implemented the recommendations of the Bachawat Wage Board.

[English]

Allocations to North-Eastern States

510. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY :

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have advised all the Ministries to allocate 10 per cent of the total allocation for the development of North-East States and Sikkim;

(b) if so, the amount collected under the Non-lapsable Fund during each of the last three years;

(c) the projects undertaken out of this pool fund, Ministry-wise;

(d) the name of the Ministry that have failed to contribute to this fund alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps the Government proposed to take 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) All Union Ministries/Departments are required to spend at least 10% of their Budget(s) on schemes/projects for the benefit of the North-Eastern Region and Sikkim. Some Union Ministries/Departments have been specifically exempted from the requirement because of the location/scheme specific nature of the plan provision in their Budgets. Shortfall in meeting this target are to be pooled in a Central Pool of Resources.

(b) and (d) The process for collecting the information from the concerned Union Ministries and Departments has since been initiated.

(c) A list of projects/schemes undertaken so far, from the Central Pool is given in enclosed statement.

(c) For the current financial year most of the Union Ministries/Departments have opened separate Minor Head for the North East and Sikkim in their Demand for Grants. This will facilitate in identifying the funds spent for projects/schemes in the North Eastern Region and Sikkim.

Statement

State	Name of the Projects
1	2
Arunachal Pradesh	Ranganadi Transmission Itanagar-Naharlagun Water Supply Water Supply Scheme at Along, Kathalguri-Deomali 220 KV Transmission Line. Rama Krishna Mission School at Along. Flood Control Schemes (8 Nos.) Flood Control and Anti-erosion works (6Nos). Special Restoration of Water Supply facilities at Tezu. Maintenance of Foot tracks and suspension bridges. North Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology.

1

2

Assam

Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshtra project
 Digunchera to Airport Road
 Minor Irrigation Schemes
 Flood Control Management Schemes/different locations of
 Brahmaputra and Barak Valley
 220 KV D/C Kathalguri-Tinsukia Line (30 Kms)
 Namrup Sub-station 2X50 MVA, 220/132 KV.
 Tinsukia Sub-station 2X50 MVA, 220/132 KV
 Sankaradeva Netralaya
 Project to bridge the infrastructure gaps in Forestry
 Installation of one Lakh Shallow Tubewells
 Guwahati Medical College
 IIT, Guwahati
 Assam University
 Tezpur University
 Diphu campus of Assam University
 Minor Irrigation Schemes
 Creation of New Infrastructure at Cotton College
 Road Schemes for N.C. Hill Autonomus Council, Halflong.
 Road from Jarighat to Lakhichherra
 Road from Hatichherra - Dudpatil-Mudarnamukh
 Centre for Plasma Physics, Guwahati.

Manipur

Leimakhong Heavy Fuel Based Power Project
 Infrastructure for National Games
 Augmentation of Water Supply for Imphal City Phase-I (29.5 MLD)
 Installation of 2X5 MVA 33 KV Sub-Station at Moreh Town
 ACA for BMS.
 Senapati Phaibung Road (50 Kms)
 Construction of 2 classroom school building for 205 schools without buildings.
 Extension of 2 (two) classrooms for 172 State Govt. Secondary Schools.
 Extension of 2(two) classroom for the State Govt. Secondary Schools including
 21 newly upgraded Higher Secondary Schools.
 University and 60 Affiliated Colleges from Manipur (State).

Meghalaya

Greater Shillong Water Supply Scheme
 NH-51, Widening the formation and strengthening.

Mizoram

Aizwal (Ph-II) Water Supply Scheme
 State Referral Hospital
 Mobilisation and Development of feed and fodder resources
 Integrated Piggery Development Project
 Establishment of Fish seed farms at Zawlnuam, Zobawk, Lengpui, Phura
 Marketing Facilities and Marketing and tung seeds and Oils of Mizoram in
 National and Abroad.
 North Eastern Hill University
 ACA for BMS
 Construction of Market Buildings
 Greater Champhai Water Supply Scheme.
 Construction and Renovation of School Buildings.

1

2

Nagaland

Hospital at Kohima
Likimro HEP
Administrative Training Institute
Nagaland University
Augmentation of Water Supply To Dimapur
Railway over bridge at Dimapur
Changtongya-Longieng Road (23Kms.)
Dimapur Nuiland Road
Construction of Road to Dimapur Distt. HQs at Chumukedima.
Construction of School Buildings
Improvement of Science Education
Computerisation & Computer Education in School.

Sikkim

Rural Water Supply Schemes
Major Overhauling 2X6 MW
Hydel Generation Station at Lower Lagyap Hydel Project
Flood Control of surface drainage Anti-erosion work
Carpeting Standard WBM Road (9 Nos.)
Construction of New Roads (28 Nos.)
Rooptway from Deoralli to Tastling.
Centre for Computers and Communications Tech. Polytechnic
Anti-landside and anti-erosion works.

Tripura

Transmission Schemes
1X21 MV Gas Thermal Project (Extention) Rokhia (Ph.II)
Development of Tripura University
New Capital Complex at Agartala
Schemes Common to NE & Sikkim
Indira Gandhi National Open University
Hostel for NE Region Students at JNU
Creation of Export Development Fund for the NE Region.

Schemes to propagate IT Education

511. **SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:**
Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to State :

(a) whether the Ministry has requested the HRD Ministry to devise a special scheme to propagate I.T. education in the country ;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the number of I.T. professionals being produced by the country every year;

(d) whether in comparison to other countries the I.T. professionals are not adequate in the country;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to promote the I.T. education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) (a) and (b) A communication has been sent to the Ministry of HRD for upgrading 43 Engineering Colleges to the level of IITs.

(c) The annual output at the level of B.Tech/MCA is about 75,000 in the formal education sector (Universities, Engineering Colleges and the like) and about 10,000 in the non-formal education sector (DOEACC and private institutions).

(d) Looking at the global demand and the domestic

target the government has decided to increase the intake and consequently the availability of I.T. professionals.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Various steps have been initiated by the Government from time to time to promote IT Education at various levels. These include setting up of Smart schools, promotion of virtual universities, IT education in the non-formal sector through the DOEACC scheme and increasing the intake of students in both IITs and Regional Engineering Colleges (RECs).

Administrative Offices Involved in Corruption

512. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the image of IAS officers is going down in the eyes of the people;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to improve the lost image of civil servants;

(c) the number of IAS, IPS, IFS and ED officers found involved in corruption and possessing wealth disproportionate to their known sources of income in the last three years; and

(d) the action taken against them?

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) There is no official study conducted in this regard. However, action is taken against officers in cases of individual misconduct under the relevant service rules.

(b) The Government is always keen to provide clean administration and to ensure efficiency at all levels of public services. The drive against corruption is a continuing process and the policies are modified from time to time in order to make them more responsive to the changing environment. Some of the major initiatives taken by the Government are :

(i) The Central Vigilance Commission Bill to confer statutory status to the Commission has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 20, 1999. The Bill stands referred to the Joint Committee of both the Houses of Parliament on 21.12.1999 for consideration and recommendations.

(ii) The Central Vigilance Commission has been vested powers to exercise superintendence over the vigilance administration of the various Ministries of the Central Government or Corporation established by or under any Central Act, Government companies, societies and local authorities owned or controlled by that Government.

(iii) Recognising that an important aspect of preventive vigilance is to ensure transparency in public administration, measures of administrative reforms such as introduction of Citizens Charters and Facilitation Counters have been initiated. The review and simplification of laws, rules and procedures has also been taken up.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances & Pensions is the Disciplinary Authority in respect of a Member of the Indian Administrative Service serving in connection with the affairs of the Centre. The State Governments are the competent to take action against members of the Service for any misconduct committed by them while serving under the State. The information in respect of State Governments is not centrally maintained or monitored. Information in respect of the other services is also not centrally maintained or monitored.

During the last three years saction for prosecution for various offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 has been granted by the Central Government against IAS officers in 27 cases, out of which 6 cases relate to possession of assets disproportionate to known sources of income.

[Translation]

Unemployed Persons

513. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of unemployed persons registered with the employment exchanges of Jammu & Kashmir during the last three years; and

(b) the details of disabled persons, and women affected by militancy etc. registered with these employment exchanges in Jammu and Kashmir during the said period, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) The number of job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, registered with employment exchanges in Jammu & Kashmir at the end of 1997, 1998 and 1999 was as follows:

(in thousands)

At the end of the year	Total job-seekers	Women job-seekers	Handicapped job-seekers
1997	164.7	26.5	0.5
1998	164.8	26.8	0.7
1999	162.5	24.7	0.8

Details of disabled persons and women affected by militancy etc. registered with these employment exchanges are not maintained.

Performance of KVK

514. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Krishi Vigyan Kendras functioning in the country have achieved their targets;

(b) whether any review or assessment have ever been made about the activities of these Kendras;

(c) the lists of ten those Kendras who have been shown exemplary performance in achieving their targets and of ten those Kendras who have failed to achieve desired results; and

(d) the details of all these Kendras in Bihar State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The activities of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) include technology assessment through frontline demonstration and on-farm testing; and dissemination of technology through training of farmers and extension personnel.

During 1999 the activities of the KVKs were as follows :

- * 11,881 training programmes benefiting 1.92 lakh farmers, 0.45 lakh rural youths and 0.28 lakh extension personnel.
- * 47,660 extension programmes including Kisan mela, field day, Kisan gosthi, exhibition, TV & Radio talk etc.

- * 20,334 frontline demonstrations covering 7333 ha.

- * Production of 139 tonnes of quality seed and 5.29 lakhs seedlings of horticultural plants and forest species.

(b) and (c) Besides close monitoring by eight Zonal Coordinating Units the Activities of KVKs are reviewed through State, Zonal and National workshops on regular basis. Nine Quinquennial Review Teams (QRT) also reviewed the functioning of the KVKs and gave a number of suggestions for developing thrust areas of the KVKs on location specific basis. The terms of reference of the Teams did not include categorization of the KVKs in terms of performance.

(d) There are 21 KVKs in Bihar, including 11 under State Agricultural Universities (SAU) and the remaining 10 under Non-Government Organisations and public sector undertakings. Details are given in enclosed statement.

Statement

List of 21 Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Bihar

Sr. No.	Name of KVKs
1	2
1.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, P.O. Sankarpur, Rajendra Agril. University, Munger - 811201 (Bihar)
2.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jale, Rajendra Agril. University, Darbhanga, (Bihar)
3.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hariharpur Farm, Rajendra Agril. University, Vaishali (Bihar)
4.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Khodawanpur, Rajendra Agril. University, Begusarai-848202 (Bihar)
5.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Agwanpur, Rajendra Agril. University, Saharsa-852201 (Bihar)
6.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Rajendra Agril. University, P.O. Harnaut, Nalanda-843110 (Bihar)

1	2
7.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Rajendra Agril. University, P.O. Jagatpur, Banka-813101 (Bihar)
8.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Rajendra Agril. University, Barh, Patna-803214 (Bihar)
9.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Rajendra Agril. University, P.O. Ariari-811105, Sheikhpura (Bihar)
10.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Rajendra Agril. University, Saraiah Farm, Muzaffarpur-843126 (Bihar)
11.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Birsa Agril. University, P.O. Jagannathpur, West Singhbhum-833203 (Bihar)
12.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, SCADA, P.O. Arra, Sone Command Area Dev. Agency, Bhojpur-802301 (Bihar)
13.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sone Command Area Dev. Agency, Jahanabad (Bihar)
14.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gram Nirman Mandal Ashram, P.O. Sokhodeora, Nawada-805 106 (Bihar)
15.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Varanasi Seva Kendra, P.O. Adhaura, Bhabua-821116 (Bihar)
16.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Santhal Paharia Seva Mandal, Sujani, P.O. Ghorlash, Deoghar- 814152 (Bihar)
17.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sharma Bharti Khadigram, Khadi Gramdyog Sangh Khadigram, P.O. Jamui-811313 (Bihar)
18.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, P.O. Morabadi, Ranchi-834008 (Bihar)

1	2
19.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Holycross V.T.I., Hazaribagh-825301 (Bihar)
20.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation, Dhanbad-828122 (Bihar)
21.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, S.K. Choudhary Edn. Trust, VPO Basaith, Chandpura, Madhubani-847102 (Bihar)

[English]

Plan Allocation

515. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Gujarat Government contributes the maximum revenue, excise duty, corporation tax and customs duty to Centre as compared to that of other States;

(b) if so, whether despite the above facts, the central allocation has been decreased year after year;

(c) the steps being taken to increase the allocation to Gujarat;

(d) the demands submitted by the Gujarat Government before the Planning Commission;

(e) the salient features of the demands; and

(f) the extent to which the Planning Commission has agreed to meet the demands?

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) to (f) The allocation of resources by Planning Commission to the States is not directly related to revenue generation and tax collection of each State. It is determined by a formula approved by the National Development Council. In addition resources are also made available to the States in the form of Externally Aided Projects and Additional Central Assistance.

During the Ninth Five Year Plan the Annual Plan proposals as submitted by Gujarat State have been agreed to by Planning Commission. Details of the Plan Allocations are in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Plan	State's Proposal	Agreed/ Approved outlay	Increase over the Previous Annual Plan	Per cent of the Ninth Plan
(Rs. in crore)				
Ninth Plan	28000	28000	43.48% (Over the VIII Plan)	
1997-98	4500	4500	33%	16.07%
1998-99	5450	5450	21.11%	19.46%
1999-2000	6550	6550	20.18%	23.39%
2000-2001	7600	7600	16.03%	27.14%

*[Translation]***Growth Rate of Foodgrains**

516 SHRI J.S. BRAR :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the target of annual growth rate in the production of foodgrains in the country for ensuing years has been fixed at 4 per cent by the Government;

(b) if so, the criteria for fixing the target of annual growth rate;

(c) whether the Government have identified the foodgrains whose growth rate could be increased without delay so as to achieve the target;

(d) if so, the names of these foodgrains;

(e) the extent to which the said growth rate is likely to go up; and

(f) the extent to which it is higher than the existing rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) The perspective plan approved by National Development Council for the Ninth Five Year Plan has fixed a growth target of 3.57 per cent per annum for foodgrains during the fifteen period 1996-97 to 2011-12. The target has been fixed taking into account the consumption and nutritional requirement in relation to population growth as well as identified production potential of different agro climatic zones in the country.

(c) and (d) The foodgrains whose production will be increased in a significant manner during the above mentioned period would include pulses, wheat, and rice.

(e) and (f) Projected growth rates in production as compared to existing growth rates in production are given below :

	Existing* Growth Rate	Projected Growth Rate
Rice	1.48	3.08
Wheat	3.68	4.31
Pulses	3.42	4.93
Total Foodgrains	2.18	3.57

*Annual average percentage increase during the period 1994-95 to 1998-99.

*[English]***Water Sharing Agreement**

517. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement has been signed between the Government of India and Pakistan in regard to sharing of water of Sindhu river;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in terms of agreement the construction of some projects has been undertaken; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) The Indus Water Treaty was signed in 1960 between the Governments of India and Pakistan, fixing and delimiting the rights and obligations of India and Pakistan in relation to each other concerning use of the waters of the Indus system rivers.

(b) In accordance with the Treaty, all the waters of Eastern Rivers namely The Ravi, The Beas and The Sutlej are available for unrestricted use of India. However, Pakistan

has been allowed use of waters of the Sutlej and Ravi Main for Domestic and Non-Consumptive Uses. Withdrawal of waters from certain tributaries of river Ravi for irrigating 45,500 acres of area has also been allowed to Pakistan.

India shall let flow all the waters of the Western Rivers namely The Indus, The Jhelum, and The Chenab, but has been allowed to use them for Domestic Use, Non-Consumptive Use, limited agricultural use and generation of hydro-electric power from Run of River Plants. 3.6 MAF of storage has also been permitted to India on Western Rivers for various uses. Specified withdrawals from Ranbir and Pratap Canals are also permitted to India.

(c) and (d) Complying with the provisions available in the Treaty for the purpose, the projects so far undertaken in India include a number of run-of-river hydro-electric projects such as Salal (690 MW), Uri (480 MW) and lower Jhelum (105 MW) and irrigation projects, but no storage work, on the Western Rivers. The Irrigated Cropped Area within the basin of Western Rivers was 8,11,225 acres during 1998-99 against the permissible limit of 13,43,477 acres. Major works such as Bhakra-Nangal and Beas projects on the Eastern Rivers have already been completed. The works of Ranjit Sagar Dam, Indira Gandhi Nahar Project, Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal, Sidhmukh-Nohar Project and Shahpur Kandi Barrage are yet to be completed.

Food Parks

518. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposals have been received by the Union Government from the Government of Maharashtra to set up Food Park in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Maharashtra Agro Industries Development Corporation

Limited submitted a proposal in January, 2000 for setting up of a Food Processing Park at Butibori, Nagpur. Since the proposal was incomplete, it had to be sent back to the Corporation for completion.

(c) Unless a proposal complete in all respects, is received from the Maharashtra Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, no decision can be taken, nor it is possible to fix the time for its approval.

Funds for Agriculture

519. SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the funds allocated for the development of agriculture during the last three years and for the current year 2000-2001, State-wise and Scheme-wise;

(b) the details of the amount spent by the State Governments during the said period for this purpose, State-wise;

(c) whether State Governments of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have asked for more funds for the above purpose for the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) Department of Agriculture and Co-operation do not allocate funds State-wise at the beginning of the financial year. Releases are made on the basis of proposals received from State Governments taking into account the progress of implementation of schemes, utilisation of funds released in the past, etc. Details of funds released to State Governments and expenditure incurred by them under the various central sector and centrally sponsored schemes are given in enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Statement

State-wise details of funds released and expenditure incurred under various scheme operated by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Releases	Expenditure	Releases	Expenditure	Releases	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	7725.48	8846.09	7540.81	7435.45	8217.88	8614.52
2	Arunachal Pradesh	504.66	542.11	528.87	541.02	592.55	363.08

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3	Assam	397.48	1191.12	600.7	929.29	543.11	498.85
4	Bihar	1198.83	826.39	591.46	834.29	519.65	225.84
5	Goa	100.06	185.08	237.22	233.4	200.07	120.54
6	Gujarat	4066.3	3365.3	5364.36	5238.07	5507.6	3648.64
7	Haryana	2913.54	2665.91	2956.85	2033.17	2939.4	2386.23
8	Himachal Pradesh	1152.47	1108.5	1533.7	1491.92	1240.16	842.52
9	Jammu & Kashmir	1528.6	1545.01	1061.74	954.09	1088.36	881.24
10	Karnataka	8122.59	8732.93	9429.92	10026.68	8758.48	5762.07
11	Kerala	3568.26	3606.69	4255.46	3009.36	3181.32	2565.18
12	Madhya Pradesh	6995.95	6507.37	8168.25	7865.3	8201.21	8016.4
13	Maharashtra	9947.47	10137.52	12611.17	10036.18	12176.94	12254.06
14	Manipur	1146.4	878.95	653.34	786.98	1125.58	665.22
15	Meghalaya	256.28	396.75	569.21	463.58	759.02	381.15
16	Mizoram	723.77	789.52	1408.75	1172.44	1311.77	1181.08
17	Nagaland	884.73	826.24	1626.31	1865.26	1586.02	1397.91
18	Orissa	4116.26	4089.13	3599.91	3678.33	4725.65	2542.86
19	Punjab	2538.78	3026.29	3231.31	2745.12	2960.32	2044.34
20	Rajasthan	9716.43	9982.33	10242.02	9794.11	9791.82	5985.46
21	Sikkim	340.76	350.25	504.83	573.81	560.85	390.88
22	Tamil Nadu	5886.95	5514	6484.51	6414.59	6308.6	6575.82
23	Tripura	533.97	508.17	745.81	712.96	1124.08	616.69
24	Uttar Pradesh	10306.87	10062.32	12205.96	11996.69	10736.75	11736.45
25	West Bengal	1056.2	1704.43	1445.96	1472.38	1650.08	1197.28
Total		85729.09	87388.4	97598.43	92304.47	95809.47	81194.31

DMS Milk and Ghee

520. SHRIMATI BHAVANA CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of milk and ghee produced before and after hike in prices, separately;

(b) the quantum of milk and ghee sold during pre-increased price and after;

(c) the loss being suffered for the machinery lying under-utilisation and not curtailing the strength of employees;

(d) the manner in which the previous loss of Rs. 900 crores be fulfilled;

(e) whether the Government propose to make full utilisation of machinery and employees; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) The average production/sale of milk and ghee before and after the hike in prices is indicated in the table given below :

Period	Milk (in lakh litre/day)		Ghee (in M.Ts.)	
Before price hike (Nov., 99 to Feb., 2000)	3.96	3.95	396	372
After price hike (March, 2000 to June, 2000)	2.21	2.18	148	201

(c) There is no under-utilisation of employees in Delhi Milk Scheme. Loss due to under utilisation of machinery is difficult to quantify.

(d) The previous loss of Delhi Milk Scheme is provisionally arrived at Rs. 553.14 crores upto March, 2000 and the loss is fulfilled by the Government through budgetary support on yearly basis.

(e) and (f) To make full utilisation of machinery, DMS has taken many steps to increase the sale of milk such as increase in commission to concessionaires/depot agents; incentive for purchase of bulk milk, simplification of procedure for issue of Home Delivery Cards, extension in opening and closing timing of booths, opening of new channel for bulk supply of milk, conversion of booths into All Day Milk Stalls, empowering of field officers to appoint concessionaires/agents; and extension of area for supply of DMS etc.

World Bank Assistance

521. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has sought World Bank aid for desilting of tanks in the State;

(b) if so, the amount of aid sought for and the number of tanks proposed to be desilted; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 'Karnataka Tank Improvement Project' for rehabilitation of 5,000 tanks is estimated to cost Rs. 994.75 crores. State Government has sought World Bank assistance of Rs. 696.20 crores.

(c) The proposal has been received in the Ministry in last week of June, 2000 and is under examination for its techno-economic viability.

[Translation]

Disposal of Passport Applications

522. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of passports issued by the passport offices in Rajasthan during each of the last three years;

(b) the average time taken by the passport offices in issuing passports;

(c) the number of applications lying pending for issuance of passports in these offices for more than the average time taken in issuing the same; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to expedite disposal of these applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) There is one Passport Office in Rajasthan viz. Passport Office Jaipur. The number of passports issued by this office during each of the last three years is as under:

Year	No. of Passports issued
1997	58,722
1998	60,078
1999	73,292

(b) The average time taken by the Passport Office, Jaipur in issuing passports is 62 days from receipt of applications to dispatch of the passport provided the application is accurately filled in with all the required documents and clear Police Verification Report has been received.

(c) There are approximately 6000 passport applications pending at the Passport Office, Jaipur for more than 62 days as either the police verification is awaited or the documents/information with the applications are incomplete.

(d) Special drives to clear pending cases of applications are regularly undertaken. The Passport Office, Jaipur

is co-ordinating with police authorities for expediting police verification reports.

Farming of Seeds

523. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to protect the traditional rights of farmers and seed growers;
- (b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to promote seed farming in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) This Department has prepared the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill, 1999 which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 14.12.1999. This Bill has now been referred to the Joint Committee of the Houses of Parliament for examination. The Bill seeks to protect inter-alia farmers' traditional rights to save, use, sow, exchange, share or sell their farm produce including seeds of a variety protected under this Act provided that the farmers shall not be entitled to sell branded seed of a variety protected under this Act.

(c) This Department is implementing a number of Central Sector Schemes like Scheme for Foundation and Certified Seed Production of Vegetable Crops, Scheme for Establishment & Maintenance of Seed Bank, Pilot Scheme for Seed Crop Insurance etc. to promote seed farming in the country.

[English]

Bhimkund Dam

524. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are contemplating to build the Bhimkund Dam across the river Baitarani in Orissa.
- (b) if so, estimated cost and the present status thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the Dam is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) The Government of Orissa has reported that Bhimkund Multipurpose Project conceived on Baitarani river is under survey and investigation stage. Presently approxi-

mate cost of the Phase-I of the project envisaging irrigation and flood control is Rs. 325 crore.

Atomic Energy Regulatory Board

525. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the main functions of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB);
- (b) whether the Government propose to keep the country's nuclear weapons programme out of the jurisdiction of AERB;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether a separate panel has been set up to regulate the country's nuclear weapons programme; 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 Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) was constituted in 1983 to carry out certain regulatory and safety functions envisaged under Atomic Energy Act, 1962. The Board's main functions, inter-alia, includes laying down safety standards, framing rules and regulations, review of operational experience in the light of radiological and other safety criteria and promoting research and development efforts.

(b) to (e) With a view ensuring safety in strategic activities, it has been decided that, similar to mechanism adopted in other Nuclear Weapon States (NWS), regulatory and safety functions with respect to the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and its facilities, hitherto exercised by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) will now be exercised through the Internal Safety Committee Structure that has been constituted by the Director, BARC. While carrying out the above functions, BARC will, inter-alia, ensure compliance with the principles of good safety management as given in the relevant Safety Codes, Guides, Standards, etc. developed by AERP and the acceptable limits of radiation exposure to members of the public prescribed by AERB.

Transfer Policy

526. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to frame a transfer policy for their employees at the Centre and advise the States and Union Territories to follow the same policy in regard to their employees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Government of India have not prescribed a uniform and general transfer policy for all Central Government posts, since the functional needs, cadre structure and location of posts varies widely between one department and another.

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

Cattle and Buffalo Development

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

(a) whether the Karnataka has sought Rs. 10 crores as Central grant for implementation of cattle and buffalo development programmes in the State during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details of said programmes;

(c) whether the amount has been released for these programmes; and

(d) if not, the time by which the said amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Karnataka submitted a project proposal in August, 1999 seeking central assistance to the tune of Rs. 10.00 crore towards strengthening of State Livestock Farms, Semen Stations including procurement of breeding bulls, Semen Banks including Liquid Nitrogen storage and transport system, Training Centres etc., as well as conversion of A.I. Centres for doorstep delivery of A.I. Services.

(c) and (d) A total amount of Rs. 525.49 lakhs was released during 1999-2000 to the State under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes Extension of Frozen Semen Technology (Rs. 420.49 lakhs) and National Bull Production Programme (Rs. 105.00 lakhs). The State requested for revalidation of

the said amount for use during 2000-2001. Revalidation orders have since been issued and release of further grants will be considered on receipt of utilisation certificate and a report of physical progress.

Genetically Modified Seeds

528. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Genetically Modified Seeds (GMS) are useful for increasing the agricultural production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such seeds are likely to be imported;

(d) whether these GMS will be issued to Indian Agro Research Institutes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) It has been reported that the genetically modified seeds have potential to increase agricultural productivity under biotic stress conditions. However, there is no commercial exploitation of such seeds in India at present. Contained research trials of genetically modified crops are being carried out as per the guidelines of Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation under the Department of Biotechnology.

(c) to (e) At present, this Department has no proposal for import of genetically modified seeds. All genetically modified seeds require evaluation of environmental safety under the Environment Protection Act. Only when such seeds are evaluated in the Indian environment and found to be safe, would they be eligible for being imported into the country. The rules for any organisation in the private or public sector receiving such seeds will be governed by the Indian Laws which in succession presently requires first clearance of safety from the Ministry of Environment & Forests under the Environment Protection Act for commercial use and from the Department of Biotechnology for research use.

Amendments in Industrial Disputes Act, 1947

529. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and will introduce a new Bill known as Industrial Relations Bill for promoting harmonious relationship between workers and employers;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions likely to be incorporated in the proposed amendments; and

(c) the time by which the new Bill is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) Various amendments in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 are proposed based on the requirements of the social partners. A cautious policy is adopted to bring about amendments to the Act after taking into consideration all the relevant factors. The proposals for amendments to the Act are awaiting the approval of competent authority.

Hill Area Development Scheme

530. SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of districts covered under Hill Area Development Scheme (HADS);

(b) the criteria for providing Special Central Assistance for various districts covered under the Scheme;

(c) whether any evaluation study was carried out during the Eighth Plan to assess the impact of HADS;

(d) if so, the findings of such study; and

(e) the funds earmarked and actual expenditure incurred on the HADS?

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) The Hill Areas Development Programme (HADP) and Western Ghats Development Programme (WGDP) cover the following designated Hill Areas Talukas :

(i) Two hill districts of Assam - North Cachar and Karbi Anglong.

(ii) Twelve districts of Uttar Pradesh - Dehradun, Pauri Garhwal, Tehri Garhwal, Chamoli, Uttarakashi, Nainital, Almora, Pithora-garh, Bageshwar, Champawat, Rudraprayag and Udham Singh Nagar.

(iii) Major part of Darjeeling District of West Bengal.

(iv) Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu.

(v) 159 talukas of Western Ghats area comprising part of Maharashtra (62 talukas), Karnataka (40 talukas), Tamil Nadu (25 talukas), Kerala (29 talukas) and Goa (3 talukas).

(b) The Special Central Assistance (SCA) available under the Programme is divided amongst the designated hill areas under HADP and the designated talukas of WGDP in the ratio 84:16. The allocation available under HADP is divided amongst the designated hill areas on the basis of their area and population giving equal weightage to both the criteria. The allocation available under WGDP is divided amongst the talukas on the basis of area and population with 75% weightage to area and 25% to population (except Goa in which case ad-hoc allocation of 5% of the total SCA is made as Goa's share works out to be negligible by adopting the same criteria of weightage of area and population).

(c) and (d) Evaluation studies were carried out in the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu during the Eighth Five Year Plans by the respective State Governments. Although it is difficult to isolate the impact of the programme as the funds are only additive to the normal flows from the State Plans, the Studies at the micro level show that the beneficiary oriented programmes in sector such as horticulture, soil conservation and minor irrigation have had a good impact in the area.

(e) The allocation of Special Central Assistance and expenditure incurred under the programme are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Allocation of Special Central Assistance and Expenditure under HADP/WGDP

(Rs. in crores)

States	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Allocation	Expenditure reported	Allocation	Expenditure reported	Allocation	Expenditure reported	Allocation	Expenditure reported
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A. Hill Areas in the State of								
Assam	46.32	46.32	46.32	46.32	50.16	50.16	50.90	50.90

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tamil Nadu	19.62	19.62	19.62	19.62	21.70	21.70	22.01	22.01
Uttar Pradesh	217.07	217.07	217.07	217.07	237.41	237.41	240.86	240.86
West Bengal	22.23	22.23	22.23	22.23	22.23	22.23	22.23	22.23
Sub-Total (A)	305.24	305.24	305.24	305.24	331.50	331.50	336.00	336.00
B Western Ghat Region								
Maharashtra	15.27	15.19	15.67	15.35	19.11	18.81	20.97	20.83
Karnataka	11.29	10.48	11.22	10.07	14.48	12.78	16.84	15.68
Kerala	9.52	9.40	9.96	9.77	11.91	11.75	13.51	13.37
Tamil Nadu	7.96	7.96	8.00	8.00	9.97	9.97	10.94	11.60
Goa	2.34	2.29	2.33	2.24	2.95	2.92	3.20	3.33
Sub-Total (B)	46.38	45.32	47.18	45.43	58.42	56.23	65.46	64.81
Grand Total (A+B)	351.62	350.56	352.42	350.67	389.92	387.73	401.46	400.81

[Translation]

E.S.I.

531. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have implemented Unemployment Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme;

(c) the number of unemployed persons benefited under this scheme during the last three years; and

(d) the reasons attributed to not achieving complete success therefor?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Agriculture and Rural Development

532. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had accorded priority

to agriculture and rural development during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of targets fixed in these two sectors during the Ninth Plan; and

(c) the extent to which agriculture generated adequate production, employment and rural development succeeded in eradication of poverty in the country in general and Gujarat in particular during the first three years of the plan period?

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) Yes Sir.

(b) The details of targets fixed in Agriculture for the Ninth Five Year Plan are given in enclosed statement-I. Targets were not fixed for all the schemes of Rural Development Sector. However, achievement of the last three years for a few important schemes is given in enclosed statement I-A.

(c) The production in Agriculture Sector during the first three years of the Ninth Five Year Plan is given in enclosed

statement-II. The extent to which agriculture generated employment has not been assessed.

No specific study has been done to measure the impact of Rural Development Programmes in eradication of poverty in the country in general and Gujarat in particular during the first three years of the Ninth Plan. However, the Government has adopted a three pronged strategy comprising of (i) accelerated economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive, (ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services, and (iii) targeted anti-poverty programmes for reducing poverty. The major anti-poverty programmes are Swarna Jayanti Gramin Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY, formerly the IRDP), Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY, old JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Indira Awas Yojana (IAY).

Statement-I

Targets of production of Agricultural commodities the Ninth Plan

Item	Target Production (Million tonnes)
1	2
1. Agricultural Crops	
(a) Foodgrains	234.00
(v) Rice	99.00

1	2
(vi) Wheat	83.00
(vii) Coarse Cereals	35.50
(viii) Pulses	16.50
(b) Oilseeds	30.00
(c) Sugarcane	336.00
(d) Fruits & Vegetables	179.00
(e) Other Agricultural Products of which	
(vi) Cotton	15.70 (Million bales)
(vii) Tea	1000.00 (Million Kg.)
(viii) Coffee	300.00 (Million Kg.)
(ix) Spices	3.36
(x) Rubber	0.83
2. Livestock	
(d) Milk Group	96.49
(e) Meat & Poultry Group	
(f) Other Livestock products	
3. Fishery	7.04

Statement-IA

Physical Performance under major rural development programmes for 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

All India

S.No.	Programmes	Unit	1997-98			1998-99			1999-2000		Period
			Target	Achievement	% Achievement	Target	Achievement	% Achievement	Target	Achievement	
1	JRY/JGSY*	Lakh Mandays	3867.00	3958.00	102.35	3966.57	3752.10	94.59		1711.11	upto 12/99
2	EAS	Lakh Mandays		4717.74			4165.31		4089.50	2024.75	upto 12/99
3	IRDP/SGSY#	Lakh Families/ Self Help Groups assisted &		17.07			16.64			2.08	upto 12/99
4	IAY	Lakh Houses	7.18	7.71	107.38	9.87	8.35	84.60	12.72	6.56	upto 12/99

* JRY has been restructured as JGST w.e.f. 1999-2000.

SGSY w.e.f. 1999-2000 by merging IRDP and its allied programmes like TRYSEM, DWCRA, SITRA and GKY; and MWS

& Self Help Groups assisted w.e.f. 1999-2000.

(Source : Ministry of Rural Development)

Statement-II*Production in Agriculture Sector during the first three years
of the Ninth Five Year Plan*

	Crops	Units	All India			Gujarat		
			1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1			2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Foodgrains	Million Tonnes	192.26	203.04	205.91*	5.71	5.57	N.A.
(a)	Rice	-do-	82.53	85.99	88.28	1.04	1.02	N.A.
(b)	Wheat	-do-	66.35	70.78	74.25	1.65	1.70	N.A.
(c)	Coarse Cereals	-do-	30.40	31.46	30.35	2.41	2.21	N.A.
(d)	Total Pulses	-do-	12.98	14.81	13.06	0.61	0.63	N.A.
2.	Oilseeds	-do-	21.32	25.21	21.18	3.83	3.88	N.A.
3.	Sugarcane	-do-	279.54	295.73	309.31	11.84	13.57	N.A.
4.	Cotton	-do-	10.85	12.18	11.99	3.18	3.94	N.A.
5.	Fruits and Vegetables	-do-	112.88	122.00	N.A.	4.07	N.A.	N.A.
6.	Spices	-do-	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
7.	Tea	Million Kg.	838	850	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
8.	Coffee	Lakh Tonne	2.28	2.65	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
9.	Rubber	-do-	5.89	6.05	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
10.	Milk	-do-	706.00*	747.00@	N.A.	49.13*	N.A.	N.A.
11.	Eggs	Million No.	28549*	30150@	N.A.	48.85*	N.A.	N.A.
12.	Wool	Million Kg.	44.7*	45.5@	N.A.	2.6*	N.A.	N.A.
13.	Fish	Lakh Tonne	53.88	52.62*	N.A.	8.16	6.30*	N.A.

* Provisional

@ Anticipated

N A Not Available

Cyber Security Panel

533. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up a high level Cyber Security Panel on the lines of the US National Infrastructure Protection Centre;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to set up a crucial mechanism for the security of vital installation and utilities?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) The Government is 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) Generally institutions having large computer installations and computer networks in the country take adequate security measures and install appropriate security products to protect their information systems and utilities. The physical security of the vital information system installations and utilities in the country are looked after by the concerned agencies/institutions and the Administrative Ministry concerned. The physical security is also provided by Ministry of Home Affairs.

Central Assistance to Maharashtra

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

- (a) whether Chief Minister of Maharashtra has placed demand before the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission and has demanded of Rs. 1,355 crore Central Assistance for Mumbai to deal with the Civic problems;
- (b) if so, whether Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission has considered the representation made by the Chief Minister;
- (c) the main basic proposals put forward by the Chief Minister to Planning Commission;
- (d) the reaction of the Planning Commission; and
- (e) extent to which the Planning Commission has

agreed to provide financial assistance to the State Government of Maharashtra?

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 (e) In the meeting between Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chief Minister of Maharashtra held on 24th May, 2000 for finalisation of Annual Plan 2000-01, the latter has placed an annual demand of Rs. 1355 crore for 10 years as Central Assistance to deal with civic problems of Mumbai. Besides Central Assistance of Rs. 100 crore to solve water scarcity crisis, some assistance for Kumb Mela to be held during 2003-04 at Nasik and also some plan assistance to cover the deficit of Rs. 748 crore to meet the plan size of Rs. 12330 crore have also been requested. The Plan size for 2000-01 for the State of Maharashtra has been agreed at Rs. 11500 crore. The sectoral outlay is yet to be finalized.

Foreign Direct Investment

535. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Food Processing Sector has failed to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI);
- (b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;
- (c) details of the proposals received and actually implemented with the help of F.D.I. during the last three years; and
- (d) the steps proposed by the Government to attract more F.D.I. in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) During the period 1997-98 to 1999-2000, 137 Foreign Investment Proposals in food processing sector were approved, envisaging Foreign Investment of Rs. 1980 Crores approximately. Actual implementation details for the three year period are not available. However, 114 projects were implemented during the period 1991-Dec. 1999 with inflow of foreign investment of over Rs. 2299 crores.

- (d) (i) Automatic approval for foreign equity upto 100% is available for most of the processed food items, subject to certain conditions.
- (ii) Food Processing Industries have been included in the list of priority sector.
- (iii) Most of the processed food items have been exempted from the purview of licensing under Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951.

Decline in Sale of KVIC Items

536. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the sale proceeds of Khadi Village Industry Commission (KVIC) have declined in the last few years resulting in closure;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have entered into any contract with a foreign company to revive it;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government 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) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Development of I.T. in Uttarakhand Region

537. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the workshop of Scientists and Technological Experts held on April 21-23, regarding development of Uttarakhand evolved a strategy for development of Information Industry in the region;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the strategy evolved to attract Foreign Direct Investment;

(c) whether the strategy include provision of a High Wide-Band-Internet connectivity to this region; and

(d) the action taken and being taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) A workshop on the "Role of Science and Technology to the Integrated Development of Uttarakhand" was held during April 21-23, 2000 at Kosi-Katarmal, Almora. The workshop was not merely dedicated to the development of Information Industry, but covered a wide range of issues for integrated development of the region through S&T intervention namely (i) Geo-resources (ii) Bio-resources (iii) Infrastructure and Technological Interventions and (iv) Socio-economic aspects. Among the suggestions made one set of suggestions related to the provision of High Wide Band Internet connectivity to the region.

A decision has also been separately taken to set up Community Information Centres (CICs) with full Internet connectivity in all the blocks of the Uttarakhand region along the lines of a similar decision taken for North-East and Sikkim in January, 2000.

(d) As a follow up measure, the Department of Science and Technology has recently set up a Steering Committee to evolve a Mission Mode project based on the recommendations of the said workshop and suggest ways and means for interaction, coordination and resource mobilization.

[Translation]

Acidic Land Reform

538. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bihar Government has submitted any proposal for clearance and financial assistance in regard to reclamation of saline-alkaline and water logging areas as well as to implement Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Acidic Land Reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposals is likely to be accorded approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of Bihar vide their letter No.C/ Plan 1/99/388/ Patna, dated 30.9.1999 has submitted a Project Proposal for seeking World Bank Assistance of Rs. 1340.00 crores for Reclamation and Development of Rs. 2.20 lakh Ha. Salt Affected Lands in 8 Districts of Gandak Command Area. After examination by Ministry of Agriculture, the comments alongwith a request to submit the revised proposal was conveyed to Government of Bihar on 29.12.1999.

[English]

Pension Fund

539. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are contemplating to set up a Pension Fund for their employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance has accorded their approval for the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which this fund is likely to be set up?

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 Fifth Pay Commission has recommended that a National Pension Fund may be created with the Government setting apart 17.73% of the salary of every new entrant in service from the year 1997-98 so that their pension liability is wholly met out of the proposed pension fund. No final decision has yet been taken in this regard.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

Comprehensive Policy on SSI

540. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to adopt a comprehensive policy on the small scale sector;

(b) whether the policy has been drafted and finalised; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) A comprehensive new policy on the Small Scale sector is under finalisation.

Identification Documents for Air Travellers

541. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Nepal have made it mandatory for air travellers of either country to carry identification document including passport from October, 2000;

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

(c) whether the conditions of air journey will apply for journey by land also; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) India and Nepal have agreed to tighten the existing system whereby Indian and Nepalese nationals travelling by air between the two countries are required to present photo identification documents to establish their nationality. A pruned-down list of admissible travel documents will be introduced with effect from October 1, 2000.

Indian citizens would be required to be in possession of any one of the following documents while travelling by air between the two countries :

- Valid national passport.
- Photo identity card issued by the Government of India/any State Government or Union Territory Administration in India/identity card issued by the Election Commission of India.
- Emergency Certificate issued by Embassy of India, Kathmandu to Indian nationals in case of emergent conditions.

Nepalese citizens would be required to be in possession of any one of the following documents while travelling by air between the two countries :

- Valid national passport.
- Photo identity card issued by the Government of Nepal.
- Emergency Certificate issued by Royal Nepalese Embassy in New Delhi to the Nepalese nationals in case of emergent conditions.

Children up to the age of 10 years will not require the above mentioned documents for travelling between India and Nepal, by air.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at this stage to extend the above conditions to travel between the two countries across the land border. However, both sides have agreed to strengthen cooperation to control undesirable activities and the movement of terrorists, criminals and other undesirable elements across the open India-Nepal border. Bilateral institutional mechanisms have been evolved with the objective of facilitating joint efforts to prevent misuse of the open India-Nepal border, while ensuring that the facility remains available for legitimate users.

Closing of Establishments

542. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of employees and workers lost their jobs due to closing down of establishments in Central and State sectors during the last three years separately, till date;

(b) the effect of 'disinvestment' on the job of employees and employment scenario; and

(c) the details of the meaning of "Need based

recruitment" and "operational requirement" in Central Government offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The total number of employees and workers affected during the last three years as a result of closure of establishments in the Central and State sphere under provisions of the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947 is given in enclosed statement.

(b) The disinvestments in non-strategic public sector enterprises has been undertaken with a view to restructure their operations, improve productivity and achieve a turn around in performance. There is no evidence to show that this would have any adverse effect on the job of employees and the employment scenario.

(c) The need and operational requirements of Central Government offices are expected to change with changing role, function and policies of the Government. Whereas some departments/offices may experience need for strengthening others may require some correction/adjustments in staff/officers. Recruitment, therefore, has to be need based and in line with the operational work requirements and functions being performed in Government offices.

Statement

Number of Closures and Workers Affected therein during 1997-2000 by Spheres

Year	Closures					
	Central Sphere		State Sphere		Total	
	A	B	A	B	A	B
1997 (P)	2	150	152	12794	154	12944
1998 (P)	--	--	175	13386	175	13386
1999 (P)	1	21	143	15234	144	15255
2000 (Jan-May) (P)	--	--	22	1374	22	1374

A = Number of Units

B = Workers Affected

-- = Nil

(P) = Provisional

Source : Labour Bureau, Shimla

*[Translation]***Bilateral Cooperation with European Countries**

543. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the areas of science, technology, trade and other related fields in which India have bilateral collaboration with France and other countries of Europe;

(b) whether new areas of mutual collaboration have been identified; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Bilateral cooperation between India and France in the areas of science, technology, trade and culture includes cooperation in the fields of scientific research, exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, collaboration in the launch of INSAT series satellites, telecommunications, information technology, mining, energy, agriculture including food processing, industrial applications of scientific research in chemicals and petrochemicals, etc. Bilateral agreements in the areas of science and technology, trade cooperation, tourism, air-services, avoidance of double taxation, promotion and protection of investments, agriculture, telecommunications, biotechnology and environment have also been entered into with a number of other countries in Europe.

(b) and (c) The mechanism of bilateral exchanges and consultations through periodic meetings of the Joint Commissions and Working Groups provide opportunities for identification and exploration of new areas of mutual cooperation. New areas of cooperation with various countries in Europe in the fields of information technology, biotechnology, non-conventional energy, power, ocean science, health, water management, disaster management and remote sensing have been identified.

National Water Policy

544. SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN :

SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :

SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister was held in Delhi recently, to review the new National Water Policy at the earliest;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether several State Governments strictly opposed some provisions of draft guidelines of the policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. 4th meeting of the National Water Resources Council under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister was held on 7th July, 2000 for the adoption of revised National Water Policy. The deliberations established a broad consensus among the States on most of the issues contained in the proposed policy, some of the areas of differences were as under :-

- (i) Legislation for developing standardized national information system.
- (ii) Establishing appropriate River Basin Organisation with statutory powers.
- (iii) Water allocation amongst States. and
- (iv) Amendment of Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956.

In order to achieve greater convergence and agreement on these issues the Council has decided for constitution of a Working Group including Ministers of all the States/UTs under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources.

*[English]***Organised Smuggling of Indians Abroad**

545. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have asked various Intelligence Agencies in the country to investigate a multi crore racket of organised smuggling of Indians abroad;
- (b) if so, the *modus operandi* of such racket; and
- (c) the time by which the probe is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : No, Sir. While no Intelligence Agency has been specifically asked to investigate the organised smuggling of Indians abroad, as and when instances of smuggling of Indians abroad come to the notice of the Government, the concerned agencies are asked to investigate the matter for appropriate action.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Contract Labour Law

546. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN :

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to replace the existing Contract Labour Act, 1970;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any consultations were held between the Government and major Trade Unions in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time taken by which the proposed legislation is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (e) In the wake of economic liberalisation and the experience gathered in the administration of the Act as also judgement of various courts, a need has been felt to make certain changes in the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. The major Trade Unions have also been consulted and the matter is now being examined in view of the responses received from all concerned.

[Translation]

Visit of Foreign Minister to Sri Lanka

547. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a high level delegation headed by him visited Sri Lanka in June, 2000;
- (b) if so, the details of the officers who were members of the delegation;
- (c) the issues on which discussions were held with the Sri Lankan Government;
- (d) the outcome thereof;
- (e) whether India offered a credit facility to Sri Lanka;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether a special envoy of Sri Lankan President visited New Delhi recently; and
- (h) if so, the details including the message brought by him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (f) The Minister of External Affairs visited Sri Lanka from June, 11-12-2000, and held discussions with the Sri Lankan President, Foreign Minister, Leader of the Opposition and several other political leaders. The Minister was accompanied by the Joint Secretary (BSM) in the Ministry of External Affairs.

The discussions during the visit took place in the context of strengthening the close and friendly relations between India and Sri Lanka. With regard to the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka, the talks focussed on measures to achieve a lasting peace through a political settlement within the framework of the unity, sovereignty and integrity of Sri Lanka in a manner which would meet the aspirations of all communities.

During the visit, India offered to extend Sri Lanka a credit line of US \$ 100 million. The possibilities of Sri Lanka's purchasing wheat, rice and sugar on a counter trade basis from India, were also discussed.

The text of the Joint Statement issued at the end of the visit enclosed.

(g) and (h) A Special Envoy of the Sri Lanka President, Mr. Lakshman Jayakody, Minister of Buddha Sasana, Culture & Religious Affairs, visited Delhi from July 4-6, 2000. He handed over a letter from President Kumaratunga to the Prime Minister, expressing appreciation of India's diplomatic and moral support in Sri Lanka's recent time of crisis. The Special Envoy also called on the Minister of External Affairs and the Minister of Tourism and Culture.

Statement

Sri Lanka-India Joint Statement (June 12, 2000)

The Minister of External Affairs of India, Shri Jaswant Singh made an official visit to Sri Lanka, at the invitation of the Government of Sri Lanka, from 11th to 12th June. During his visit the Minister had discussions with President Kumaratunga and Foreign Minister, Lakshman Kadirgamar. He also met Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, the Leader of the Opposition and representatives from other political parties.

At the commencement of discussions, the visiting Minister reiterated the continued commitment of the Government of India to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. He also expressed the good wishes and support of the Government of India to the restoration of a lasting peace, which would be possible through a political process that produces a settlement, which meets the aspirations of all communities.

The discussions touched upon the present situation and also the broader issues related to the further strengthening of the existing close and friendly relations that India and Sri Lanka have traditionally enjoyed.

President Kumaratunga apprised the visiting Minister of current political developments including the consultations between the Government and other political parties and the facilitation efforts of Norway.

President Kumaratunga welcomed India's offer to be of assistance in the humanitarian as well as economic sphere to ease any constraints that may be currently faced by Sri Lanka. Shri Jaswant Singh added in this regard that India would be prepared to extend to Sri Lanka a credit facility, on terms to be mutually worked out between the two Finance Ministers, amounting to US\$ 100 million. The possibilities of Sri Lanka's purchasing wheat, rice and sugar on a counter trade basis from India, were also discussed.

In conclusion both sides noted that the discussions had been productive and that they had enabled the reaching of understandings on the measures that India and Sri Lanka can take both collectively as well as individually, to bring about lasting peace in Sri Lanka. Shri Jaswant Singh emphasised that he was leaving Sri Lanka at the end of his visit confident of the depth, strength and direction of India - Sri Lanka relations and their ability to meet the common challenges both countries face.

[English]

Prime Minister's Visit to USA

548. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :

SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the issue of sanctions is likely to be taken up during the Prime Minister of India's visit to USA;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether date has been fixed for his visit;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of other topics expected to be discussed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Prime Minister's visit to the United States, at the invitation of the US President, is expected to contribute towards establishing a closer and qualitatively new relationship and deepening co-operation between India and the United States, in accordance with the vision of bilateral relationship in the 21st Century outlined by Prime Minister and the US President on 21st March in Delhi. It is expected that all issues of mutual concern, including that of the remaining US unilateral restrictions on India, will be discussed by the two sides.

(c) and (d) Prime Minister will pay an official visit to Washington from 15th to 17th September, 2000. He will also visit New York and San Francisco.

(e) The two sides will discuss intensification of co-operation across the full range of bilateral activities, including trade and commerce, finance and investment, energy and environment, science and technology, counter-terrorism and law enforcement. Regional and international issues of mutual interests will also be discussed.

*[Translation]***PM Visit Abroad**

549. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU :

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA :

DR. ASHOK PATEL :

SHRI A. NARENDRA :

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

SHRI ANIL BASU :

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries visited by the Prime Minister during the last six months till date;

(b) the names of the ministers who accompanied him;

(c) the details of issues discussed, including the stand taken by India and host countries on them;

(d) the agreements signed on the occasion, country-wise;

(e) the economic benefits likely to accrue as a result of the visit; and

(f) the way the visit is likely to consolidate close ties of India with such countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (f) These details are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Non-Payment of Dues

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

(a) the details of the defaulters in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi against whom action has been taken by the Government for non-payment of dues under EPF and ESIC Act during the last three years;

(b) the number of pending labour cases in both the States as on June 30, 2000; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to clear the pending cases at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The requisite information is under :-

(i) ESI defaulters :				
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Delhi	813	1120	1017	
U.P.	1368	1483	740	
(ii) EPF defaulters :				
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Delhi	417	394	685	
U.P.	2314	1337	2423	

(b) As on 31.05.2000 there were 713 cases pending in Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal-Cum-Labour Courts in U.P. and 1084 in New Delhi.

(c) A meeting of all Presiding Officers was held on 6.4.99 in which the need to dispose of pending cases was impressed upon them. A Departmental manual of procedure has been finalised for use of the Presiding Officers to facilitate quick disposal of cases.

MPLADS

551. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to increase the amount being provided under MPLADS to install computers in middle schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above said amount is likely to be disbursed?

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) and (b) According to the existing Guidelines on MPLADS, funds can be used for installation of computers in Govt. and Govt. aided schools/educational institutions. District Authorities are required to give work to the implementing agency keeping in view the cost competitiveness and quality of the required configuration and release funds accordingly.

(c) Funds under the scheme are released by the Government of India, in instalments of Rs. one crore each, directly to the concerned District Collectors. Necessary funds required for execution of eligible individuals works as recommended by an MP, are disbursed to the executing agency by the Collector.

Cost Overruns

552. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether inordinate delay in the completion of the projects has led to cost overrun;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any policy for fixing the responsibility in this regard; and

(d) if so, the number of officers against whom action has been taken after fixing the responsibility in this regard 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, 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) Yes, Sir. As on 31.3.2000, out of 473 Central Sector Projects, each costing to Rs. 20 crores and above, on the monitor of the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, 216 projects are running behind their approved original schedules. The extent of time and cost overruns with respect to the original schedules and costs are given in enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) According to the Guidelines issued by the Planning Commission in August, 1998, the mechanism of Standing Committees envisages the fixation of responsibility in all cases of time and cost overrun before the revised cost estimates of projects costing Rs. 50 crores and above are submitted to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). The Administrative Ministries/Departments concerned with Central Sector Projects are required to set up Standing Committees comprising representatives from the Planning Commission, Department of Expenditure and the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation to examine cases of time and cost overruns as also to identify agencies and persons responsible for such overruns. The reports of the Committees form part of the notes for examination and approval of the revised cost estimates having time and cost overruns before these are submitted to CCEA.

22 Ministries have set up Standing Committee, to go into the cost and time overrun of the projects. So, far, 40 such cases have been referred to the Standing Committees. 10 cases have been finalised and in 1 case, individual responsibility has been fixed. The projects in the North Eastern Region suffered seriously due to law and order problems and non-availability of proper man power resources. In other projects, some institutional weaknesses have been identified as being among the factors that have caused time and cost overruns. Standing Committees have advised the concerned Ministries to take necessary remedial actions.

Statement

S. No.	Sector	No. of Projects	Total Cost (Rs. Crs.)			No.	Proj. with Cost over run			Proj. with Time over run			
			Original	Anticipated Cost	Cost Over Run (%)		Orig. Cost	Anticipated Cost	%INCR Base	No.	Orig. Cost	Anticipated Cost	Range (No.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Atomic Energy	26	6246.8	15559.7	149.1	5	4959.0	14460.7	191.6	6	2092.8	5891.5	33-76
2	Civil Aviation	15	492.2	535.8	8.8	5	160.5	204.1	27.1	9	258.9	290.9	2-57
3	Coal	65	12161.8	13717.5	12.8	16	4995.5	6798.3	36.1	36	8203.0	9772.4	2-189
4	Finance	1	118.3	348.8	194.9	1	118.3	348.8	194.9	1	118.3	348.8	96-96
5	Fertilizers	6	739.0	749.5	1.4	1	28.0	38.5	37.5	1	28.0	38.5	6-6
6	I & B	5	202.5	249.9	23.4	1	34.2	81.6	138.9	5	202.5	249.9	24-132

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7	Mines	5	3965.0	3971.3	0.2	1	157.5	163.8	4.0	3	238.4	244.7	8-14
8	Steel	11	3177.9	4275.7	34.5	4	2739.1	3836.9	40.1	9	3048.9	4146.7	2-35
9	Petrochemicals	1	3484.4	4335.0	24.4	1	3484.4	4335.0	24.4	1	3484.4	4335.0	40-40
10	Petroleum	45	29201.5	29747.0	1.9	6	4050.7	4835.7	19.4	17	13704.2	14396.8	3-58
11	Power	29	27554.0	45800.3	66.2	17	18797.4	37292.1	98.4	15	9079.7	24552.1	22-136
12	Railways	192	26508.0	36295.7	36.9	125	15971.1	25948.8	62.5	63	9969.6	15646.7	2-132
13	Surface Transport	55	5460.7	7824.4	43.3	27	3441.1	5897.6	71.4	38	4230.4	6329.8	1-132
14	Telecommunication	8	927.2	927.2	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7	896.1	896.1	1-48
15	Others	9	5220.2	5726.0	9.7	6	5072.0	5573.4	10.0	5	281.4	403.6	29-53
Total		473	125459.3	170063.4	35.6	216	64008.8	109820.3	71.6	216	55836.5	87543.5	

Central Water and Power Research Station

553. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL :
SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Water and Power Research Station Pune, has not completed its Calibration Laboratory Project even after lapse of thirteen years of the stipulated date;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay;

(c) the efforts being made for completion of the project; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):
(a) to (d) All the works relating to the establishment of Calibration Laboratory Scheme in Central Water & Power Research Station, Pune have been completed.

The facility proposed to be constructed under this project involved advanced and sophisticated technologies encompassing fields of electronics, mechanical, electrical and civil engineering, calling for a high degree of precision and compatibility. The assistance of both Indian and foreign consultants was sought in finalisation of the design which

resulted in delay. Many of the contractors to whom the related civil works were awarded did not complete the job. Therefore, these contracts had to be re-awarded, resulting in further loss of time.

Flood Control

554. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rivers flowing from Nepal are causing heavy flood and soil erosion in certain parts of the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether any high level Central Team visited Nepal recently to undertake a joint site investigation of proposed multipurpose Sapta Koshi High Dam Project;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether both the Prime Ministers of India and Nepal had discussed this issue during the NAM meeting; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the work on this project is likely to be commenced?

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

(a) Yes, Sir, the rivers flowing from Nepal are causing floods in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) During 1999 monsoon season 24 districts of Bihar and 11 districts of Uttar Pradesh were affected due to floods.

(c) Yes, Sir, a team led by Chief Engineer (Yamuna Basin), Central Water Commission visited Nepal from June 5-12, 2000 to attend the 1st Technical Level Meeting between India and Nepal on the project and to undertake the joint Indo Nepal field visit to the proposed Sapta Kosi High Dam and Sun Kosi Multipurpose project area.

(d) The details of works and preliminary cost estimates for preparation of detailed project report in respect of Sapta Kosi Dam and Sun Kosi Multipurpose project were jointly worked out during the visit.

(e) There is no official record of the stated discussions.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Finalisation of Annual Plan

555. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has postponed the finalisation of annual plans of States for the year 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the poor financial condition of State Governments; and

(d) if so, the justification for postponing the finalisation of annual plans of the States?

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) and (b) No, Planning Commission is in the process of finalising Annual Plans of States for the year 2000-01 and the same have been finalised in respect of UP, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab and UT of Pondicherry. Finalisation of Annual Plans for the remaining States and UTs will be taken up shortly.

(c) and (d) The Government are aware of the financial condition of the State Governments, and accordingly there is considerable transfer of resources every month from the Centre to the States as Plan and Non-Plan assistance. Annual State Plan discussions for the year 2000-01 were delayed to some extent in order to take into account the views of the Eleventh Finance Commission and the resulting implications for resources availability for the State Plans. However, this has not affected the transfer of resources to the States, and they have been receiving funds from Government of India every month as usual on the basis of tentative allocations made by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance.

[Translation]

One Family One Employment

556. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments have adopted the Scheme of one family one employment norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to issue any instructions for implementation of the said scheme in other States; and

(d) if so, the time by which the instructions are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) No State other than Haryana Government has introduced one family one employment scheme.

(b) One Family One Job Scheme has been introduced in the State of Haryana with effect from 1.12.1992 with the objective of providing means of employment to one member of each family from such applicants registered with the Employment Exchanges as have no member of their family in any kind of employment.

Under this scheme 4702 applicants have been placed in employment through Employment Exchanges during the period from December, 1992 to May, 2000.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

International Labour Summit

557. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of issues deliberated upon during the International Labour Summit held in Geneva;
- (b) the resolutions passed in the said summit;
- (c) whether any action plan has been formulated for employment generation and poverty alleviation during the summit; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) The 88th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) held in Geneva from 30th May to 15th June, 2000 discussed inter-alia :-

- (1) The Global Report entitled "Your voice at work" under the follow up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.
- (2) Maternity Protection.
- (3) Safety and health in agriculture.
- (4) Human Resources Training and Development.
- (5) The Reports on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, and
- (6) Withdrawal of 5 Conventions of the ILO.

The Conference adopted a Convention and Recommendation on Maternity Protection revising the existing ILO instruments on the subject. The new instruments strengthen protection over previous instruments in many areas and broaden the scope of coverage. On the question of safety and health in agriculture, the Conference adopted certain conclusions with a view to adopt a Convention and a Recommendation in the 89th Session in 2001. The discussion on Human Resources Training and Development led to the conclusion that the ILO should revise the ILO Recommendation No. 150 concerning Human Resources Development. The Conference also decided to withdraw five obsolete International Labour Conventions.

The Conference adopted a Resolution which suggests a series of measures to compel the Government of Myanmar to comply with ILO Convention No.29 on Forced Labour. The Conference also adopted a Resolution on HIV AIDS that urge the Government and social partners to expand the capacity of the social partners to address the pandemic to protect groups at risks and formulate and implement social and labour policies and programmes to mitigate the effects of AIDS at national and enterprise level.

While discussing the Report of the Director General in the Plenary of the Conference, visiting Ministers and Delegates from several countries emphasised the importance of employment and the need to combat poverty. However, no specific plan of action was formulated by the conference for employment generation and poverty elimination.

Production of Onion

558. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI BASANGOU DA R. PATIL :

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there has been a bumper crop of onions in the country this year;
- (b) if so, whether the onions growers are facing financial difficulties due to non-announcement of support price to onion;
- (c) whether due to delay in taking decision about export of onions, lakhs of tonnes of onions have rotted, causing a great losses to the farmers; and
- (d) if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed by the Government to overcome the onion-crisis and safeguard the interest of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) The production of onion during 1999-2000 is expected to be 47.50 lakh tonnes as against 54.67 lakh tonnes produced during 1998-99.

(b) Onion is not covered under Minimum Support Price scheme and as such announcement of support prices for this crop does not arise. However, onion is covered under Market Intervention Scheme.

(c) and (d) As against 2.16 lakh tonnes of onion exported during 1998-99, a quota of 3.00 lakh tonnes of onion was allocated for export July, 2000, out of which 2.55 lakh tonnes of onions have already been exported. To help stabilize the prices of onion, market intervention was also done by the State Government of Maharashtra. The Government of India continuously monitor the prospects of the crop at various stages of its production and takes required corrective steps to protect the interest of the farmers.

Visit of Foreign Dignitaries

559. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

SHRI RAMSHAKAL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of foreign dignitaries who visited India during 1999 and till date;
- (b) the names of the countries to which they belong to;
- (c) the purpose of their visit and the issue discussed; and
- (d) the outcome of the talks held with them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) The details are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Konar Irrigation Project

560. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether execution work of Konar Inter-State-irrigation project has been started;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the efforts made by the Union Government so far to start construction work of the project; and
- (d) the time by which the execution work of the project is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (d) Konar Irrigation Project in Giridih and Hazaribagh districts of Bihar was considered by the Technical Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources in March, 1984

for an estimated cost of Rs. 93.61 Crore. The project was not accepted due to inter-State issues. The main inter-State issues involved are namely, (i) concurrence of Damodar Valley Corporation to the share cost of Konar Dam payable by Bihar and (ii) acquisition of land at Panchet reservoir. The inter-State meetings were held on 2nd June, 1988, 16th November, 1989 and 5th December, 1997 but the issues could not be resolved. In the meantime, the State Government submitted an updated estimate of the project first for Rs. 187.67 Crore in August, 1988 and subsequently for Rs. 350.55 Crore in July, 1999. Comments on Financial aspects, Cost (Irrigation), Equipment Planning and Irrigation Planning on the latter estimate have been forwarded to the State Government in September, 1999, November, 1999, December, 1999 and May, 2000 respectively for compliance which is awaited.

Irrigation is a State Subject and as such the execution of the irrigation project depends upon the priority attached to it by the State Government.

[English]

Job Deception Rackets

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

- (a) the number of job deception rackets, involving deprivation and duping of young job seekers of huge sums of money on false promises of providing them jobs abroad unearther in the country; State-wise;
- (b) the number of recruitment agencies in the country whose licences were cancelled for malpractices in recruiting employees/labourers to foreign countries during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to effectively eliminate such rackets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) Sporadic complaints regarding cheating of intending emigrants are received against the agencies engaged in the business of recruitment of Indian workers for overseas employment. Some of the agencies against whom the complaints received are registered with the Govt. while others are operating unauthorisedly. Complaints generally relate to charging 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 other countries against non-existent jobs and, in some cases changing the terms and conditions of employment of the workers on their reaching the alien land. During the year 1999, 163 such complaints were received. The State-wise position is as under :-

Andhra Pradesh	08
Delhi	39
Goa	01
Karnataka	04
Maharashtra	48
Kerala	22
Punjab	08
Rajasthan	06
Tamil Nadu	22
Uttar Pradesh	01
West Bengal	04
Total	163

During the last three years, 32 Registration certificates were suspended and two Registration certificates viz. M/s Samreen Travels, Mumbai and M/s Upmax Enterprises, Lucknow (U.P.) were cancelled.

With a view to curbing the activities of such rackets, detailed guidelines have been issued to the State Governments for issue of necessary instructions right upto the Police Station Level for keeping strict vigil on the activities of such agents and registration of cases against them.

To Set up Task Force

562. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a Task Force to study the problems of farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its terms of reference; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to have representation of farmers, experts and economists on the Task Force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Capitation Fees

563. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Labour Ministry has received any representation from Federation of Insurance Medical Practitioners' Associations, Maharashtra to increase their capitation fees;

(b) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has also recommended to the Union Government to increase the capitation fees of ESIS doctors; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) The representation about Insurance Medical Practitioners relates to enhancement in capitation fee from Rs. 60/- to Rs. 120/- per insured person Family Unit per annum.

Repeal of Haj Act

564. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently declared the present Haj Act redundant;

(b) if so, whether in the light of Supreme Court ruling the Government propose to repeal the present Act;

(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) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Supreme Court in its order dated 5th May, 2000 on Writ Petition (Civil) No. 584 of 1998 filed by Anjuman K. Hujaj suggested certain changes in the Haj Committee Act, 1959 relating to composition of Haj Committee, Mumbai. The Order has been complied with.

The Government has prepared draft Haj Committee Bill - 2000 to replace the existing Haj Committee Act. Cabinet's approval has been obtained for the same. Law Ministry has recently suggested some more changes in the text of the draft Bill. These are being processed.

Atomic Energy Technology

565. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any MoU has been signed between India and any other foreign country in regard to development of Atomic Energy Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of atomic power projects under implementation; and

(d) the number of proposal pending with the Government for clearance and total expenditure likely to be incurred 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) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government has entered into agreements with various countries for co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. In the context of nuclear power projects, an Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) was signed between the Republic of India and Former Soviet Union (FSU) on November, 20, 1988 for setting up of 2x1000 MWe VVERs (Pressurised Water Reactors) at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu. Subsequently, a "Supplement to the IGA" was signed between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation on June 21, 1998 to incorporate the revised terms for the implementation of the project. Consequent to this, a contract for preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the proposed project was signed by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and the Russian Organisation 'ATOMSTROY-EXPORT' on 20th July 1998. The "Supplement to IGA" has come into force with effect from 18th September, 1998 after ratification by the Government of India. The DPR contract has come into effect from 4th April, 2000. Presently, the DPR is being prepared and is expected to be completed by the end of year 2001. A techno-commercial offer will be submitted by the Russian side and approved by the Govt. of India, after which the decision on setting up of the project will be taken. The total expenditure likely to be incurred would emerge at that stage.

[Translation]

Hasdev Bago Bio Left Bank Irrigation Project

566. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of ongoing as well as the pending irrigation projects in the country at present separately, State-wise;

(b) whether the Hasdev Bago Bio Left Bank Irrigation project is pending for the last several years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to provide hundred per cent funds to complete the project;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and other measures being worked out to complete the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The State-wise number of ongoing as well as pending irrigation projects in the country is given in the enclosed statement.

(b). No such project by the name Hasdev Bago Left Bank Irrigation Project has been submitted by the State Government to the Union Government.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

Statement					
S.No.	State	Ongoing Irrigations Projects		Pending (Under appraisal) Irrigation Projects	
		Major	Medium	Major	Medium
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	20	9	8
2.	Assam	4	9	1	3
3.	Bihar	14	29	10	-
4.	Goa	1	1	-	-
5.	Gujarat	3	3	1	1
6.	Haryana	5	-	4	1
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	1	1
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	9	-	15
9.	Karnataka	14	15	5	1
10.	Kerala	7	5	2	1

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Madhya Pradesh	23	32	11	-
12.	Maharashtra	36	66	12	24
13.	Manipur	2	2	1	1
14.	Meghalaya	-	1	-	-
15.	Nagaland	1	-	-	1
16.	Orissa	5	10	10	8
17.	Punjab	-	1	9	2
18.	Rajasthan	6	6	5	3
19.	Tamil Nadu	-	2	2	1
20.	Tripura	-	3	-	-
21.	Uttar Pradesh	17	2	12	-
22.	West Bengal	3	17	1	-
Total		155	234	96	71

Note : 7 major projects (6 in Gujarat and 1 in Uttar Pradesh) & 6 medium projects in Gujarat have been completed during IX plan period.

[English]

Foreign Minister-US Secretary of State Meeting

567. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he met the US Secretary of State during his recent visit at Warsaw;

(b) if so, the main issues discussed between the two;

(c) whether this was the first meeting after US President visit to India and adoption of Vision Statement;

(d) if so, further strategy chalked out by the two leaders for fulfilment of Vision Statement;

(e) whether any new issue cropped out during the discussion; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. External Affairs Minister and US Secretary of State met on 26th June in Warsaw on the margins of the First Ministerial Meeting of the recently launched Community of Democracies.

(b) The two sides discussed and exchanged views on all bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern.

(c) Yes, Sir. During the visit of the US President, the two sides had agreed upon architecture of a wide-ranging institutional dialogue, as part of the Vision of a new relationship between India and the United States in the 21st century outlined by Prime Minister and the US President. The Dialogue architecture envisages regular Foreign Minister level meetings.

(d) The two sides reviewed the implementation of the Dialogue Architecture and expressed satisfaction at the progress made. In this context, they also discussed the forthcoming visit of Prime Minister to the United States in September at the invitation of the US President.

(e) and (f) The two sides also discussed the situation arising from some personnel of the Indian contingent to the UN Peacekeeping Operations in Sierra Leone being held hostage. The US Secretary of State praised the long and distinguished record of India's participation in UN Peacekeeping Operations. She complimented the quality of Indian troops and described their participation in Sierra Leone as essential. She expressed deep concern at the holding of Indian Peacekeeping troops as hostages, and expressed full support of the US Government in securing their release.

[Translation]

Water Carrying Capacity of Rivers

568. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :

SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI :

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the water carrying and storage capacity of the main rivers of the country is decreasing;

(b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

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

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

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

(a) No such studies have been carried out by the Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such studies have been carried out by the Government of India.

- (d) Does not arise.

[English]

SSI Units in Tribal Areas of Andhra Pradesh

569. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have received any proposal from Government of Andhra Pradesh for establishing SSI units in Tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government 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) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Attack on Indian Researcher

570. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian Researcher was attacked in Germany recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have lodged any protest in this regard with the Government of Germany;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) While on a study visit to Germany, an Indian Researcher was attacked by three unidentified persons on the night of 12th June, 2000 in Leipzig. The victim managed to escape. He was immediately taken to the hospital and received necessary medical attention.

A report was made to the police on 13th June, 2000. Immediate arrangements were made by the Leipzig University for shifting the Researcher and his Indian colleagues to another apartment, for reasons of security. An official of the Indian

Embassy at Berlin, went to Leipzig to ascertain the facts and the matter was taken up with the local police authorities.

(c) to (e) In all such cases, the Indian Embassy has received prompt co-operation of the local authorities. No formal protest is considered necessary, because there are no reports of any organised discrimination or violence against the Indian community (numbering approximately 40,000) in Germany.

[English]

Agricultural Policy

571. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised the draft of the New Agricultural Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features of the policy; and

(c) the time by which the New Agricultural Policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) to (c) The National Agriculture Policy is in the final stages of drafting and is likely to be announced shortly. The Policy will address all aspects related to agriculture in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

Agricultural Research Institutes

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

(a) whether the Government propose to start a number of compact Agricultural Research Institutes dealing with specific crops and plantations in different parts of the country;

(b) whether the existing research structure and institutional sphere are not conducive to find solutions to farmer's problems;

(c) whether any study has been done to re-shape the agricultural research scene in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The ICAR has already established a number of Institutes/National Research Centres/Project Directorates/All India Coordinated Research Projects dealing with specific crops as well as compact institutes for a group of crops and plantations in different parts of the country.

(b) The existing research institutes are conducive in finding solutions to farmer's problems.

(c) and (d) A VISION-2020 document has been brought out to reorient the agricultural research in India. The document articulates a vision, a roadmap and a blue print for action. It enumerates paradigm shifts in harnessing science, engineering, National Agricultural Research System (NARS) and growth-oriented responsive and responsible governance. The elements of the Vision document include efficiency, systems approach, frontier sciences, human resources development, partnership, technology transfer and change of mind set.

Militants' Hideouts in Bangladesh

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

(a) whether the Union Government have taken up with Bangladesh the issue of militant's hideouts inside their land along the Indo-Bangla border;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Presence of anti-India militant groups and training camps inside Bangladesh is one of the security-related issues which the Government of India has regularly taken up with the Government of Bangladesh at different levels through diplomatic channels and the institutional mechanisms existing between the two countries. The subject was discussed most recently during the India-Bangladesh Home Secretary-level talks held in New Delhi in April, 2000. The Bangladesh side assured the Indian side that they would not allow undesirable elements to use Bangladesh territory for activities prejudicial to the security interests of India.

Problems of Cotton Growers

574. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cotton growers of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and other States are facing problems relating to either excess of production of cotton or less production during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether the Government have failed to provide timely help and assistance to the cotton growers, as a result of which they are committing suicide;

(c) if so, whether Government are considering to make a concrete policy to help the cotton growers both at the time of over production or at the time of less production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) A statement showing the production of cotton in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and other States during the last three years is enclosed. It may be seen from the Table that for the country as a whole the production of cotton has been ranging between approximately 11 million bales to 12 million bales during the last three years. This position is confirmed state-wise also excepting for the state of Maharashtra where the production of cotton increased from 1.7 million bales in 1997-98 to 3.1 million bales in 1999-2000. Thus there has not been any major failure of crop in the country which could result in losses to the cotton growers. An increase in cotton production only benefits the growers as their overall income stands to increase.

(b) to (d) The Government have taken the following steps to assist the cotton growers :-

- (i) Government of India announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) for kapas during each cotton seasons after taking into consideration various factors which include a reasonable margin of profit to the farmers. The Cotton Corporation of India, the Government Agency for minimum support price operation, makes purchases under support price operation without any quantitative limit as and when the market price of any variety touches the MSP level, to prevent distress sale by cotton growers.
- (ii) Government of India releases liberal export quota of cotton each season in favour of different agencies, in phases, to ensure remunerative price.
- (iii) To increase production, productivity and quality of cotton in the country and thereby to increase the overall income of cotton growers by reducing the cost of cotton cultivation apart from increasing the yield per hectare by proper transfer of technology etc. the Government has launched the Technology Missions on cotton.
- (iv) The Government has introduced National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) from Rabi 1999-2000 to cover both loanee and non-loanee farmers. NAIS which covers cotton crop also is presently being implemented by 14 States and 2 UTs which include the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.
- (v) Provision has also been made for easy availability of credit at reduced rates of interest, particularly to small and marginal farmers, in case of crop failure in specific, areas of the States.

- (vi) The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), the public sector organisation concerned with cotton, has been rendering suitable assistance to cotton growers through (a) sale of good quality seeds at subsidised rates, (b) village adoption programme and (c) sale of quality inputs like genuine pesticides, etc.

Statement

*Estimates of Production of Cotton during 1997-98,
1998-99 and 1999-2000*

(In Thousand Bales of 170 kg each)

State/U.T.	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Advanced Estimates)*
Andhra Pradesh	1320.4	1486.6	1595.0
Assam	0.8	0.7	
Bihar	0.2	0.0	
Gujarat	3180.0	3935.0	2163.0
Haryana	1129.0	873.0	1309.0
Himachal Pradesh	0.2	0.0	
Jammu & Kashmir	0.0	0.0	
Karnataka	721.0	855.0	838.0
Kerala	20.0	19.0	23.0
Madhya Pradesh	508.9	426.3	457.0
Maharashtra	1753.1	2618.9	3126.0
Manipur	0.2	0.2	
Meghalaya	5.6	5.6	
Mizoram	2.5	2.9	
Nagaland	0.3	0.4	
Orissa	36.0	50.0	61.0
Punjab	937.0	595.0	950.0
Rajasthan	867.5	872.0	984.0
Tamil Nadu	358.0	429.5	459.0
Tripura	1.2	0.9	
Uttar Pradesh	8.3	5.8	10.0
West Bengal	0.5	0.1	
Pondicherry	0.7	0.6	
Others	0.0	0.0	13.0
All India	10851.4	12177.5	11988.0

*As on 29.06.2000.

[Translation]

Sathyam Committee

575. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKARAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sathyam Committee has presented its report related to the activities of ESI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the recommendations accepted by the Government; and

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

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

(b) to (d) The Sathyam Committee submitted its report 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. Some recommendations involve amendment of the ESI Act, 1948 and as such it is difficult to indicate the time when these recommendations will be implemented.

Subscribers of ESI

576. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the subscribers of ESI are denied the benefits of insurance in case of lock out/closure of industry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) whether the Government propose to prepare an action plan in co-ordination with ESI for those industries which have stopped payment of outstanding amount/dues to their employees who are the subscribers to the ESI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The ESI Scheme is a contributory scheme based on the concept of "pooling of risks and resources". As such for availing ESI benefits certain qualifying contributory conditions have been prescribed in the ESI Act, rules and regulations framed thereunder. The workers of closed factories/establishments or those under lock out are eligible for medical benefit for one benefit period even if contribution in respect of them is not paid and the return of contribution is not submitted. In the case of insured workers of the closed factories/establishments in whose respect contributions are not paid or returns of contributions are not received for the relevant period, benefits under the ESI Scheme are not admissible. However, if employers of the closed/locked out factories certify that the contributions in respect of their workers have been deducted from the wage payable to them, such workers remain eligible for medical care as well as other benefits.

[English]

D.E.O. Irrigation Project

577. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) the estimated cost and total irrigation potentials of the DEO irrigation project in Orissa;
- (b) the amount sanctioned and released so far by the Union Government to complete the project;
- (c) whether the project is likely to be completed during the Ninth Five Year Plan period; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to complete the project within stipulated period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Deo Irrigation Project in Orissa is presently estimated to cost Rs. 123.55 crore with an annual irrigation of 15,640 hectares. Irrigation being a state subject, irrigation projects are taken up for implementation by the state governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities.

[Translation]

Pancheswar Dam

578. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the project report of Pancheswar multipurpose Dam has been prepared by the Joint Group of experts;

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

- (c) the time by which execution work of the dam is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir. A Joint Project Office - Pancheshwar Investigation has been opened at Kathmandu on 10th December 1999 with a mandate to prepare a joint detailed project report for Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project.

- (b) Does not arise.

- (c) The question of execution of work of the dam will arise only after preparation of detailed project report.

On Going Irrigation Projects

579. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) the estimated cost and target date fixed for completion of the ongoing irrigation projects in the country, State-wise and project-wise;
- (b) whether the Government have announced recently that all the pending projects will be completed during the next two years;
- (c) if so, the concrete steps being taken in this regard; and
- (d) the amount released by the Centre to each State particularly the Government of Gujarat for the purpose during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The State-wise details of ongoing 162 major and 240 medium irrigation projects which have spilled over into IX Plan alongwith their estimated cost, total amount spent thereon, and the estimated amount required for their completion is given in the enclosed statement-I. The completion period of any project depends on various factors such as its size, availability of land, obtaining clearance from various Central Appraising Agencies by the State Government, geological conditions etc. Equally important are funds allotted by the State Governments to individual projects.

- (b) State-wise number of projects likely to be completed by the end of IX Five Year Plan as reported by the State Governments is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) and (d) Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects are taken up for implementation by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. The Centre has, however, launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 for providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the State

Governments for accelerating implementation of ongoing irrigation and multipurpose projects on which substantial progress has been made and which are beyond the resource capability of the State Governments. The State-wise details of CLA released to the states during last three years is given in the enclosed statement-III.

Statement-I

(Rs. in Crore)				
Name of State	No. of Projects (Major)	Latest Estimated Cost	Exp. Upto the end of VIII Plan	Spillover cost in IX Plan
1. Andhra Pradesh	12	10130.44	4754.95	5375.49
2. Assam	4	432.82	211.48	221.34
3. Bihar	14	7365.53	2105.27	5260.26
4. Goa	1	678.59	258.65	419.94
5. Gujarat	9	23300.92	6522.47	16777.85
6. Haryana	5	1013.51	725.67	287.84
7. Himachal Pradesh	1	150.78	7.47	143.31
8. Jammu & Kashmir	1	151.18	122.84	28.34
9. Karnataka	14	11190.19	5131.64	6058.55
10. Kerala	7	1879.50	942.41	937.09
11. Madhya Pradesh	23	10729.65	3131.15	7598.50
12. Maharashtra	36	12958.17	5374.43	7583.74
13. Manipur	2	491.65	225.85	265.80
14. Meghalaya	-	-	-	-
15. Nagaland	1	111.02	2.95	108.07
16. Orissa	5	4953.85	1156.55	3797.30
17. Punjab	-(1-IS)	3379.53	2704.93	674.60
18. Rajasthan	6	4692.81	2346.01	2346.80
19. Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-
20. Tripura	-	-	-	-
21. Uttar Pradesh	18	7359.44	3339.74	4019.70
22. West Bengal	3	2037.41	933.83	1098.58
Total	162	103186.89	39003.29	64183.60

Note : 7 Major Projects (6 in Gujarat & 1 in U.P.) have been completed during IX Plan.

(Rs. in Crore)

Name of State	No. of Projects (Medium)	Latest Estimated Cost	Exp. Upto the end of VIII Plan	Spillover cost in IX Plan
1. Andhra Pradesh	20	623.34	323.51	299.79
2. Assam	9	155.92	99.72	56.20
3. Bihar	29	1065.18	429.37	635.81
4. Goa	1	40.00	2.40	37.60
5. Gujarat	9	337.53	260.02	77.51
6. Haryana	-			
7. Himachal Pradesh	1	11.30	11.26	0.04
8. Jammu & Kashmir	9	223.55	55.88	167.67
9. Karnataka	15	943.67	510.72	432.95
10. Kerala	5	478.93	150.56	328.37
11. Madhya Pradesh	32	1012.09	733.15	278.94
12. Maharashtra	66	2076.06	1021.98	1054.08
13. Manipur	2	66.58	56.50	10.08
14. Meghalaya	1	17.81	8.14	9.67
15. Nagaland	-		-	-
16. Orissa	10	499.95	410.23	89.72
17. Punjab	1	88.49	0.20	88.29
18. Rajasthan	6	240.24	127.22	113.02
19. Tamil Nadu	2	103.75	29.53	74.22
20. Tripura	3	154.00	92.96	61.04
21. Uttar Pradesh	2	54.81	39.99	14.82
22. West Bengal	17	90.42	60.78	29.64
Total	240	8283.62	4424.12	3859.50

Note : 6 Medium Projects in Gujarat have been completed during IX Plan.

Statement-II

S.No.	Name of the State	Major	Medium	Total	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	11	13	
2.	Assam	None of the projects of Assam were identified for completion			
3.	Bihar	1	8#	9#	# One medium project already reported to be completed.
4.	Goa	1	-	1	
5.	Gujrat	7*	8*	15*	* 6 major & 6 medium projects already reported to be completed.
6.	Haryana	Nil reply received			
7.	Karnataka	7	9	16	
8.	Kerala	3	1	4	
9.	Madhya Pradesh	9	11	20	
10.	Maharashtra	3	3	6	
11.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	There is no major/medium project in the State.
12.	Mizoram	-	-	-	No major/medium project in the State.
13.	Nagaland	-	-	-	No major/medium project in the State.
14.	Orissa	Information not yet received			
15.	Punjab	Nil reply received			
16.	Rajasthan		6*	6*	* Two medium projects already reported to be completed.
17.	Sikkim	-	-	-	No on-going major/medium project in the State.
18.	Tamil Nadu	None of the project was identified for completion			
19.	Uttar Pradesh	7*	4*	11*	* Two major and two medium projects already reported to be completed.
20.	West Bengal	2	10*	12*	Two medium projects already reported to be completed.
Total		42	69	111	8 Major and 13 Medium projects already reported to be completed.

Statement-III

S.No.	Name of the State	Central Loan Assistance Released during		
		1997-98	1998-999	1999-2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	074.000	0079.670	0065.015
2.	Assam	012.400	0013.950	0013.020
3.	Bihar	014.040	0047.825	0144.040
4.	Goa	005.250	0000.000	0003.500
5.	Gujarat	196.900	0423.820	0272.700
6.	Haryana	012.000	0000.000	0000.000
7.	Himachal Pradesh	006.500	0005.000	0014.455
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	000.000	0000.000	0004.680
9.	Karnataka	090.500	0094.500	0157.140
10.	Kerala	015.000	000.000	000.000
11.	Madhya Pradesh	114.500	0090.750	0105.845
12.	Maharashtra	055.000	0050.860	0048.875
13.	Manipur	026.000	0010.780	0020.310
14.	Orissa	085.000	0071.500	0081.350
15.	Punjab	100.000	0000.000	0042.000
16.	Rajasthan	042.000	0140.050	0106.665
17.	Tamil Nadu	000.000	0000.000	0000.000
18.	Tripura	005.100	0003.975	0006.300
19.	Uttar Pradesh	078.000	0076.000	0286.000
20.	West Bengal	020.000	0010.000	0025.000
Total		952.190	1119.180	1397.895

Task Force on I.T. Software Development

580. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Task Force on Information Technology Software Development was set up by the Planning Commission in 1998;

(b) if so, the main recommendations thereof and

the details of the recommendations implemented by the Government so far;

(c) the plan outlay worked out for the Ninth Five Year Plan period; and

(d) the manner in which the plan outlay has been utilised so far for development and promotion of Information Technology in India?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) The National Task Force on Information Technology & Software Development was set up vide Prime Minister's Office Notification No. 360/31/C/98-ES.II dated 22.5.98.

(b) The main recommendations of the Task Force related to fiscal incentives, procedural simplifications, manpower development, reforms in telecommunication sector, cyber laws, venture capital fund and banking sector. The latest status of implementation of the 108 recommendations of the Part-I of the report are as below :

Implemented	=	64
Not Implemented	=	4
Not accepted	=	3
On going	=	37
Total	=	108

(c) There is a Budgetary support of Rs. 542.37 crores for the IX Five Year Plan.

(d) The following major schemes for development and promotion of IT has been initiated during the IX plan :-

- e-Commerce
- Y2K Mitigation Process
- Setting up of Venture Capital Fund for IT industry
- e-governance
- Super Computing Technology and Application
- Education and Research Network (ERNET)
- Language Technology Development
- Internet Based Distance Education
- Standardisation in IT.
- Software Capability enhancement
- Community Information Centres in North East

**Merger of NCCF, Super Bazar and
Kendriya Bhandar**

581. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to merge the stationery departments of Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar, NCCF, DGS&D and Printing and Stationery Department into one unit and place that unit under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is aware that the suppliers of NCCF are supplying low priced items in lesser quantity but are billing higher priced items of more quantities; and

(d) if so, the number of cases came to light and the action propose/proposed to be taken 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Poverty Line

582. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has urged upon the Union Government to redetermine the Poverty Line in respect of the State to treat the families with an annual income upto Rs. 15,000/- as Below Poverty Line from the existing income Rs. 9000/-; and

(b) If so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Planning Commission has estimated the poverty line in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh as per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 272.53 per month in 1996-97 and that of urban areas Rs. 320.84.

Drought

583. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the USA has offered to provide 10 lakh dollar assistance for drought;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether this amount is likely to be provided through the U.S.A. agency for International Development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) to (d) The Ministry of Agriculture is not aware of any such offer.

Oustees of Kaiga Atomic Power Project

584. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of families displaced due to the establishment of the Kaiga Power Plant in Karnataka;

(b) the amount of compensation paid to each affected family;

(c) the norms prescribed therefor; and

(d) efforts being made by the Government to provide employment to atleast one member of each family?

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) Due to the establishment of Kaiga Power Plant, 160 families were affected out of which only 60 families were actually displaced.

(b) and (c) The compensation and rehabilitation package is decided by the concerned State Government and Nuclear

Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) provides the required funds. Based on this as per the approved plan by the Karnataka Government, fund to the tune of Rs. 1.21 crores were made available for compensation towards land acquisition. Rehabilitation grants of Rs. 38.40 lakhs was provided additionally.

(d) Yes, Sir. In respect of Kaiga Project, total employment given to project affected persons is 183, till May, 2000.

Annual Plan Outlay

585. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the concept and methodology adopted for the annual plan outlay for the States;

(b) State-wise plan outlay for the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(c) State-wise Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

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) Plan Outlays of the States are decided through mutual discussions between the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the respective Chief Ministers/Governors keeping in view the availability of resources. These consist of State's Own Resources and Central Assistance. Central Assistance for State Plans is provided in the form of Block Loans and Grants which are allocated on the basis of Gadgil-Mukherjee formula approved by the National Development Council in 1991. The sector-wise allocations within the total plan outlay are proposed by the States and finalised in consultation within the Planning Commission keeping in view their developmental priorities, their absorptive capacity and the overall objectives of the Five Year Plan.

(b) Statement-I giving State-wise plan outlay for the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 is enclosed.

(c) Statement-II giving State-wise Gross State Domestic product (GSDP) at current and constant prices (1993-94) for the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is enclosed.

Statement-I

*A Statement giving details of approved outlays for annual plans
1998-99, 1999-2000 & 2000-01 - States/UTs*

(Rs. in Crores)

S.No.	States/UTs	Annual Plan 1998-99	Annual Plan 1999-2000	Annual Plan 2000-01
		Approved Outlay	Approved Outlay	Approved Outlay
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4678.95	5480.00	*
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	625.00	665.00	*
3.	Assam	1650.00	1750.00	*
4.	Bihar	3768.74	3630.00	*
5.	Goa	291.34	281.19	*
6.	Gujarat	5450.00	6550.00	7600.00
7.	Haryana	2260.00	2300.00	*
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1440.00	1600.00	*
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1900.00	1750.00	*
10.	Karnataka	5353.00	5800.00	*
11.	Kerala	3100.00	3250.00	3317.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3700.00	4000.00	*
13.	Maharashtra	11600.73	12162.00	11500.00
14.	Manipur	425.00	475.00	*
15.	Meghalaya	400.00	465.00	*
16.	Mizoram	333.00	360.00	*
17.	Nagaland	300.00	315.00	*
18.	Orissa	3084.43	3309.17	*
19.	Punjab	2500.00	2680.00	2420.00
20.	Rajasthan	4300.00	4750.00	*
21.	Sikkim	237.00	250.00	*
22.	Tamil Nadu	4500.00	5250.00	5700.00
23.	Tripura	440.00	475.00	*

1	2	3	4	5
24.	Uttar Pradesh	10260.00	11400.00	9025.00
25.	West Bengal	4594.85	5787.00	5657.86
Total (States)		77192.04*	84734.36	
Union Territories				
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	320.00	400.00	*
27.	Chandigarh	137.76	151.39	*
28.	D & N Haveli	41.58	45.62	*
29.	Daman & Diu	33.39	36.62	*
30.	Delhi	2700.00	3000.00	*
31.	Lakshadweep	54.54	59.88	*
32.	Pondicherry	241.00	312.00	312.00
Total (UTs)		3528.27	4005.51	
Total (States & UTs)		80720.31	88739.87	

* : Plan size yet to be decided.

Statement-II

A Statement giving details of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at current and constant (1993-94) Prices

(Rs. in Crore)

S.No. States/UTs		GSDP at Current Prices			GSDP at 1993-94 Prices		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
		(P)	(Q)	(A)	(P)	(Q)	(A)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	95918	114154	NA	68015	75530	NA
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1353	1542	NA	996	1072	NA
3.	Assam	23053	25381	NA	16975	17273	NA
4.	Bihar	60870	66253	72084	48027	49335	50922
5.	Goa	4285	NA	NA	3212	NA	NA
6.	Gujarat	92573	102206	NA	72010	74911	NA
7.	Haryana	37928	43671	NA	27357	29001	NA

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	Himachal Pradesh	8175	9258	NA	6083	6504	NA
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	9782	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
10.	Karnataka	76705	90333	NA	57508	63570	NA
11.	Kerala	53642	62926	NA	33254	35092	NA
12.	Madhya Pradesh	81042	90737	NA	61428	65520	NA
13.	Maharashtra	214199	250775	NA	157147	171766	NA
14.	Manipur	2428	2605	NA	NA	NA	NA
15.	Meghalaya	2624	2996	3388	2018	2164	2288
16.	Mizoram	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
17.	Nagaland	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
18.	Orissa	32669	35834	NA	22358	23418	NA
19.	Punjab	49968	55171	NA	36749	NA	NA
20.	Rajasthan	59140	65635	NA	45163	45704	NA
21.	Sikkim	665	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
22.	Tamil Nadu	104683	117044	NA	78114	81292	NA
23.	Tripura	3125	3438	NA	2397	2637	NA
24.	Uttar Pradesh	150473	171767	NA	106162	109972	NA
25.	West Bengal	95951	110007	NA	68611	73360	NA
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
27.	Chandigarh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
28.	Delhi	35261	39951	44510	26289	27827	29775
29.	Pondicherry	2295	2905	NA	1570	1792	NA
All India GDP		1384446	1612383	1766589	1012816	1081834	1145436

Source : For 1-29 --- Directorate of Economic & Statistics of respective State Governments, and for All India --- Central Statistical Organisation.

P : Provisional

Q : Quick Estimates

A : Advance Estimates

NA : Not Available

Tribal Sub-Plan Area

586. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide financial assistance and other infrastructural facilities to the farmers for cultivation in the tribal sub-plan areas;

(b) if so, the approximate number of such farmers in the various tribal sub-plan areas;

(c) whether any provision has been made in the Ninth Five Year Plan to provide Central assistance to them for the development of agriculture; and

(d) if so, the details of the schemes initiated during the current year in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is providing financial as well as non-financial assistance including infrastructural facilities under various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes to the farmers of all categories including the tribal farmers. However, under Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), special attention has been accorded to tribal farmers of TSP areas by earmarking funds under specific components of certain schemes.

(b) and (c) The benefits flowing from the different schemes go directly as well as indirectly to all categories of the farmers including tribal and therefore, it is difficult to ascertain the number of farmers covered under different schemes. However, wherever possible, funds have been earmarked under the Annual Plans of the Ninth Five Year Plan Period at least equal to the proportion of tribal population in the country.

(d) Details of the schemes are given in enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of schemes/programmes under which Central Assistance may be extended under the head Tribal Sub Plan (TSP)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme/Programme
1	2
1.	Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Centres.
2.	Soil conservation in catchment of River Valley Project and Flood Prone Rivers.
3.	Shifting Cultivation in N.E.

1	2
4.	Oilseeds production programme.
5.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme in rice based cropping area.
6.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme in wheat based cropping area.
7.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme in coarse cereals cropping areas.
8.	Intensive Cotton Development Programme.
9.	Sugar Cane Development Programme.
10.	Minikit Programme under rice.
11.	Special Jute Development Programme.
12.	Special Cooperative Credit Scheme for SC/ST.
13.	Minikit Programme under wheat.
14.	Minikit Programme under coarse cereals.
15.	Water Management on Watershed basis.
16.	Promotion of Agriculture mechanisation among small farmers.

[Translation]

**Use of Advance Information
Technology in Administration**

587. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRI J.S. BRAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any policy measures are being considered to bring about comprehensive changes in the administration by making use of advanced information technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the improvements likely to be made in the running of the administration by making use of advanced information technology;

(c) whether the information about administration will not easily be comprehended by the general public after the use of advanced technology and the people will have to face more corruption, despotism and inefficiency as a result thereof;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to consider any measures to care of these ill-effects; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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) and (b) The process of bringing about changes in administration by using information technology is a continuous one. The application of information technology for Government work on a wide scale has been taking place for more than 10 years. In 1998, a policy decision was taken to keep a provision of 2-3% of the plan budget of each Ministry/ Department for programmes/schemes related to information technology. Instructions have separately been issued to all Ministries/Departments to prepare five year IT plans and to put up web sites with suitable contents. In addition, each Ministry/Department of the Government of India has been asked to designate an officer of the level of Joint Secretary as IT Manager so that there is a nodal point for handling the use of IT in the Ministry/Department. These steps would improve the access to information and help focus efforts towards using information technology for improving administrative efficiency.

Use of information technology is expected to significantly improve the access to information which the public need from the Government particularly by making such information available over the Internet. It is expected that over a period of time, it would enable submission of forms electronically and facilitate electronic transactions for some services provided by the State.

(c) No, Sir. Use of information technology is likely to lead to greater access to information by the public.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Contaminated Ground Water

588. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received reports from various State Governments regarding sharp fall in the ground water level and water getting contaminated including that of rivers in various parts of the country, particularly in the nearby towns of the NCR of Delhi;

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

(c) whether the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has identified the areas where the ground water level is getting down sharply;

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

(e) whether Central Ground Water Board has also identified the areas where ground water is not fit for human consumption; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and preventive measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have shown situation of fall in the level of ground water in various parts of the country. The names of the States/ districts showing pockets where fall in the ground water level for more than 4 meters (1980-99) has been observed are indicated in Statement-I.

The decline in the level of ground water is mainly due to withdrawal in excess of annual recharge, variation in the amount and distribution of rainfall, reduction in recharge of ground water due to increased urbanisation, deforestation and adoption of water intensive cropping by farmers. The names of the States and locations where ground water has been found contaminated and reasons thereof are indicated in Statement-II.

According to a study conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board, polluted stretches in 22 major rivers in 14 States or the country have been identified. The State-wise details of rivers is given in Statement-III. Pollution of these rivers is mainly on account of discharge of untreated municipal sewage from large towns and effluent from grossly polluting industries located in the river basin.

(d) Steps taken by the Central Ground Water Board to raise the ground water level include :-

(i) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

- (ii) Circulation of a Model Bill to all 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.

(e) As per information received from the Department of Drinking Water Supply, excess fluoride in drinking water is prevalent in 11 States, excess salinity is prevalent in 7 States and 2 Union Territories, excess iron is prevalent in 15 States and 1 Union Territory and arsenic in excess is reported from the State of West Bengal, which is not considered fit for human consumption.

(f) Provision of drinking water supply is the responsibility of the State Governments. Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission has been assisting and guiding the States in the provision of safe drinking water to rural population under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and exclusive submission programmes in areas having serious ground water quality problems like Fluoride, Iron, Arsenic, Nitrate and Brackishness. In such quality affected areas, where ground water is unfit for drinking, the safe drinking water is supplied either through alternative sources, tapping surface water or by other means by undertaking remedial measures like defluoridation, iron removal and arsenic removal.

- (i) The Central Government has set up Central Ground Water Authority to regulate and control ground water management and development.
- (ii) Mass awareness and education programmes have been launched on the significance of water economy, efficient utilisation, health, hygiene and sanitation.
- (iii) Central Pollution Control Board has adopted several measures like directing the industries through State Pollution Control Boards to limit the discharge of effluents within the stipulated standards, initiation of scheme to give assistance

to cluster of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants and taking up quality scheme of monitoring in critically polluted areas.

Statement-I

Name of the States/District having pockets with fall in ground water level of more than 4 meters (1980-99)

S.No.	State	Districts
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Shrikakulam, Chittoor
2.	Maharashtra	Akola, Nagpur, Jalgaon, Osmanabad, Satara, Aurangabad, Sangli, Buldhana, Amravati
3.	Punjab	Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ferozpur, Ludhiana, Patiala, Sangrur, Faridkot, Fatehgarh
4.	Haryana	Kurushetra, Kaithal, Mehendargarh, Jind
5.	Uttar Pradesh	Gonda, Farukhabad, Lucknow, Kanpur, Fatehpur, Allahabad, Banda, Nainital
6.	Bihar	East Singhbhum, Ranchi, Samastipur, Chapra, Dharbhanga
7.	West Bengal	Purlia, Midnapur
8.	Orissa	Koraput, Mayurbhanj
9.	Rajasthan	Nagpur, Bikaner, Jaipur
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain, Dewas, Shajahanpur, Dhar, Sagar, Bilaspur, Raipur, Surguja, Guna, Narsinghpur
11.	Karnataka	Bijapur, Belgaum, Dharwar, Bellari, Shimoga, Bangalore, Mysore, Gulbarga.
12.	Tamil Nadu	Salem, South Arcot, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tanjavour, Pudukottai, Kamraj, Thirunaganar, North Kannada.

Statement-II*State-wise Details of Contamination of Ground Water in some areas of the districts due to various contaminants*

Sl.No.	State	Salinity	Iron	Fluoride	Nitrate	Arsenic	Heavy Metals
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam		Prakasam, Nellore, Anantapur, Nalgonda, Rangareddy, Adilabad	Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, Krishna, Prakasam, Nellore, Chittoor, Anantapur, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Mehboobnagar, Rangareddy, Medak, Adilabad, Nalgonda, Khammam		Anantapur, Mehboobnagar, Prakasam, Visakhapatnam, Cuddapah, Nalgonda
2.	Assam		Northern Bank of Brahmaputra				Digboi
3.	Bihar	Begusarai	Champanan, Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Munger, Deoghar, Madhubani, Patna, Palamau, Nalanda, Nawada, Banka	Giridih, Jamui, Dhanbad	Palamu, Gaya, Patna, Nalanda, Nawada, Bhagalpur, Sahebganj, Banka		Dhanbad, Muzaffarpur, Begusarai
4.	Gujarat	Banaskantha, Junagarh, Bharuch, Surat, Mehsana, Ahmedabad, Surendranagar, Kheda, Jamnagar		Kachch, Surendranagar, Rajkot, Ahmedabad, Mehsana, Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Panchmahal, Kheda			
5.	Haryana	Sonepat, Rohtak, Hissar, Jind, Sirsa, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Bhiwani, Mahendragarh		Rohtak, Jind, Hissar, Bhiwani, Mahendragarh, Faridabad	Ambala, Sonapat, Jind, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Hissar, Sirsa, Karnal, Kurushetra, Rohtak, Bhiwani, Mahendragarh		Faridabad
6.	Himachal Pradesh				Kulu, Solan, Una		Purwanoo, Kala Amb
7.	Karnataka	Bijapur, Belgaum, Raichur, Bellary, Dharwar		Tumkur, Kolar, Bangalore, Gulbarga, Bellary, Raichur			Bhadravati

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8	Kerala	Ernakulam, Trichur, Alleppey		Palghat			
9	Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior, Bhind, Morena, Jhabua, Khargaon, Dhar, Shivpuri, Shajapur, Guna, Mandasor, Ujjain		Bhind, Morena, Sehore Guna, Jhabua, Chhindwara, Seoni, Mandla, Raipur, Vidisha			Bastar, Korba, Rattlam, Nagda
10	Maharashtra	Amravati, Akola		Bhandara, Chandrapur, Nanded, Aurangabad	Thane, Jalna, Beed, Nanded, Latur, Osmanabad, Solapur, Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur, Dhule, Jalgaon, Aurangabad, Ahmednagar, Pune, Buldhana, Amravati, Akola, Nagpur, Wardha, Bhandara, Chandrapur Gadchiroli		
11	Orissa	Cuttack, Baleswar, Puri	Parts of Coastal Orissa	Bolangir			Angul, Talcher
12	Punjab	Bhatinda, Sangrur, Faridkot, Firozpur		Ludhiana, Faridkot, Bhatinda, Sangrur, Jalandhar, Amritsar	Patiala, Faridkot, Ferozpur, Sangrur, Bhatinda		Ludhiana, Mandi, Gobindgarh
13	Rajasthan	Bharatpur, Jaipur, Nagaur, Jalore, Sirohi, Jodhpur	Bikaner, Alwar, Dungarpur	Barmer, Bikaner, Ganganagar, Jalore, Nagaur, Pali, Sirohi	Jaipur, Churu, Ganganagar, Bikaner, Jalore, Barmer, Bundi,		Pali, Udaipur, Khetri
14	Tamil Nadu	Karaikal, Pondicherry, Nagapattanam, Quide-Millet, Pudukottai, Ramananthapuram, North Arcot-Ambedkar, Dharmapuri, Salem, Trichy, Coimbatore		Dharmapuri, Salem, North Arcot- Ambedkar Villipuram- Padayatchim, Muthuramalingam, Trichirapalli, Pudukottai	Coimbatore, Perriyar, Salem	Swai Madhopur	Manali, North Arcot

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Tripura		Dharmnagar, Kauleshahe, Khowai, Ambasa, Amapur and parts of Agartala Valley				
16.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra, Mathura, Mainpuri, Banda		Bulandshahar, Aligarh, Agra Unnao, Rae- Bareilly	Orai, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Faizabad, Sultanpur, Maharajganj, Gorakhpur, Deoria,		Singrauli, Basti, Kanpur, Jaunpur, Allahabad, Saharanpur, Aligarh
17.	West Bengal		Midnapur, Howrah, Hoogly, Bankura,	Birbhum	Uttar Dinajpur, Halda, Birbhum, Nadia, Midnapur, Howrah, Murshidabad, Purulia,	Malda, South 24 Paraganas, Nadia, Hoogly, Murshidabad, Bradhaman, Howrah	Durgapur, Howrah, Murshidabad, Nadia
18.	NCT of Delhi			City, Shahdara of & Mehrauli blocks		Alipur, Khanjawala, Najafgarh, Mehrauli City and Shahdara Blocks	

Statement-III			1	2	3
S. No.	States	River			15. Wainganga
1	2	3			16. Chambal
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Godavari	6.	Maharashtra	17. Krishna
2.	Bihar	2. Subarnrekha			Godavari
		3. Damodar	7.	Orissa	18. Mahanadi
		4. Ganga			19. Brahmini
3.	Gujarat	5. Sabarmati	8.	Punjab	20. Satluj
4.	Karnataka	6. Tunga	9.	Rajasthan	Chambal
		7. Tungabhadra	10.	Tamil Nadu	Cauvery
		8. Cauvery	11.	Haryana	21. Yamuna
		9. Bhadra	12.	Delhi	Yamuna
5.	Madhya Pradesh	10. Khan	13.	Uttar Pradesh	Ganga
		11. Tapti			Yamuna
		12. Kshipra			22. Gomati
		13. Betwa	14.	West Bengal	Ganga
		14. Narmada			Damodar

*[Translation]***Facilities to Kailash Mansarovar Pilgrims**

589. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether China charges 500 Dollar from every pilgrim going on pilgrimage to Kailash Mansarovar but in return they are not provided proper facilities;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have taken up or propose to take up this issue with the Chinese Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether China has not agreed to allow Kailash Mansarovar pilgrims to go via Ladakh route; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) The Chinese Government charges US\$ 500 per Yatri for facilities extended on their side. In response to reports received from Yatries, the Government of India has requested the Chinese Government to improve the facilities on the Chinese side. The Chinese Government has responded that despite the efforts on its part, there were limitations on account of the fact that the charges for the Yatra had not been revised for many years.

(e) and (f) We have proposed to the Chinese Government an alternative route through Demchok in Ladakh (Jammu & Kashmir). The Chinese side has responded that our proposals for alternative routes are under consideration in consultation with the local authorities in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR). They have cited difficulties in opening new routes on the grounds that it would involve travel over much longer distances over difficult terrain with poor road conditions and lack of proper infrastructure for accommodation and communications. They have also expressed the view that development of infrastructure in these remote areas would not be an easy task and building facilities for alternative routes could take a long time. It could lead to substantial exaltation in the fee charged from Indian pilgrims (currently frozen at US\$ 500 per pilgrim until the year 2000 AD).

*[English]***Cyber Laws**

590. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :

SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to frame Information Security Policy and cyber laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the timeframe worked out therefor;

(c) whether the Government also plan to develop cyber-cop system to nab the culprits operating from within the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check obscene websites being entry through Internet?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) The Information Technology Act, 2000 has been enacted by the Parliament and assented to by the President on 9th June, 2000. The Information Security Policy and rules and regulations for implementation of the Information Technology Act are being formulated. The same shall be notified shortly.

(c) The existing police force will be trained to use computers and Internet and also to handle cyber crimes. No separate cyber-cop system is proposed.

(d) Section 67 of the Information Technology Act provides that whoever publishes or transmits or causes to be published in the electronic form, any material which is lascivious or appeals to the prurient interest or if its effect is such as to tend to deprave and corrupt persons who are likely, having regards to all relevant circumstances, to read, see to hear the matter contained or embodied in it, shall be punished on first conviction with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years and with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees and in the event of a second or subsequent conviction with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years and also with fine which may extend to two lakh rupees.

*[Translation]***Overseas Tours by Foreign Minister**

591. DR. BALIRAM :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the foreign tours organised for him during the last four months till date;

(b) the details in regard to officers, who accompanied the Hon'ble Minister on his trips alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the details of agreements signed/achievements made during the trips; and

(d) the issues discussed by him and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Deportation of Indians from Russia

592. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Moscow has deported several Indians recently;

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

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with the Russian authorities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (e) Sixty nine Indian nationals were deported during January-May, 2000 by the Russian authorities for alleged violation of their laws relating to the stay of foreign nationals in the Russian Federation. The Government have rendered every possible assistance to enable the safe passage of these Indian nationals to India.

Release of Russian Pilots

593. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Russian Government for release of five pilots who are accused in Purulia arms drop case;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) The Russian leadership had at various levels raised the issue of pardon/clemency for the pilots. The family members of the crew had appealed for mercy. The State Duma of the Russian Federation (Lower House of the Russian Parliament) had adopted a Statement on February 9, 2000 seeking mercy to allow the convicted pilots to return home. The Government of India maintained that this case would be decided and a lasting solution found within the four corners of Indian law.

Taking into consideration the strength of Indo-Russian relations, which are time tested and are being consolidated into a strategic partnership, as also the humanitarian dimensions of the problem, and after careful consideration and in pursuance of powers conferred under Article 72 of the Constitution of India, the President of India was pleased to remit, with immediate effect, the unexpired sentence of imprisonment of the five Russian pilots.

[Translation]

Agreement between India and Morocco

594. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and Morocco in the field of agriculture this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this agreement has been implemented so far;

(d) if so, the achievements made in this regard; and

(e) if not, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) No Agreement has been signed between India and Morocco in the field of agriculture this year.

(b) to (e) Questions do not arise.

[English]

Cess on Irrigation Projects

595. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have directed the State Governments to collect cess from farmers, beneficiaries under the various irrigation projects being funded by the World Bank;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the State which have followed above directions;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to safeguard the interest of poor farmers;

(d) whether Centre has also agreed to help and assist the State Governments in completing the irrigation projects in the States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (e) Water being a State subject, irrigation projects are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments. Water rates for irrigation are also fixed by the State Governments. In pursuance of the legal covenant under the financing agreement signed by the respective State Governments with the World Bank, collection of water charges to cover the

operation and maintenance cost and participation of farmers/beneficiaries in the management of the respective projects/schemes in the phased manner is taken care of by the concerned states. The World Bank assistance is transferred to the State Governments by the Government of India in the form of Additional Central Assistance i.e. 70% loan and 30% grant in case of General States and 90% grant and 10% loan in case of Special Category States. Union Government also extends Central Loan Assistance to the State Governments for completion of irrigation projects under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP). The assistance under AIBP is given on sharing basis i.e. 2/3 Central Government and 1/3 by State Government in case of General States and 3/4 by Central Government and 1/4 by State Governments in case of Special Category States and drought prone KBK districts of Orissa.

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance

596. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total financial assistance from Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund (O.E.C.F.) to execute some major and medium irrigation projects of the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of projects completed so far, State-wise;

(c) the details of the projects lagging behind the schedule, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (d) A Statement is attached.

Statement

(Yen Million)

S.No	State	Name of Project	Category of the Project	Financial Assistance received			Status	Scheduled date of Completion
				1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Modernisation of Kurnool Cuddapah Canal Project	Major	--	103.868	1384.054	Ongoing and lagging behind schedule	26.03.2003
2.	Madhya Pradesh	Rajghat Canal Irrigation Project	Major	--	599.600	828.600	Ongoing and lagging behind Schedule	31.03.2002

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	Orissa	Rengali Irrigation Project	Major	141.536	664.186	1075.111	Ongoing and lagging 05.02.2003 behind schedule	
4.	Orissa	Upper Kolab Irrigation Project	Major	377.824	412.791	--	Completed on 20.07.1998	
5.	Orissa	Upper Indravati Irrigation Project	Major	565.406	547.064	--	Completed on 20.01.1999	
Total :				1084.766	2327.509	3287.765		

[English]

Unemployment Insurance Scheme

597. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

MOHD. SAHABUDDIN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a task force on social security has recommended introduction of a well designed unemployment insurance scheme as an integral component of social security;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The Task Force on Social Security has recommended, inter-alia, for introduction of an unemployment insurance scheme to provide to workers in the organised sector a reasonable level of periodical benefits during periods of involuntary unemployment. As the recommendations of the Task Force including those relating to unemployment insurance have got heavy financial implications, it has been decided to refer the entire report of the Task Force to the Second National Commission on Labour for in-depth study. Further action about introduction of unemployment insurance scheme or otherwise will be taken as and when the recommendations of the National Commission on Labour become available to the Government.

Employment to One Crore

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

(a) whether the Government have announced to provide employment to one crore unemployed persons every year;

(b) if so, the number of unemployed persons provided employment during the last two years as well as during the current year;

(c) whether the Government have recently considered to abolish the temporary posts and impose ten percent cut in the number of permanent posts in Central Departments; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to deal with the problem of unemployment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a), (b) and (d) Government has set up a "Task Force on employment opportunities" to consider generation of employment for one crore persons in every year for next ten years. The terms and reference of the Task Force are (i) To examine the existing employment and unemployment situation in the country. (ii) To suggest strategies of employment generation for achieving the target of providing employment opportunities to 10 crore people over the next 10 years. (iii) To consider any other matters related with or incidental to the above terms of reference.

(c) Government had taken a decision in the past that a 10% cut would be effected in the number of sanctioned posts as on 1.1.92. The implementation of this decision is being monitored by the Department of Expenditure. In this decision, no distinction is made between temporary and permanent posts.

Recharge of Ground Water

599. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any comprehensive action plan has been launched to deal squarely with water security due to persistent decline in ground water table due to scarce rain and persistent Inter-State Water disputes;

(b) whether recharging wells and ground water

sources with rain harvesting has been considered integral part of such plan; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to promote such recharging on a nation-wide scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and execute schemes for augmenting water resources. However, various programmes of the Central Government for water conservation and augmenting ground water resources are indicated below :-

1. Implementation of Central Sector Scheme on Studies on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water in the country at an estimated cost of Rs. 25.00 crore. The result of the scheme have been found to be very encouraging. Recharging wells and rain water harvesting are integral part of this scheme.
2. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA).
3. Soil Conservation in Catchment of River Valley Project.
4. Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchment of Flood Prone Rivers. (FPR)
5. Watershed Development Project for control of shifting Cultivation Area (WDPSA) in North-Eastern India.
6. Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)
7. Desert Development Programme (DDP)
8. Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP)

These programmes are implemented nation-wide.

Agriculture Output

600. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether water and fodder crisis are effecting the States and the water crisis have affected the agriculture output during 1999-2000 (June-July) harvesting crops;

(b) if so, the extent to which the production during 1999-2000 has suffered due to the water scarcity;

(c) whether the water scarcity is likely to have a greater impact on agriculture output during 2000-2001; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) Certain parts of the country were affected during 1999-2000 because of adverse agro-climatic conditions which resulted in water and fodder shortage. Despite these adverse agro-climatic conditions, country is expected to achieve a record production of 205.91 million tonnes of foodgrains. However, there is likely to be shortage in production of oilseeds. India Meteorological Department has forecast a normal monsoon during 2000-2001 for the country as a whole.

(c) and (d) It is too early to predict adequacy or otherwise of availability of water during the current agriculture year viz. 2000-2001. However, Government of India is continuously monitoring the position of water availability in the country. As on 19.07.2000, the area weighted rainfall for the country as a whole is 60% above normal.

[Translation]

Production of Wheat

601. SHRI TUFAL SAROJ : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the threshing of wheat crop could not be undertaken in the Eastern Uttar Pradesh due to untimely rains in May-June as a result most of the wheat crop has rotten in the fields;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any survey to ascertain the extent of the loss suffered in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to compensate this loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) to (c) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has informed that some partial damage in Gorakhpur and Faizabad regions, have occurred due to rains but there has been no damage in the rest of Uttar Pradesh. In fact the State Government reported a record production of 259.7 lakh tonnes of wheat during 1999-2000 which is 25.11 lakh tonnes more than the previous year. Further survey has been made by local Agricultural Officers however, there is no proposal for any compensation.

[English]

Population Problem

602. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recently convened a meeting of the Strategic Support Group (SSG) to deal with the population problem; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcomes of the meeting?

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) The National Commission on Population located in the Planning Commission, and not the Planning Commission itself, recently convened a meeting of the Strategic Support Group.

(b) The first Meeting of the Strategic Support Group was convened on 31st May, 2000 in order to decide agenda items for the first Meeting of the Commission, examine inter-sectoral coordination amongst concerned departments and see how department's existing policies and programmes could be dove-tailed into achieving the goals of the National Population Policy.

ESIC

603. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted for sanctioning new ESIC hospitals in the country;

(b) whether the ESIC has not been upgrading medical facilities in the country;

(c) the areas where the Insured Persons are not getting adequate medical attention; and

(d) the steps likely to be taken to sanction more ESIC Hospitals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) As per the norms of 4 beds per 1000 insured persons, the ESIC generally constructs a minimum 50 bed hospital for 12,500 insured persons (IPs).

(b) and (c) The provision of medical care under the ESI Scheme is being administered by the State Governments/UT Administrations except in Delhi and NOIDA where it is being administered directly by the ESIC. However, the expenditure on ESI medical care is shared between the ESIC and the State Governments/UT Administrations in the ratio 7:1. In order to bring improvement in the working of ESI hospitals/dispensaries, the ESI Corporation had recently formulated an Action Plan and forwarded the same to the State Governments for implementation in consultation with the ESIC. The Action Plan includes, inter-alia, upgradation/modernisation of medical facilities in ESI hospitals by providing them equipments of ultrasonography, pulse oximeter, auto analyzer, semi-auto analyzer, cardiac monitor, dental unit, resuscitation equipments etc. Under the Action Plan, the proposals for modernisation of ESI hospitals are required to be submitted by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The ESI Corporation has already considered and approved provision of modern equipments in respect of 112 ESI hospitals. In cases where the ESIC medical facilities are deficient, beds have been reserved in other local hospitals and necessary tie-up arrangements have also been made with reputed medical institutions for providing super speciality treatment to I.P.s.

(d) The ESI Corporation has also agreed in principle to construction of 11 new hospitals in different states.

Legislation to Regulate Aquaculture Activities

604. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Group of Ministries have submitted their reports on the enactment of legislation to regulate aquaculture activities in the coastal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) The Group of Ministers has endorsed the proposal with the recommendation that a provision be introduced in the Bill that the Government of India shall frame rules containing general guidelines for regulation of Aquaculture to ensure that it is not detrimental to the coastal environment. The Aquaculture Authority Bill, 2000 was thereafter introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 28.2.2000, and has been subsequently referred to the Parliament Standing Committee on Agriculture for examination.

Committee for SSI

605. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up a Committee to suggest separate laws for Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith terms of reference of the Committee; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to submit its report?

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) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Production of Foodgrains

606. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRI J.S. BRAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of foodgrains is estimated to be 205.91 million tonnes during the year 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details of the estimated various foodgrains separately;

(c) the estimated quantity of foodgrains produced in the country during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the production of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to advance estimates as on 29.06.2000, production of foodgrains during 1999-2000 is expected to be 205.91 million tonnes as per details given below:

(Production in million tonnes)

Crop	Production
1	2
Rice	88.25
Wheat	74.25
Coarse Cereals	30.35

1	2
Pulses	13.06
Total Foodgrains	205.91

(c) The State-wise and all-India production of foodgrains in the country during 1996-97 to 1999-2000 is given in enclosed statement.

(d) To boost the production of foodgrains, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System area and National Pulses Development Project. Under these programmes/project, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and improved farm implements. In addition, field demonstration on farmers, holding including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology.

Statement

Total Foodgrains Production

(Lakh Tonnes)

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Advance Estimates)
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	136.75	108.22	143.95	134.99
Assam	35.32	35.78	34.34	39.77
Bihar	144.18	140.93	129.09	134.08
Gujarat	52.09	57.10	55.67	40.10
Haryana	114.48	113.48	121.23	130.65
Himachal Pradesh	12.89	14.41	14.91	13.45
Jammu & Kashmir	13.31	14.20	15.16	14.54
Karnataka	92.13	80.47	99.77	95.05
Kerala	8.52	7.98	6.91	7.56
Madhya Pradesh	194.88	173.62	197.98	210.25
Maharashtra	146.02	96.64	127.53	124.48
Orissa	48.31	66.38	58.07	56.01

1	2	3	4	5
Punjab	215.53	211.43	229.07	251.36
Rajasthan	128.21	140.49	129.34	106.87
Tamil Nadu	69.30	81.04	101.41	87.92
Uttar Pradesh	423.85	415.89	401.45	439.92
West Bengal	137.56	143.53	143.67	151.01
All India	1994.36	1922.59	2030.43	2059.12

[English]

Labour Unrest

607. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have suffered heavy losses due to labour unrest in various States during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, alongwith the names of such States which are more prone to labour unrest; and

(c) the concrete measure taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such labour unrests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) The mandays lost as a result of strikes and lockouts during the last three years is given in enclosed statement. Among the States accounting for higher number of mandays lost are West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

(c) In order to maintain harmonious industrial relations the Government has emphasised closer participation between the management and the workers so that industrial relation issues are sorted out in the initial stages through a process of consultation and consensus building.

Statement

*Mandays Lost due to strikes and lockouts during 1997-98
(Provisional) by selected states*

Mandays Lost (In thousands)			
State/U.T.	1997	1998	1999
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	1357	5973	1370
Bihar	319	420	417
Delhi		7	62

1	2	3	4
Goa, Daman & Diu	102	31	5
Gujarat	1019	1216	392
Haryana	830	522	300
Karnataka	429	837	526
Kerala	838	551	2224
Madhya Pradesh	108	162	400
Maharashtra	1302	934	995
Orissa	151	52	30
Pondicherry	0	0	0
Punjab	212	248	423
Rajasthan	1321	965	757
Tamil Nadu	1925	3157	2631
Uttar Pradesh	101	824	629
West Bengal	5861	5973	15410
Others	1098	190	226
Total	16971	22062	26798

... = Not available

0 = Nil of less than 500

Source : Labour Bureau, Shimla

[Translation]

Killing of Dalits

608. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of spontaneous increase in the incidents of the killing of Dalits in Uttar Pradesh during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National SC and ST Commission have received any representation to conduct an inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into the matter or any Central Team has been sent or proposed to be sent to find out the facts;

- (f) if so, the finding thereof; and
- (g) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per information from National Crime Records Bureau, (MHA) the position is as under :-

	No. of Murders		
	SC	ST	Total
1. January, 99 to June, 99	139	1	140
2. July, 99 to December, 99	140	0	140
3. Average per month for 1999	23	Negligible	23
4. January, 2000 to April, 2000	83	2	85
5. Average per month for 4 months of 2000.	21	--	21

(c) and (d) National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has informed that no such representation has been received in the Commission.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) There has been no spontaneous increase in the incidents of killing of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Uttar Pradesh.

Government Employees

609. DR. BALIRAM

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of posts are lying vacant in various Ministries/Departments of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the number thereof Ministry-wise, category-wise as on date and the number of posts reserved for SCs/STs and OBCs separately out of them;

(c) whether the Government propose to fill up these vacancies during the current year; 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) to (d) Information relating to total number of posts lying vacant in various Ministries is not centrally maintained. Recruitment is a continuous process and it is possible that a number of posts including those reserved for SCs/STs and OBCs, remain vacant at a particular time. Action to fill up the vacant posts, including those reserved for various classes, is taken by the concerned Ministries/Departments and recruitment, wherever necessary, is organised through the recruiting agencies.

India-Indonesia Joint Commission

610. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Indonesia propose to constitute a joint commission;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken so far in this regard;

(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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A draft of the Agreement consisting a Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific & Technological cooperation was sent to the Government of Indonesia in the month of March, 2000. The draft is under examination by that Government.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Mismanagement of Funds

611. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether inaction or mismanagement of funds by some officials of his Ministry have cost the nation Rs. 140 crore;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken against those found guilty in this regard?

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

(b) However C.A.G. has submitted a report to the P.A.C. which contains some paras pertaining to Ministry of External Affairs which are at present under consideration of P.A.C.

(c) Does not arise at this stage.

Decline in Production of Foodgrains

612. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether paddy, sugarcane and other crops have been destroyed in Karnataka, Maharashtra and other States on account of less rain, declining of ground water level; and

(b) if so, the details of the loss in paddy, sugar and other foodgrains and commercial crops during the last three years and current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) The State-wise production of rice, sugarcane, foodgrains and oilseeds during 1996-97 to 1999-2000 are given in enclosed statement I to IV. It is seen that there is a general trend of increasing production of foodgrains and sugarcane at all-India level. However, the production trend of crops varies from State to State depending on local factors and agro-climatic conditions.

Statement-I

Rice Production During 1996-97 to 1999-2000

(Lakh Tonnes)

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Advance Estimates)
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	106.86	85.10	114.34	104.90
Assam	33.28	33.83	32.55	38.07
Bihar	72.81	71.33	66.33	67.39

1	2	3	4	5
Gujarat	9.46	10.42	10.16	9.85
Haryana	24.63	25.56	24.25	25.94
Himachal Pradesh	1.09	1.20	1.18	1.20
Jammu & Kashmir	4.31	5.49	5.89	5.87
Karnataka	32.12	32.13	36.05	34.02
Kerala	8.32	7.65	6.59	7.28
Madhya Pradesh	59.39	45.28	53.74	63.77
Maharashtra	26.14	23.95	24.68	25.36
Orissa	44.38	62.05	53.92	51.52
Punjab	73.34	79.04	79.40	87.16
Rajasthan	1.74	1.90	2.05	2.53
Tamil Nadu	58.05	68.94	82.15	71.56
Uttar Pradesh	117.71	121.65	116.16	129.12
West Bengal	126.37	132.37	133.17	139.41
All India	817.37	825.35	859.95	882.50

Statement-II

Sugarcane Production During 1996-97 to 1999-2000

(Lakh Tonnes)

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Advance Estimates)
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	150.30	139.55	166.85	184.80
Assam	14.90	12.88	12.24	12.24
Bihar	58.43	49.60	52.19	53.39
Gujarat	114.04	118.36	135.66	140.70
Haryana	90.20	75.50	68.80	80.00
Karnataka	233.74	283.33	284.54	292.33
Kerala	5.48	5.48	4.06	4.29
Madhya Pradesh	17.61	16.32	19.73	21.37
Maharashtra	418.05	381.74	471.51	557.98

1	2	3	4	5
Orissa	13.32	11.44	14.70	10.80
Punjab	110.40	71.50	61.30	67.70
Rajasthan	12.90	11.59	10.78	7.87
Tamil Nadu	259.19	301.84	466.73	385.49
Uttar Pradesh	1253.48	1292.67	1163.03	1199.74
West Bengal	18.10	18.26	20.02	17.76
All India	2775.60	2795.41	2957.26	3093.07

Statement-III

*Total Foodgrains Production During
1996-97 to 1999-2000*

(Lakh Tonnes)

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Advance Estimates)
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	136.75	108.22	143.95	134.99
Assam	35.32	35.78	34.34	39.77
Bihar	144.18	140.93	129.09	134.08
Gujarat	52.09	57.10	55.67	40.10
Haryana	114.48	113.48	121.23	130.65
Himachal Pradesh	12.89	14.41	14.91	13.45
Jammu & Kashmir	13.31	14.20	15.16	14.54
Karnataka	92.13	80.47	99.77	95.05
Kerala	8.52	7.98	6.91	7.56
Madhya Pradesh	194.88	173.62	197.98	210.25
Maharashtra	146.02	96.64	127.53	124.48
Orissa	48.31	66.38	58.07	56.01
Punjab	215.53	211.43	229.07	251.36
Rajasthan	128.21	140.49	129.34	106.87
Tamil Nadu	69.30	81.04	101.41	87.92

1	2	3	4	5
Uttar Pradesh	423.85	415.89	401.45	439.92
West Bengal	137.56	143.53	143.67	151.01
All India	1994.36	1922.59	2030.43	2059.12

Statement-IV

Oilseeds Production During 1996-97 to 1999-2000

(Lakh Tonnes)

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Advance Estimates)
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	23.96	14.24	22.65	14.27
Assam	1.60	1.74	1.55	1.54
Bihar	1.51	1.67	1.57	1.73
Gujarat	38.09	38.34	38.83	17.24
Haryana	10.05	4.23	7.14	5.70
Karnataka	17.56	11.99	18.14	14.80
Madhya Pradesh	50.94	56.88	56.15	58.80
Maharashtra	23.96	16.82	26.51	26.28
Orissa	1.67	1.91	1.77	1.48
Punjab	2.84	2.19	2.11	1.11
Rajasthan	35.30	33.00	38.13	34.05
Tamil Nadu	15.15	14.77	20.82	15.04
Uttar Pradesh	15.39	10.06	11.36	13.02
West Bengal	4.30	3.88	3.82	5.58
All India	243.85	213.25	252.10	211.76

Water Management

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

(a) whether the World Bank has pointed out that it is extremely essential to concentrate on conservation management of water resources;

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

(c) Whether a draft bill on ground water use had been circulated to the States for their comments;

(d) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto; and

(e) the time by which the Government propose to provide guidelines on National Water Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Govt. of India had recognised the need for conservation and management of water resources and had given due emphasis to these aspects in national Water Policy, 1987. The policy provides various measures for better water management and conservation such as:

- (i) Participation of farmers in the management of irrigation system.
- (ii) Modernisation and rehabilitation of irrigation system.
- (iii) Conservation of water by increasing the efficiency of utilisation, and
- (iv) Conjunctive use of surface and ground water resources.

Various Central and State agencies are engaged in the conservation and management of ground water resources which includes recharging of ground water and rain water harvesting as well as conjunctive use of surface and ground water for optimal development and management of the water resources.

(c) Yes Sir, the Union Government has circulated a Model Bill on control and regulation of ground water to the States and Union Territories.

(d) Only the States of Gujarat and Maharashtra have enacted the legislation.

(e) following guidelines have been issued on National Water Policy:-

- (i) Guidelines for the preparations of River Basin Master Plan-1990.

(ii) Integration of Drinking Water Supply System-1991.

(iii) Planning Conjunctive Use of Surface and Ground Water in Irrigation Projects-1994.

(iv) Submission, Appraisal and Clearance of Irrigation and Multipurpose Projects-1996.

(v) Setting up a Human Resources Development Board to go into formulation of training programme for the in-service personnel-1998.

(vi) Environmental Monitoring of Water Resources Projects-1999.

(vii) Various Aspects related to Dam Safety-22 in numbers.

ESIC

614. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hospitals being run by the ESIC at Sanatnagar in Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of visits by the Senior Officers to check the working of these hospitals;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the working of these hospitals; and

(d) the number of insured persons affiliated to these Hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LAL): (a) One.

(b) and (c) Periodical visits are made by the Senior Officers to check working of the ESI Hospitals. During the last year the ESI Hospitals at Sanatnagar was inspected thrice. The deficiencies/Shortcomings in working of the ESI Hospital at Sanatnagar were brought to the notice of the State Government authorities for taking immediate remedial measures. In order to improve working of the ESI Hospitals in Andhra Pradesh, the ESIC has sanctioned several modern equipments including one semi-auto-analyzer for the ESI Hospital at Sanatnagar.

(d) There are 1,68,487 insured persons attached to the ESI Hospital at Sanatnagar.

Anti-India Activities in Nepal

615. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether officials of India and Nepal held any meeting recently;
- (b) if so, the issues taken up;
- (c) the outcome thereof; and
- (d) the extent to which the Nepalese Government have succeeded in checking the movement of ISI agents and anti-India activists at its borders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) Home Secretary level talks were held in Kathmandu from July 4-7, 2000. At this meeting, the two sides discussed modalities to enhance cooperation in combating activities of terrorists, criminals and other undesirable elements, including along the India-Nepal border. Cooperation between the law enforcement agencies of both the countries and improved management of the India-Nepal border were also discussed.

(d) Efforts have been made by both sides to jointly coordinate measures, including stepping up vigil along the contiguous border districts of India and Nepal, to counter anti-India activities by agencies inimical to India's interests, including the ISI. Shared concern on this matter is evident from the determination expressed by both sides to take urgent necessary steps to control misuse of the open border between the two countries. On their part, the Government of Nepal have assured that their territory would not be used for activities inimical to India's interest.

Contract Labour

616. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have reviewed the spurt in the growth of contract labour in various organised industries even on regular jobs relating to production/manufacturing process;
- (b) if so, the growth and estimated number of contract workers engaged in organised industries during the past three years;
- (c) whether the condition of contract labour is deteriorating due to rampant violation of labour laws for contract workers; and

(d) whether the Union Government have received proposals from the States to carry out amendments in contract labour Act to subserve the interest of multinationals and other large and medium size Indian industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The Government is deeply concerned over the reported increase in the incidence and growth of contract labour and their deteriorating condition in the country. The Central Advisory Contract Labour Board, constituted under section 3 of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, reviews the working of the Act at its meetings and their advice is duly considered for suitable action by the Government. In the Central Sphere, the number of contract labour covered by licences issued under the Act during the last three years 1997, 1998 and 1999 are 5,88,678, 6,64,216 and 5,43, 982 (provisional) respectively.

The Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM) enforces the provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and rules made thereunder. The establishments are, from time to time, inspected by the inspecting authorities prescribed under the Act and wherever instances of the violations of the Act/Rules/Notifications come to their notice, action is taken against the employers of such establishments. Specific instances brought to the notice of the Government are referred to the concerned authorities of CIRM for appropriate action.

(d) No, Sir.

I.C.A.R

617. SHRI C. N. SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) does not have full time Director (Vigilance);
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the post is likely to be filled up;
- (c) the number of disciplinary cases pending in that department alongwith their time of pendency; and
- (d) the steps taken to finalise those cases expeditiously?

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

(b) ICAR does not have a full time Director (Vigilance) as there is no sanctioned post of Director (Vig.). However, a proposal to create the post of Director (Vig.) is

under active consideration in consultation with Ministry of Finance. Action would be initiated to fill up the post once the post of Director (Vig.) is created.

(c) The number of disciplinary cases pending and since when are given as under :-

(i) Disciplinary cases

Pending since year	No. of pending disciplinary cases
1995	Five (05)
1996	One (01)
1997	Nil
1998	Five (05)
1999	Nine (09)
2000	Six (06)
Total : Twenty Six (26) cases	

(ii) Vigilance cases

Pending since year	No. of pending vigilance cases
1993	Three (03)
1994	Nil
1995	Two (02)
1996	Three (03)
1997	Six (06)
1998	One (01)
1999	Eight (08)
2000	Two (02)
Total : Twenty Five (25) cases	

(d) The pending disciplinary cases are being monitored regularly and Inquiry Officers are being reminded for submitting their reports expeditiously.

Women Officers

618. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to appoint special women officers to look into the sexual discrimination cases in various organisations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) In pursuance of the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in the case of Visakha & Others Vs. State of Rajasthan & Others, the Government has asked the various Central Ministries/ Departments, Central Public Sector Undertakings, State Governments/ UTs and All India Employers and Employees Organisations to set up Complaints Committees to be headed by women for redressal of complaints arising out of sexual harassment of women at their work place. As per information available, most of the above organisations have set up the Complaints Committees in their organisations.

Diversion of Plan Fund

619. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated the project for formulating a long term 20 years perspective plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Planning Commission has directed to State Governments to prepare core plans for their respective States and adopted a new strategy to ensure that the funds allocated for States annual plan are not diverted;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith their views in this regard;

(e) whether the accountability of funds would be sought from each of the State Government;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps proposed to be taken by the Planning Commission to check illegal diversions of funds by State Governments?

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 PERSONNÉL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Planning Commission has constituted a Committee for preparing a Vision 2020 for the country under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission. The Committee has begun its deliberations.

(c) and (d) No directions have been issued to State Governments in this regard. However, in order to reduce gaps between Plan outlays fixed and actual expenditures, the cooperation of State Governments has been sought to fix the plan size more realistically taking into consideration (i) the trend of aggregate actual resource mobilization for the Plan of the State over the first three years of the Ninth Plan, and (ii) a realistic estimate of resources available for financing the Plan. Annual Plan discussions for 2000-01 have so far been held for the States of UP, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala and Punjab and UT of Pondicherry and their Plans outlays finalized. Since these States had already budgeted a relatively higher Plan size prior to the holding of Annual Plan discussions, the more realistic Plan size based on identifiable resources that was finally agreed upon in accordance with the criteria indicated above, has been popularly termed as a "core plan". The States with which discussions have been held have generally appreciated the approach.

(e) and (f) Comptroller & Auditor General of India regularly audits the expenditures of State Governments, and this is the constitutional mechanism for bringing about accountability for the utilization of funds.

(g) While Normal Central Plan Assistance is given en bloc to the States in accordance with their entitlement, in the case of certain important sectors like basic minimum services the approved Plan outlays are earmarked. States cannot divert earmarked outlays without prior approval of the Commission. Further, the progress of implementation of State Plans is reviewed at the time of Annual Plan discussions in the Planning Commission. Various Central Ministries/Dept. of GOI also monitor implementation of State Plan Schemes concerning them to ensure that funds are utilized for the purposes for which they have been given.

[Translation]

Diversion of Flow of Ravi River

620. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the move of the Government of Pakistan to divert the flow of

river Ravi towards India to create havoc in the villages of border areas of the country;

(b) if so, whether any report has been received by the Union Government from Government of Punjab in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(a) Yes, Sir, the Union Government is aware of certain works undertaken by Pakistan that have the effect of diverting the flow of river Ravi towards India and endangering border areas.

(b) and (c) The Government of Punjab has been submitting proposals to counter the effect to the Committee on Special Remedial Works for Flood Protection Embankments on rivers Sutlej and Ravi which examines the proposals and recommends specific works to be executed after visiting the affected areas.

(d) In addition to the counter protective works being undertaken by the State of Punjab from its own resources. Union Government is also providing financial assistance in the form of special loan and grant-in-aid as well as technical expertise to the Government of Punjab for undertaking counter protective works according to the recommendations of the Committee.

[English]

Indo-Sino Ties

621. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high-powered delegation to China accompanying President signed MoUs and bilateral agreements for improving Indo-Sino bilateral, cultural, and trade relations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any decision for resolving the Indo-Sino

boundary dispute were also taken indicating the headway so far made in this direction since talks in this regard were resumed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) The President paid a State-visit to China on May 28-June 3, 2000. His talks with the Chinese President covered bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. The two sides agreed to further enhance bilateral co-operation in diverse fields and to promote greater people-to-people contacts. No MoU/Agreement was signed during the visit.

(c) The boundary question is being discussed in the framework of the India-China Joint Working Group on the Boundary Question. Both sides have reiterated their commitment to seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question by peaceful means through dialogue. The Agreement on Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity, along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas (1993) and the Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field, along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas (1996), provide an institutional framework for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas.

[Translation]

Incentive Provided to SSI in Maharashtra

622. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of

SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide assistance/incentives to set up small scale and rural industries in the country particularly in the Maharashtra during the last year; and

(b) the number of persons got employment in it?

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 primary responsibility of development of small scale industries in a State is that of the State Government. District-wise special capital incentives and interest free unsecured loan given by the Government of Maharashtra under the Package Scheme of incentives during the year 1999-2000 are given in enclosed statement.

(b) As per the information given by Government of Maharashtra, 5863 people got employment in the assisted 409 small scale units in Maharashtra during the year 1999-2000.

Statement

District-wise special capital incentives and interest free loan given by the Govt. of Maharashtra under package Scheme of incentives during the year 1999-2000 in Maharashtra

Name of the Region		Sl. No. and Name of the District		Special Capital Incentives (Rs. in lakh)	Interest Free unsecured loan (Rs.)
1		2		3	4
A.	Konkan Region	1.	Thane	404.63	----
		2.	Raigad	5.06	
		3.	Ratnagiri	130.92	
		4.	Sindhudrug	33.94	
B.	Nashik Region	1.	Nashik	254.92	----
		2.	Dhule	58.27	

1		2		3		4			
C.	Pune Region	3.	Jalgaon	144.91					
		4.	Ahmednagar	173.98					
		1.	Pune	17.41					
		2.	Satara	46.20		21,776/-			
		3.	Sangli	13.13					
		4.	Solapur	54.45		5,770/-			
		5.	Kolhapur	263.78					
		D.	Aurangabad Region	1.	Aurangabad	315.00		9,41,490/-	
				2.	Jalna	51.44			
				3.	Parbhani	55.47			
4.	Beed			95.28		59,200/-			
5.	Nanded			52.53					
		6.	Usmanabad	141.49					
		7.	Latur	282.77					
		E.	Amravati Region	1.	Buldhana	20.01			
				2.	Akola	87.24		1,92,574/-	
				3.	Amravati	24.50		75,563/-	
4.	Yavatmal			6.91					
F.	Nagpur Region			1.	Wardha	17.44		-----	
		2.	Nagpur	247.25					
		3.	Bhandara	15.07					
		4.	Chandrapur	68.71					
		5.	Gadchiroli	49.85					
Total				3132.56	12,96,873/-				
Regional Development Corporation									
Development Corporations				(Rs. in Lakhs)	Rupees				
Konkan Development Corporation				152.59	12,50,000/-				
Western Development Corporation				418.37	12,22,454/-				
Marathwada Vikas Development Corporation				62.56	2,49,310/-				
Vidharbha Development Corporation				183.92	9,81,863/-				
Total				817.44	37,03,627/-				

[English]

Indo-Pak Talks

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

(a) whether U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs had paid a visit to India in the third week of May, 2000;

(b) if so, whether he had held discussions regarding the start of Indo-Pak talks in the light of the release of Hurriyat Conference leaders; and

(c) if so, the details of the issues discussed and his reaction to India's stand on the resumption of talks with Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Mr. Thomas Pickering, the US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, visited New Delhi on May 24-25, 2000 for Foreign Office Consultations and the Asian Security Dialogue with Foreign Secretary. The two institutional mechanisms are part of the wide ranging Dialogue Architecture agreed upon by Prime Minister and President Clinton during President Clinton's visit in March, 2000.

(b) The two sides discussed a range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern, including the evolving security situation in Asia. In the context of reducing tensions in South Asia, the US side expressed hope for the resumption of Indo-Pak talks.

(c) The US side reiterated its position, as articulated by President Clinton, namely urging restraint, respect for Line of Control, refraining from violence and renewed lines of communication. The two sides also discussed the persisting problem of cross-border terrorism in India. The US side expressed understanding for India's position that Pakistan must stop its support for cross-border terrorism and violence in Jammu & Kashmir and create the conditions for the dialogue to take place.

Issuance of Licence

624. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of companies which were given licences for providing employment in foreign countries particularly in Delhi and Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) whether some companies have made irregularities and violated the law;

(c) if so, the details of complaints received against each company during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) In the last three years, registration certificates for providing employment in foreign countries were given to 356 agencies including 96 in Maharashtra and 79 in Delhi.

(b) to (d) Sporadic complaints relating to charging of service charges in excess of 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 other countries against non-existent jobs and, in some cases, changing the terms and conditions of employment of the workers on their reaching the alien land were received against the recruiting agents, foreign employers.

As and when such complaints are received, the Indian Missions are requested to take up the matter with the foreign employers and to arrange for the redressal of the grievances of the workers. In many cases, such problems are solved. Simultaneously, the registered Recruiting Agents who had made recruitment of such workers for placement with the foreign employers are also directed to get in touch with their sponsors for settlement of the grievances of the workers. In the event of failure of these agents to comply with the directions of the Protector General of Emigrants/Registering Authority, action is taken for suspension/cancellation of Registration certificates and forfeiture of the bank guarantee.

India's Candidature for Security Council

625. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union has agreed to support India's demand for Permanent seat in United Nations Security Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the concessions made in the Lisbon Summit by both sides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) It is important to note that the European Union does not have a common stand on the question of Security Council expansion and restructuring. During the EU Summit in Lisbon, our Prime Minister had called for support for India's candidature for permanent membership of the Security Council. Prime

Minister Antonio Guterres of Portugal, in a joint press conference on June 28, 2000, during Prime Minister's visit, said the Portugal has sympathy for India's candidature for permanent seat in the UN Security Council and that it would receive their support.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Annual Plan Outlay for States

626. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for allocation of Annual Plan Outlay to the States;

(b) the total Annual Plan outlay allocated to the State of Rajasthan during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the head-wise details of the amount allocated out of it and the amount likely to be allocated to Rajasthan as aid/grant during the current year;

(d) the efforts made by the States to mobilise their share of resources for their Plans;

(e) whether the Government take into consideration the amount mobilised and contributed by the States by their own resources;

(f) the directions of Planning Commission and Finance Commission 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) The Annual Plan Outlay to States is allocated on the basis of their own financial resources and Central Assistance available to the State Government for Plan financing. State's own financial resources comprises of : Balance from Current Revenues (BCR), Contribution from State Level Public Enterprises (SLPEs), State Provident Funds, Loans against small savings, SLR based Market Borrowings, Negotiated Loans from Financial Institutions, Miscellaneous Capital Receipts (MCR), Bonds/Debentures and Opening Balance. Central Assistance includes Normal Central Assistance (NCA) and Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for Area Programmes and ACA for Externally Aided

Projects (EAPs). While allocation under NCA is based on the Gadgil Formula approved by the National Development Council (NDC) in December, 1991, allocation under ACA for Area Programmes and EAPs are based on the Sector/Project requirement of States.

(b) and (c) A statement giving detailed information during the Ninth Plan is enclosed. The amount likely to be allocated to Rajasthan as aid/grant during the current year is under finalisation.

(d) This includes upward revision of State taxes and non-tax revenue sources, tariff revision of public utilities viz., power, transport etc., economy in expenditure and other BCR improvements and mobilisation of borrowed funds from financial institutions, SLR based market borrowings, State Provident Funds and loans against small savings. The State share of Central taxes and the various Plan and Non-Plan Grants from Finance Commission also adds to the State Own resources for plan financing.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The broad directions in this regard by Planning Commission are laid down in the Ninth Plan Document, and those of the Finance Commission are indicated in the relevant Report of the Finance Commission.

Statement

Sector-wise Outlay during Ninth Plan - Rajasthan

(Rs. in Crore)

Sector	1997-98 Outlay	1998-99 Outlay	1999-2000 Outlay
1	2	3	4
Agriculture and Allied Activities	316.98	364.31	336.69
Rural Development	287.25	301.93	338.32
Special Area Programme	27.80	28.42	38.62
Irrigation and Flood Control	523.25	658.34	643.47
Power	755.24	805.32	897.56
Industry & Minerals	224.22	250.47	195.88
Transport	323.32	506.80	617.83
Scientific Services	6.95	6.80	4.22

1	2	3	4
Social Services	901.74	1225.37	1563.41
General Economic Services	26.23	25.30	75.24
General Services	121.44	126.94	38.76
Grand Total	3514.42	4300.00	4750.00

[English]

Policy on Remote Sensing Data

627. DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the American Space Imaging Company managed to take pictures of nuclear and defence establishments in Andhra Pradesh and passed on to Pentagon; and

(b) if so, the details of policy regarding regulatory remote sensing data in the country to protect national interests?

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 American Space Imaging Company's IKONOS satellite has been imaging various parts of the world since its launch in late 1999. Being a commercial venture, many users have been procuring the data from Space Imaging under the UN open sky policy. Federation of American Scientists (FAS), in its website, has displayed satellite imagery of various establishments including nuclear and defence establishments in different parts of the world, including some of the Indian sites in Andhra Pradesh, as obtained from IKONOS.

(b) The Government of India has formulated a policy of regulating the procurement, archival and dissemination of high-resolution satellite data within the country, after appropriately taking care of the sensitivity aspects. According to this policy, Department of Space has been identified as the nodal agency for the procurement and supply of high resolution satellite data. Supply of the data to the users is regulated by the National Remote Sensing Agency under the Department of Space after appropriately taking care

of the sensitivity of the data as per the Government of India guidelines.

Illegal Migration from Bangladesh

628. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Bangladesh discussed illegal migration during the meeting held in April, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of other issues that came for discussion during the meeting;

(c) the outcome of the discussions; and

(d) the steps being taken to check the illegal migration from Bangladesh to India?

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

(b) and (c) The fourth India-Bangladesh Home Secretary level talks took place in New Delhi in April, 2000. The discussions covered various issues related to border management including, *inter alia*, illegal cross border movement, security-related issues, trans-border crimes including smuggling of arms & explosives and trafficking in women and children, boundary matters and visa arrangements, etc. Both sides reiterated their resolve to extend the fullest co-operation to each other to prevent activities prejudicial to mutual interests.

(d) The Government of India has been regularly taking up the issue of illegal migrants with the Government of Bangladesh at political and diplomatic levels. Both sides have agreed to adhere to procedures agreed upon earlier in this regard. To prevent illegal border crossing, Government of India has also undertaken a series of steps internally to strengthen security at the border. These include raising of additional battalions of the Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on land and the riverine border, and construction of border roads and fencing.

Security Lapses at Kathmandu Airport

629. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether security lapses continue to occur at Nepal's Kathmandu airport;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this issue has been taken up with Nepal Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) In the wake of the recent hijacking incident, discussions have been held with the Nepalese authorities for the strengthening of security and immigration controls at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu. His Majesty's Government of Nepal have assured us that they have taken several short-term and long-term measures to enhance security at the Tribhuvan International Airport. Certain additional measures required by Indian Airlines for ensuring the safety of its Aircraft, passengers and crew, have also been put in place. Our experts have assessed the steps taken by the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal and are satisfied that these would meet the requirement of our airlines. In view of this, Indian Airlines resumed its flights to Nepal with effect from June 1, 2000. The security arrangements will continue to be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Jane's Report on Kashmir

630. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have taken note of Jane's Intelligence Digest report that the USA was sponsoring an intensive secret diplomacy to bring India, Pakistan and Kashmir insurgents on the negotiating table to solve the Kashmir issue;

(b) if so, whether the Government have reacted to it;

(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) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of the report referred to in the Question.

(b) Government does not react to speculative reports appearing in foreign private media. The US State Department spokesman said in response to a question on the report on 7th July that "I saw those reports, and know, we are not and have not done any such things. ...the United States has not changed our approach to Kashmir. We do not see ourselves as mediators".

(c) and (d) The US Government is well aware of

Government's position that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India.

Coconut Development Board

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

(a) whether the Government have received representations to activate the Coconut Development Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Coconut Development Board has not done any marketing studies for the sale of tender coconuts in non-coconut growing areas in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to introduce innovative marketing schemes for the benefit of coconut growing farmers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds to be made available for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, the Coconut Development Board conducted a consumer acceptability study to tender coconut water as a soft drink in important centres like Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Chennai, Hyderabad, Guwahati, Agartala etc. to ascertain its market potentiality. The study revealed that the product would have a fair potential for marketing.

(e) and (f) The Coconut Development Board has made innovative marketing schemes to be implemented during 9th Plan which include encouragement of introduction of modern copra dryers by giving financial incentives, promotion of domestic and foreign markets on need basis, market research studies and dissemination of reliable market intelligence on coconut and its products.

A sum of Rs. 107.82 lakhs is earmarked for marketing promotional activities for the 9th plan period out of which Rs. 45.00 lakhs is allocated under the annual plan for the year 2000-2001.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN

JATIYA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) on the Action Taken or proposed to be taken on ILO Convention No. 181 and Recommendation No. 188 concerning Private Employment agencies adopted at its 85th Session in June, 1997.

[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2061/2000]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Vasundhara Raje I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 37 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 :-

- (1) The Karnataka Administrative Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman and Members) second Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 320 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th April, 2000.

[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2062/2000]

- (2) The West Bengal Administrative Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 587 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2000.

[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2063/2000]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : On behalf of Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, I beg to lay on the Table - a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on the assurance, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabha:-

Tenth Lok Sabha

- (1) Statement No. XXXVII Second Session, 1991
[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2064/2000]
- (2) Statement No. XXXIX Fourth Session, 1992
[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2065/2000]
- (3) Statement No. XXXVIII Sixth Session, 1993
[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2066/2000]
- (4) Statement No. XXXIII Eighth Session, 1993
[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2067/2000]

- (5) Statement No. XXX Ninth Session, 1994
[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2068/2000]
- (6) Statement No. XXVIII Eleventh Session, 1994
[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2069/2000]
- (7) Statement No. XXIV Twelfth Session, 1994
[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2070/2000]
- (8) Statement No. XXIV Thirteenth Session, 1995
[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2071/2000]
- (9) Statement No. XXII Fourteenth Session, 1995
[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2072/2000]
- (10) Statement No. XVIII Fifteenth Session, 1995
[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2073/2000]

Eleventh Lok Sabha

- (11) Statement No. XVII Second Session, 1996
[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2074/2000]
- (12) Statement No. XV Third Session, 1996
[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2075/2000]
- (13) Statement No. XV Fourth Session, 1997
[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2076/2000]
- (14) Statement No. XIII Fifth Session, 1997
[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2077/2000]
- (15) Statement No. XII Sixth Session, 1997
[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2078/2000]

Twelfth Lok Sabha

- (16) Statement No. XI Second Session, 1998
[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2079/2000]
- (17) Statement No. VIII Third Session, 1998
[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2080/2000]
- (18) Statement No. VII Fourth Session, 1999
[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2081/2000]

Thirteenth Lok Sabha

- (19) Statement No. IV Second Session, 1999
[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2082/2000]
- (20) Statement No. III Third Session, 2000
[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2083/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Employees' State Insurance (Central) Amendment Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 129 in Gazette of India dated the 8th April, 2000 under sub-section (4) of Section 95 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.

[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2084/2000]

12.01 hrs.

[English]

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :-

- "(i) 'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held today, the 24th July, 2000, adopted the following motion in regard to presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 :-

"That the time appointed for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 be extended up to the last day of the first week of the 191st Session of the Rajya Sabha."

- (ii) 'In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 24th July, 2000, agreed without any amendment to the Insecticides (Amendment) Bill, 2000 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 8th May, 2000."

12.01½ hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tenth Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) Sir, I beg to present the Tenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.02 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Fourteenth Report

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (RATNAGIRI) : Sir, I beg to present the fourteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development on "The Constitution (Eighty-Sixth Amendment) Bill, 1999."

12.02½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

Sixty-second and Sixty-third Reports

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs:-

- (1) Sixty-second Report on the Salaries, Allowances, Leave and Pensions of the Officers and Servants of the Supreme Court Bill, 1994; and
- (2) Sixty-third Report on the Salaries, Allowances, Leave and Pensions of the Officers and Servants of the Delhi High Court Bill, 1994.

12.03 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Committee on Public Accounts

[English]

(i) SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (NAINITAL) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of rule 254, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on Public Accounts for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Shri Rajesh Pilot died."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of rule 254, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on Public Accounts for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Shri Rajesh Pilot died."

The motion was adopted

(ii) SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (NAINITAL) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Shri Vayalar Ravi retired from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the name of the member so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Shri Vayalar Ravi retired from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the name of the member so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up Zero Hour. I will call one by one.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : I have given notice on the most important subject. Food Corporation of India has passed orders not to procure levy rice any more from Andhra Pradesh....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is an Adjournment Motion. Shri Krishnadas, you have given a notice of an Adjournment Motion. It is under my consideration.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise the matter later, not now.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (PALGHAT) : I want to say something on that. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR) : We have all given notices to raise the matter regarding coconut cultivation. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Krishnadas, I have gone through

your notice. It is under my consideration. Later, you can raise the issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have gone through the contents of your notice. Whatever you want to raise you can raise the same later, not now. I will give you a chance later, not now.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Let me say something, Sir. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : At this stage, you cannot raise anything because it is under my consideration.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Let me say something, Sir. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have gone through the notice also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up Zero Hour.

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Today, I have received 56 notices. If you cooperate with the Chair, I can cover all the notices. Otherwise, it would be very difficult to take up all the notices in the Zero Hour. Many Members have been giving notices to raise matters in the Zero Hour, but they are not getting the chance. It is very sad. Please understand that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Are you going to take your seat or not? I am on my legs. Shri Thomas, please take your seat. This is not the proper way to raise the matter in the House. I am going to cover all the notices today. I have received 56 notices. If you cooperate with me, I can cover all the notices. Otherwise, it would be very difficult.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : All of us have given notices regarding. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Krishnadas, you have given a notice on coconut matter. I have gone through the contents of your notice. First of all, you should know the procedure. It is under my consideration. At this stage, you cannot raise anything. Please understand that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Krishnadas, I have called Shri Dasmunsi. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of this august House, especially the Treasury Benches. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before you consider my notice. I would like to make a submission.

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you later.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday the Indian Youth Congress, the official Youth Wing. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, is there any priority regarding the notice given?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramji Lal Suman, I have not called your name. I have called Shri Dasmunsi. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, yesterday, the Indian Youth Congress, the youth Wing of the Indian National Congress, for which I had the privilege of presiding over for five years, came to the Capital from the adjacent States to protest on three basic issues. The issues are confronting them everyday for the last six months and they are reacting to atrocities on the religious minorities, linguistic minorities and dalits.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : Atrocities are being committed against women in Rajasthan, where his party is in power. ...*(Interruptions)* He is ignoring this. Large scale roting and murder took place in Malpura, in Rajasthan. He himself has visited there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will give a chance to you also. You can rebut it at that time, not now.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, they came here to submit a memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The Youth Congress workers, in thousands, were totally peaceful as reported in the national media and they only wanted to hand over a memorandum to the Prime Minister, highlighting the defects of the programme which is related to poverty alleviation. Due to the drastic cut of the financial support to that programme, the villagers are crying. Then, as far as the programme related to the youth are concerned, no National Youth Policy has so far indicated about the future of their job opportunities in the Ninth Plan or in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Ninth Plan. With all these details, they came to the Capital in a democratic manner, in a peaceful manner. But without any provocation, like it happened in the case of the students of Jamia Milia Islamia, the police unleashed a brutal lathicharge on them, one after another. You can kindly look at these photographs as to how the police behaved with them. In spite of beating a person on his head, when two other persons cried before the police, he was just dragged in the street and the police paraded over the body.

So, I demand that the Home Minister must make a statement in the House as to why this Government is behaving in this fashion against the young people. When any democratic procession takes place to give a memorandum on the issues of the public, if the Home Ministry's Police behaves in this manner everytime and the Government keeps quite, I tell you that there cannot be any guarantee of peace in the Capital. The Home Minister is remaining silent on the issue of Jamia Milia Islamia. The Home Ministry is remaining silent on the issue of atrocities on minorities and dalits throughout the country and if young people come to protest against this, should they be treated like this? Therefore, we demand that the Home Minister must make a statement and the offending officials should be booked immediately by the Government. Sir, I wonder, in spite of this thing happening, no Minister from the Home Ministry — neither the Minister of State nor the Cabinet Minister — is present in the House. So, I would like to say that unless the Home Minister makes a statement on this matter to ensure that the offending officials are booked and if these things continue like this, I think, we cannot cooperate with the business of this House.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (CHANDINI CHOWK) : When we used to agitate against your government, were we not beaten?

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : After this the coconut issue would be taken up.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the government towards the deteriorating law and order situation in Rajasthan. Over 1200 cases have been registered with one police station, in connection with murder and rape against the Dalits, women and the weaker sections in Rajasthan. I belong to Ajmer. For two days, Ajmer remained closed. The N.S.U.I. student Leader Dharmendra Rajvanshi, who belonged to Scheduled Caste, died in police custody. On our demand the Union Government referred the matter to the C.B.I.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat says.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Similarly, four days ago, four Harijan persons were killed in Sikar. In Alwar, a Harijan woman was raped. Four persons had raped her and an F.I.R. was registered, after people staged dharna. Complaints regarding misbehaviour against Harijans and dalits have been increasing. Soniaji had visited Malpura. She herself is aware that innocent persons have been killed there. About six persons were killed there. The anti-social elements killed eight innocents who were going to a wedding. Hence, I appeal to the government through you to maintain law and order in Rajasthan and proper arrangements be made for the welfare of dalits and women. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Krishnadas, you have given a notice for Zero Hour. That is why I am calling you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Then only, I can continue with the Zero Hour. Now, I have called Shri Krishnadas.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot compel the Minister of Home Affairs to come and make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Is there anything from the Government side?

* Not recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please understand. The entire proceedings are being watched by the people of India. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. What is this? Now, Shri Krishnadas.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want to say something.

MR. SPEAKER : First of all, you ask your Members to take their seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a proper way to present a matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, is there anything from the Government side?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter has been raised by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. I will call you.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : It has been an undemocratic action against the peaceful demonstration. We have given a notice.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Your name would also be called.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : What priority do you give to those who give prior notice. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, I have not called your name. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? It is happening everyday during the Zero Hour. It is creating bad precedent.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, this is a very emotional matter. ...*(Interruptions)* There was an action against a peaceful and democratic demonstration. ...*(Interruptions)* I would request, through you, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to kindly consult the Minister of Home Affairs and respond to it.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : We have given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : What do they intend to do about this? Then, we will see how we are to react on their response.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, I will consult the hon. Home Minister and by evening I will come back to you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Since Shri Krishnadas has given a notice, I have called his name.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You will get time after him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rawat, please take your seat. You have already been given a chance to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, I have to raise a very important issue. The Food Corporation of India is stopping to procure food grains from Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you. Let, Shri Krishnadas speak first. I am having all the notices with me.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (PALGHAT) : Sir, the problem which is being faced by the coconut growers of the country is very serious. There is a steep decrease in the price of coconut and coconut products. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, it is affecting the life of common coconut growers all over the country.

Sir, one year back, in Kerala, the price of the coconut was around Rs.6 to Rs.7. Now it has come down to Rs. 1.50. This kind of a price decrease in Kerala hit the life of the coconut

growers. This is a very serious matter. The main cause of the price decrease is the liberalised import policy of the Government of India, which is continuing in the country. Now the coconuts and coconut products like palm oil, etc. are being imported liberally throughout the country. This is causing a very serious problem to the coconut growers all over the country.

Sir, one year back there was mite infection in the coconut all over the Southern States of the country. At that time, we had raised the matter in this House and we discussed that with the concerned Minister. The Minister concerned of the Government of Kerala also came here and discussed that with the Agricultural Ministry. But not even a single rupee has been granted to the Government of Kerala to overcome this mite problem. Now, this steep decrease in the coconut price is creating a very serious problem.

The Government of India announced the support price of copra, but it was totally inadequate and not only that but there was a delay in announcing that price. So, it was not helpful to even a single farmer in Kerala and other Southern States. ...*(Interruptions)* So, I urge upon the Government to come forward to ban the import of coconut and coconut products, at least, for a certain period. Otherwise, the coconut growers all over the country cannot survive.

I thank you for giving me time to speak on this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : On the same subject Prof. A.K. Premajam, Shri Suresh Kurup, Shri T. Govindan, Shri Ramesh Chennithala, Shri Radhakrishnan, Shri G.M. Banatwala, Shri V.M. Sudheeran, Shri A.C. Jos and Shri E. Ahamed also associate with Shri Krishnadas on this issue. Now the Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Yesterday, we had taken a decision in the BAC that on a subject one Member can speak and other can associate with him. Now the Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are not allowing the Minister to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am not going to allow anybody because the Minister is going to reply. If you have any doubts, you can ask the hon. Minister after the reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? You are not allowing the Minister to reply. Please take your seat. Now, the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P.C. Thomas, please take your seat. The hon. Minister is giving the reply. You are not allowing him to reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what the hon. Minister says.

(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I share the concern expressed by the hon. Member. The coconut growers are facing certain difficulties. There is no doubt about it. The price of coconut has fallen sharply. The Government has increased the import duty on Palmolein. So far as our Ministry is concerned. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR) : It should be done. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jos, what is this?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : So far as my Ministry is concerned, I have recommended further increase in the import duty so that it could help our growers. So far as the procurement is concerned, you know that the existing policy of the Government is to procure copra and ball copra. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : That is not being done now. It is a very serious issue. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, let him complete. What is this?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The procurement is done through NAFED, which is the designated agency of the Central Government. They are procuring copra and ball copra. I heard that there were some complaints and they had suspended the procurement. Immediately I took up the matter with NAFED officials. There was some problem of storage in Kerala for two, three days. That was sorted out. I asked them not to stop the procurement business for a single day. Now they have started the procurement.

The other problem is relating to mite. So far as this problem is concerned, ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : The

* Not recorded.

main point is about the minimum support price. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : They want you to increase the minimum support price. ... (Interruptions)

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA) : The minimum support price is far below the procurement price. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : They are asking about the minimum support price.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It is a declared price. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : It is totally inadequate. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. What is this?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Actually the farmers grow coconut. Normally they are not in a position to process it and to dry it. The businessmen take it from them and they do all those things. Finally, the procurement is done through those businessmen. ... (Interruptions) Some farmers also do the processing and they are also benefited. This is the established practice. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way. Please take your seats.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The Agriculture Minister of Kerala came and met me. He proposed that the Government should think of. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jos, you need not supply information to the hon. Minister. Please take your seat. What is this? You are obstructing the Minister.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am speaking in your favour. Please hear me. ... (Interruptions) The Agriculture Minister of Kerala came and met me. He advised that coconut should be procured and not copra and ball copra.

As you are all aware, there are so many problems in procuring coconut. There is handling problem and also storage problem. There is no processing facility with NAFED, which is the designated agency. A fresh policy decision will have to be taken. I am told that the hon. Members are going to meet the hon. Prime Minister and they can discuss all these things with him. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : We are going to meet you also. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I would be willing to help to the growers of coconut to any extent. The day before yesterday, I had gone to Chennai to attend an international Conference on coconut. I expressed my views there. I had discussed these things with so many people. I am willing to support your views. I am willing to help the coconut growers. I am aware of their problems. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the proper way. What is this? The Minister is supporting your view. Even then, you are not allowing him to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATERJEE (BOLPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on this, it appears that the hon. Minister has taken a very firm attitude.

He says, so far as his Ministry is concerned, it has recommended for the increase of the import duty. You are a Cabinet Minister. You see the intensity of the suffering of the people there. When you have done it, you see that it is implemented soon. Mere recommendation is meaningless unless the Government accepts it and implements it. Therefore, Shri Nitish Kumar, it is your duty to see this. Since you have come back again, I wish you well. At least, you do something for the people. Merely saying you have done your duty, your Ministry has done its duty, is meaningless. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : There is one more clarification.

MR. SPEAKER : No more clarification. Please take your seat. Now, Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the speech of Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu.

*(Interruptions)**

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (TENALI) : Sir, the rice movement in Andhra Pradesh is at a very alarmingly slow pace, rather it has come to a standstill. We do not know the reason. As far as rice is concerned, the Food Corporation of India has stopped procurement operations in Andhra Pradesh. The Food Corporation of India is coming forward with two reasons, that it has already over-achieved its procurement operation in regard to rice in Andhra Pradesh, and also it is facing shortage of storage place, that is godown. ...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : This is Zero Hour. I cannot compel the Minister and the Government to give an answer to your satisfaction. Whatever you ask from the Minister, he will give reply. What is this?

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Forty-six lakh tonnes of rice is normally procured by them. The FCI has procured up to 51 lakh tonnes of rice. This year, there is a tremendous crop in Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, this is a serious problem in the Southern States.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? You are not allowing me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, you are shouting too much. What is this?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I was only suggesting.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I am also asking the Minister. Please take your seat first. What is this?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : ...*(Interruptions)* I am asking for a meeting.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat first. I am also asking the Minister. Why are you unnecessarily interrupting?

Mr. Minister, this is a serious problem in the Southern States, including in my constituency. You can have a meeting with the Members, particularly, some selected Members, and sort out the issue.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am willing to do that ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He has agreed.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I will call all the Members of all coconut growing areas. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I will suggest that the meeting may be held in your Chamber.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, at your convenience. There is no problem.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, the Food Corporation of India has stopped its procurement operation in Andhra Pradesh. Regarding rice procurement,

the Food Corporation of India is coming forward with two dimensions of the problem. It says, it has already over-achieved the target of 46 lakh tonnes it normally does. It seems it has procured to the extent of 51 lakh tonnes. But it has earlier promised that it will procure up to 56 lakh tonnes. But after procuring 51 lakh tonnes, it has stopped further procurement. The problem has multiplied and virtually the paddy and rice movement in Andhra Pradesh has come to a Standstill. Now, there are as much as 35 lakh tonnes of paddy and rice available with the farmers and also with the millers in Andhra Pradesh. Unless this is disposed of immediately, further investment in agriculture for the present khariff crop is going to be difficult. So, looking at the plight of this particular situation, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has already come forward to relax the restrictions which it is having at present.

For the exports of the rice to the other States it has already issued the permit. Unfortunately, in the neighbouring States also like Kerala the movement of paddy, that is parboiled rice, is not up to the mark as it was expected in Andhra Pradesh. So, in the present circumstances unless another 10 lakh tonnes of paddy or rice is procured by the FCI, the farmers will not be rescued in Andhra Pradesh.

The other aspect that the Food Corporation of India is telling is that they are short of storage facilities. So, if the godowns, which are available with the FCI are full, they can even take the godowns of the Central Warehousing Corporation of India or even those of the Agricultural Marketing Committees. There are plenty of storage facilities that are available. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh is coming forward to place these godown facilities at the disposal of the FCI. It can hand over them to the FCI. ...*(Interruptions)*

I urge upon the Government to go in for procurement for at least another 10 lakh tonnes of rice to help the farmers immediately and also the rice millers. They have also stopped further procurement and the farmers of Andhra Pradesh as far as rice is concerned, want that the FCI should procure more rice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : On the same subject, Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, Shri Chari, Shri K. Yerrannaidu, and Shri Gutha Sukender Reddy have given notices. All of you can associate with him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Never in the past has the FCI stopped procurement of levy rice. It is an alarming problem. The farmers are in distress. Thirty lakh tonnes of paddy are lying with the millers. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He has already said it.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : On copra the Minister has reacted. Some reply should come from the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

MR. SPEAKER : This matter does not belong to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, I think!

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : What about this? This is a State issue.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I am on a different point. It was decided in the BAC meeting that in Zero Hour only the prime mover should be allowed to speak and the rest only should be allowed to associate. Otherwise again it becomes a discussion and the other people will lose the chance making their points.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : We are asking for the intervention of the Minister.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I can only say that I have heard very carefully what was said. I will take up this issue with the concerned Minister.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA) : I represent Miryalguda Lok Sabha constituency. The largest foodstocks to be lifted are in my constituency, Miryalguda in Andhra Pradesh. This is a problem that afflicts my constituency to a very severe and unprecedented degree.

The FCI, as has been mentioned already, has taken the unprecedented step of stopping procurement altogether. The Minister must be directed to make a statement on this today. The point is, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has represented but the Government of India is still not responding. We are feeling frustrated and this is not a partisan issue.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what happened to our notice.

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Rashid Alvi.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (AMROHA) : I want to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is coming one by one.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Since the last several months the match fixing issue has been hogging the limelight. Several cricketers' were raided by the Income Tax and C.B.I. officers.

Fixed deposits worth hundreds of crores were recovered from their residences. The sentiments of the new generation had always been associated with these matches. When ever our team played abroad, the people used to pray for their victory in mosques and temples. But, it is the nation's misfortune that inspite of all this, this had happened. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister is sitting here. I want to ask him that as per my information, Income Tax officers could not execute the warrant against one cricketer. It had never happened that a search warrant could not be executed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

It is for the first time that search warrant was not executed under the influence of the President of one of the allies of this government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : From the Defence Minister's house.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : From the Defence Minister's house.

[Translation]

Press Conference was held at the residence of the Defence Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ) : He is making an allegation. This was not what happened.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : I am not asking you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

This is not the proper way. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghunath Jha, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI : It is not the proper way. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghunath Jha, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : I will sit down but they are not speaking truth. Are they above board? They are levelling charges against a Member of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. The Government and not you, will reply to it.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : They are levelling charges against a Member of the House. We will also attack Ms. Mayawati. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI : We cannot be threatened. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Vilas Muttemwar, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni can also associate with Shri Rashid Alvi on the same subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Sir, let me complete. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : This is a very serious matter that the President of one of the parties in the Government has threatened the Ministers' of this Government and forced stoppage of the investigation. I am not saying that any particular cricketer is guilty or not. I am not in a position to say that. But the question of propriety and the Government's functioning are involved. How can, from the house of a Minister of the Government, the income tax authorities be stopped and threatened? The President of the party said that it is 'my Government and I will not allow this to happen'. They cannot behave in this manner. Even officers have been threatened. They have been asked to withdraw. I would like to know whether laws would apply differently to different people. ...*(Interruptions)* Is this the way this country will be run? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (KHURJA) : They are telling lie. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI (MIRZAPUR) : Give a chance to us also.

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you opportunity later.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Let me complete first, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Sir, I have also given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You can also associate yourself with Shri Rashid Alvi because there are six or seven Members who have given notice on the same subject. That was the decision taken in the Business Advisory Committee's meeting yesterday. Now I have called Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Sir, let me complete first. They have been disturbing me and you are not allowing me to speak. This is not proper, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. You have taken more than five minutes. There are other Members also to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is discussed in your chamber that only one speaker will speak on one subject. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Sir, it is a serious matter. Let me complete.

[Translation]

They will keep on making a noise and won't you allow us to speak? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record. I have called Shri Bandyopadhyay.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I have also given a notice to raise an important matter. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are on a different point. I will call you later.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you later, now now please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you are on a different point. I will call you later, not now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Sir, let me please complete. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You allow me just now, Sir because. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record. Only what Shri Bandyopadhyay says will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST) : Sir, the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities and Women are being tortured, killed and murdered in the State of West Bengal. There is a constitutional breakdown there. After being defeated in the Lok Sabha Bye-election and Calcutta Municipal Corporation elections, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) has taken the districts of Midnapur, Bankura and city to ransom. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : After him, I will call you, Shri Acharia.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay is saying.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay. After him, I will call you.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, the Parliamentary democratic system is at stake in the State of West Bengal. Hundreds of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minorities have been killed during the last three months only. It is the appropriate time to demand imposition of article 356 in the State of West Bengal. In Keshpur, Pingla, Sabang, Garbeta, Goghat, Hoogly district and Bankura, in each and every part of the State, there is no democracy. Even the Chief Minister and the Police Minister are accusing Kumari Mamata Banerjee. The Police Minister is making statements on the floor of the House that Kumari Mamata Banerjee should be arrested. This is the state of affairs going on there. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, this is the state of affairs in West Bengal. ...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, if you behave like this, it will be very difficult to run the House. I am telling you frankly. The entire nation is watching us. How we are behaving in the House, the entire country is watching. You are not bothered about anything. What is this? How can I accommodate all the Members at a time? Now nothing should go on record except what Shri Acharia says.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, though the Income-tax officials went to the house of the President of the Samata Party. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Income-tax officials were asked to come back and not to go ahead with the raid. ...*(Interruptions)* Who issued that order as to not to raid the house of the President of the Samata Party? This sort of a thing has never happened in our country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Shri Basu Deb Acharia is saying.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the resident of the Defence Minister has been used or rather mis-used for making the press statement by the President of the Samata Party. She has rather threatened the Minister of State for Finance Shri Dhananjaya Kumar and the Minister of Sports Shri Sukh Dev Singh Dhindsa and she made a statement that these two Ministers are interfering in the inquiry which is being conducted in regard to the match-fixing....*(Interruptions)* Sir, I want to know from the Government as to what is the stand of the Government. We want a statement from the Government in this regard. The Government should clarify its position. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Sir, this not the proper way. ...*(Interruptions)* Please let me complete my point. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, there is a constitutional crisis in West Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh to speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ-BIHAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, teachers of colliery schools have been agitating for the last 20 years and engaged in sit-in dharna at Jantar Mantar since December, 1993.

Prior to nationalisation, the salaries and all other facilities available to coal workers and teachers were the same. But, the Coal India Management is misusing the grants under the education head, in the grant run education policy. Resultantly, colliery teachers are getting meagre salaries. School teachers in colliery sector are like bonded labourers and they are forced to live below poverty line. It is worth mentioning here that BCCL has dissolved the school management committee vide its letter No. W-IV/Edu/ 99/388 in November, 1998. Consequently, teachers are not getting their salaries since September, 1997.

I urge upon the honourable Minister to issue orders to revive the school management committee and terminate the restriction on teachers salaries at the earliest. The Minister should intervene immediately and issue directives to Coal India Management regarding parity of pay scales to teachers in coal sector with government schools/central schools/other educational institutes of state governments and teachers in railways.

I request the honourable Minister to intervene in the matter kept pending for last 20 years. I request the government to issue necessary directives for payment of dues.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Tarun Gogoi to speak now.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI (KALIABOR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government, through you, about the serious situation that has taken place in Karbi Along Hill district of Assam. The ethnic clashes between the tribals and the non-tribals have been taking place as a result of which recently more than 25 persons were killed. These clashes have been going on unabated for the last two months. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Shri Tarun Gogoi says.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI TARUN GOGOI : These clashes have resulted in the killing of more than 60 persons. Hundreds of houses have been burnt down and thousands of people have fled and taken shelter in the relief camps. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not proper. You are not allowing the other Member to speak.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI TARUN GOGOI : Sir, the clashes have been going on due to the increased militant activities. The local

administration did not take any effective steps. These has been an allegation by the victims of both the groups that the State Government is conniving with the militant groups. I myself have visited the places. What has impressed me is that there was no ill-feeling between both the groups. Even the tribals do not suspect that the Hindi-speaking people are behind the clashes. The same is the case with the Hindi-speaking people and they do not consider that this is the handiwork of the tribals. All this is because of the militant activities.

Sir, the victims have not been provided any relief in the form of food or medicines etc. Thousands of people are without any relief. *...(Interruptions)*

The Central Government has not taken the matter seriously and the Central Government cannot shirk its responsibility. Therefore, I want that immediately a Central team or Parliamentary Committee should visit the affected areas to see the real position. Otherwise, the situation may worsen further.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar, Shri Nepal Chandra Das, Shri Bijoya Handique and Shri Madhab Rajbangshi can associate with him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BIJOYA HANDIQUE (JORHAT) : Sir, I associate myself. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR (DIBRUGARH) : Sir, I also associate myself. The ethnic clashes have been going on ever since the present Government came to power. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Phoolan Devi.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shrimati Phoolan Devi.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghunath Jha, what is this? Why are you unnecessarily confronting with the Opposition Members? Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Phoolan Devi.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shrimati Phoolan Devi.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shrimati Phoolan Devi.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Raghuvansh ji, you are on the pannel of Chairman, you should not come to the well of the House.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, you had called me and I was interrupted by other Members. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have called the lady Member.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, please sit.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shrimati Phoolan Devi.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI (MIRZAPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whenever I go to meet the District Magistrate, Mirzapur and seek appointment with him, he get it conveyed through his peon that the officer is out in the field. It seems the District Magistrate is a prominent leader. If I enter forcibly, he makes an exit through back-door and conveyed the message that D.M Saheb is not there. *...(Interruptions)* He is not scared but oversmart. He is buttering the BJP government and says he would get transferred in case he meets me.

13.00 hrs.

He says, he would get transferred if he meets me. The District Magistrate does not execute any work on my recommendation. I had raised this issue in the House earlier also and had made a request in writing that official vehicle has not been provided to me. When I made this request to him, he insulted me and asked me to go and get the official vehicle from the Speaker, Lok Sabha.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : This matter amounts to breach of privilege.

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI : Any department recommended by me for providing funds is branded corrupt by the District Magistrate. When I was an MP of 11th Lok Sabha, money was provided from MPLADS. Our tribals and other public living in forests have been neglected for the last fifty years. They fetch water from three-four kms. in jungle. I got hand-pumps installed for the first time. There is a nexus between mafia elements and Jal Nigam. I had no such information earlier and I gave them money. The officers of Jal Nigam and the contractors installed hand-pumps in the houses of those people who had buffaloes and goats by taking two thousand Rupees from each one of them. Handspumps were not installed in the houses of those, I recommended. Day before yesterday, he said to me that you are an M.P., so you better remain within your limits and do not give me orders. The department I will provide money, will get the work done. It is our duty to provide water and electricity to the poor voting for us and not that of the mafia elements. I urge upon to punish such corrupt officers. They should be asked as to why they run away from an M.P.? Apart from that the amount of MPLADS of years 1998-99 and 2000 is still lying pending in Delhi. District Magistrates are not sending project proposals. They do not meet us and talk indifferently. I request you to get such District Magistrates punished. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Parliamentary Affairs Minister, I have received many complaints on this issue. Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury and others have given notices on this. I think, the Government should evolve some mechanism to take care of these things. Do you have anything to say from the Government side?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKAR (SERAMPORE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the same situation prevails in West Bengal also. The name of Trinamul Congress is not shown on the card of any programme. District Magistrate do not have any discussion.

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (KHAMMAM) : Sir, I should be allowed to speak on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already mentioned your case to the Minister.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : I should be allowed because I am the victim; she is the victim. We should be allowed to speak on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER : I have also mentioned your case to the Government.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : As directed by you, I will take up this matter with the Minister for Programme Implementation and see that it is implemented properly. All the allegations that have been made against the officials in particular will be looked into, and, in general, we will ask the Minister concerned to look into this.

MR. SPEAKER : I have received a number of complaints from Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury and others.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (COIMBATORE) : Sir, in my constituency, they do not want the people's representative to move freely. They have already booked ten cases against me. The free movement of the people's representative is being restricted by the State officials, as they like. *...(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not only happening in U.P. or West Bengal, but is happening everywhere. You should protect the rights of the Members of Parliament. You should take this issue very seriously, and you should protect our rights.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, two women Members of Parliament from two different Political parties have filed a Privilege Motion on this issue. *...(Interruptions)* The Officer concerned is still misbehaving with us. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have already mentioned your case to the hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, I beg your pardon I should be allowed to speak on this. *...(Interruptions)* Decision on the Privilege Motion is pending for more than two months now. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Sir, would I be allowed to speak after Shri Reddy? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I want to raise a very important matter. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have already called the name of Shri Jaipal Reddy.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I have been invited by the hon. Speaker to speak. Would I be allowed to speak now? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Only Shri Jaipal Reddy is allowed; women are not allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the whole House and the hon. Minister to a very important decision taken by the Government last night which has been published in all the newspapers today.

Sir, the decision relates to the up-linking of foreign channels from India. This is a very very important policy decision. Shri Pramod Mahajan, who was the Minister for Information and Broadcasting, would surely appreciate the importance of this decision. I am not *per se* opposed to up-linking of foreign channels. But this decision seeks to by-pass many important policy questions.

Sir, we have been pleading for setting up of a Regulatory Authority, a Regulatory Authority relating to broadcasting. When I was the Minister I had the opportunity to introduce the Bill in the House. There was Joint Select Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Sharad Pawar. That Joint Select Committee had the occasion to look into all these questions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an important matter relating to fixing a cap on foreign equity in regard to foreign channels. Let me remind Shri Pramod Mahajan of the agenda of the NDA. The NDA agenda says that foreign cap must be fixed at 20 per cent. When Shrimati Sushma Swaraj was the Minister for Information and Broadcasting the up-linking was given to all channels which are of Indian origin. Why do you not take a decision in regard to the fixation of cap on foreign equity? Why do you not take decision in regard to the need for sitting up a quasi-judicial Regulatory Broadcasting Authority? Why do you want to avoid all these decisions? Why do you want to rush in for letting the foreign channels be up-linked from India?

Sir, I am not opposed to up-linking. I want these decisions to be taken first as a prelude to the up-linking and you want to by-pass these decisions. I am charging you, with all sense of responsibility, that you want to avoid all these questions. You want to confront the country with *fait-accompli* in regard to this matter. This is a very bad way of taking policy decisions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Parliament is in Session now. Government takes a decision and Government tells the Press about the decisions.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : No.

Sir, I should be given an opportunity to speak after him.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : What is the Parliament worth

for? I am not raising the usual question of breach of privilege. There is a breach of etiquette. The Minister must make a statement and the Government should not deceive its own partners and its own sister organisations and its own, the Swadeshi Jagran Manch which pleaded for fixing the foreign equity at 20 per cent. I am not saying that it should be at 20 per cent. The point is, whether it is 20 per cent, or 50 per cent or 100 per cent, the House and the country must know about it.

We must take a conscious decision about this. We must not be taken for granted. That is the point I am trying to make.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I will take half a minute.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI) : Sir, it is very serious matter. They started it, now the other one have stood up and soon the third one will stand up. Our members are not allowed to speak. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Bandyopadhyay wanted to speak and your good self allowed him to speak also. But, when he started his speech, the members from that side did not allow him to speak. ...*(Interruptions)* We patiently listened Mr. Reddy and listened him patiently. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, you called my name and when I was about to speak, they did not allow me.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Members are not behaving properly. They stand up and start speaking suddenly. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We have to respect the leaders. Whenever there is an important subject, we have to give a chance to the leaders to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Sir, this is the most important question. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, my subject is also very important.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You will also get a chance, leaders are to be given opportunity first.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I will take half a minute. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : There is a system and there are precedents. Whenever there is an important issue, leaders are allowed to speak first.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : My name was called by you, Sir, but I was not allowed to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : When we were speaking, you did not not allow us to complete. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Sir, we are also the Members of this House and table notices.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we totally agree with you that when senior leaders want to intervene, with or without notice, they must be permitted. I am not saying that they should not be permitted. Our only request to all those great senior leaders is that when their followers do not allow other Members to speak, they should also see that other Members also get a chance. They should also control their Members. That is the only request we are making. We are not stopping anybody from speaking here. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I can hardly say anything in this regard because anybody is giving sermons now. I am not going to say anything except that this is a very important issue. There are matters relating to this Ministry in regard to which decisions are not being taken. Standing Committee's reports are not being looked into. This is a matter which should not be ignored just by saying that they are not informed to the press. Every newspaper has reported it. How have they come to know about it without the Parliament knowing about it? This is not a routine matter.

Regarding the request of the Minister, I hope he will also look at his Members.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I do that always.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He should look at his people also. Nowadays we can hardly function in the House in a proper manner. *...(Interruptions)* It seems that Members

can speak here without the permission of the Chair. *...(Interruptions)* Chair is being made irrelevant today! Therefore, fingers should not be pointed at us alone. *...(Interruptions)* What is happening here? How is this House running! *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is here, he can reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, what is this cross talk?

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : We are not saying anything. We are listening.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you listening.

[English]

This is too much. Nobody bothers about the Chair's directions!

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, I will come to the basic issue. It is true that the Government has yesterday night cleared the uplinking policy. The Minister for Information and Broadcasting has already written to the Presiding Officers of both the Houses to give time to make a statement in both the Houses about the policy. I, having performed the role of Cabinet spokesperson yesterday, can prove it amply that we did not release any policy decision to the Press. Two policy decisions were taken yesterday — one was in regard to uplinking and the other was the agricultural policy. Both the Ministers are writing to the Presiding Officers. When they are given time, it will be placed before the House.

If the House wants, and Sir, if you permit, under any rule at the proper time, one can discuss both the policies. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Who leaked it to Press? The Press has covered all this. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Secondly, Sir, I can only say that a few of the issues raised by Shri Jaipal Reddy, are important, say, about the Regulatory Authority. So, we do not dispute them at all. But here I want to add only one thing. It is really strange if you do not understand the science behind it. The down-linking is free in this country. You cannot stop any channel from coming to your house.

If we are permitting up-linking, that is the only way to control these channels as to what they send into satellites. So, if the Government is permitting up-linking when down-

linking is free in this country, I really find it strange what is objectionable in that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Shri Pramod Mahajan, you will have to take a decision about the foreign equity. You will have to keep in view your own agenda. You are neglecting your own agenda. That is the charge I am hurling at you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : About my agenda and my *Parivar* I think, it is better if you leave it to me how to deal with this subject and caring about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 14.20 hours.

13.16 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twenty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.24 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty-Four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up matters under rule 377.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to provide stoppage at August Kranti and Rajdhani Express Trains at Swai Madhopur Railway Station, Rajasthan.**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA (SWAI MADHOPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India is attracting so many countries of the world for tourism. There is a lot of scope for development in the field of tourism in the country. Tourism has special importance in strengthening the country economically. In the same context, my parliamentary constituency Swai Madhopur (Rajasthan) is rich in forest reserve, and at the same time world famous Ranathambore tiger project is also situated here. Every year lakhs of domestic and foreign tourists get down at Swai Madhopur Railway station. This station is situated on Delhi-Mumbai section. When August Kranti originating from Delhi had started, it had been given a stoppage at Swai Madhopur, that was well grounded but suddenly its halt at Swai Madhopur was withdrawn whereas the quota of seats from here is always booked. Sometime back the President Shri Bill Clinton had come to see the Ranathambore tiger project in Swai Madhopur and he was greatly attracted towards

this. It is a must to provide stoppage of August Kranti and Rajdhani Express trains at Swai Madhopur Railway station to facilitate the development of tourism to a great extent in Swai Madhopur.

Through you, therefore, I would like to request the hon. Railway Minister to issue to provide stoppage of August Kranti Express trains at Swai Madhopur so that the tourists from within the country and abroad may visit Ranathambore Tiger Project easily. It would generate additional income for the Railways and the development of the area would be possible.

- (ii) **Need to declare the State Highway connecting Etawah-Bhind, Morena Sheopur and Swai Madhopur as National Highway.**

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (MURENA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, state highway connecting Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan which is an access route for Etawah, Bind, Morena, Sheopur and Swai Madhopur of Rajasthan which is in deplorable condition and due to poor maintenance it is hardly motor worthy. If this state highway is declared as National Highway and funds are allocated for its construction, it may facilitate convenient transport for lakhs of people from these three states and the backward areas would be developed and the condition would improve in the areas which are decolt infested. I, especially, urge upon the Union Government to declare the said road as National Highway.

- (iii) **Need for a thorough probe into the fire incident occurred At Central Ordnance Depot in Kanpur, UP.**

SHRI SHRI PRAKASH JAISWAL (KANPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, recently a major fire had broke out at Kanpur. On the heels of Bharatpur fire incident C.O.D. fire incident at Kanpur is a matter of concern. This fire appears more to be a deliberate act than the result of negligence because so many irregularities have been detected in the store of C.O.D. To find out the root cause of the fire, government should appoint an independent agency to conduct an inquiry into this fire incident and immediate action should be taken against the erring officers.

- (iv) **Need to include Adivasis residing in Southern districts of Uttar Pradesh in the list of Scheduled Tribes.**

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (BANDA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Chitrakoot, Banda, Allahabad, Mirzapur and Sonbhadra districts in the southern part of U.P. are located along the Madhya Pradesh border. All these districts are covered with forests and hills of Vindhya mountains. People belonging to the primitive tribes live in large number in these jungles and hills. These tribes include mainly Koli, Mawaiya and Gond

etc. They have been included in the scheduled castes list by the Government of India and the state government and they get government facilities available to scheduled castes but they have not been included in the scheduled tribes list by the Government of India and the state government, and therefore they are deprived of government facilities available to the scheduled tribes while the said castes living in those districts of Madhya Pradesh which are bordering the said districts have been included in the list of scheduled tribes and they are getting all the facilities available to the scheduled tribe from the Government of India as well as from the state government.

The social, educational and economic conditions of the said castes of both the states are the same. The said castes from both sides have blood relations as well as matrimonial and close relations with each other. In such circumstances, I urge upon the Union Government that the said castes of the above-mentioned districts of Uttar Pradesh should be included in the list of the scheduled tribes and they should be provided with all such facilities from the Central Government and the state government to which they are entitled.

- (v) **Need to declare Fulnakhara-Niali-Madhab-Charichhak-Konark-Puri and Cuttack-Paradeep roads in Orissa as National Highways.**

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (JAGATSinghpur) : It is a well known fact that the area around world famous 'Konark' in the Prachi Valley of Cuttack-Puri-Konark triangle is the treasure of ancient monuments of fine arts, architecture and sculpture carved on stones and a heaven for tourists, researchers and knowledge seekers of world heritage. It has been brought to the notice of Government of India time and again to convert the existing road Fulnakhara-Niali (Subarneswar)-Madhab-Charichhak-Gop-Konark-Puri about 80 kms. of length which connects N.H.No.5 at Fulnakhana and N.H. 203. at Puri into a new National Highway. I urge upon the Surface Transport Ministry to immediately take up and declare this road as a National Highway.

Similarly, Cuttack-Paradeep Road of 90 kms. connecting N.H.No.5 at Cuttack and the major port at Paradeep should be declared as a new National Highway.

- (vi) **Need to set up more LPG outlets at Namakkal and Thalaivasal Sankari, district Salem in Tamil Nadu.**

DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM) : The people belonging to my constituency, Rasipuram, are suffering from great hardship for want of adequate LPG refill facilities. LPG refills are not supplied for weeks together as there is only one refill

agency in the region. About 12,00,000 people are waiting for new LPG connection in Tamil Nadu and more than three lakh people are in the waiting list from my constituency, Rasipuram.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to set up two LPG agencies in my constituency, particularly in Namakkal and Thalaivasal Sankari in Salem District.

- (vii) **Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Maharashtra for repair of roads in Nanded and Hingoli districts.**

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE (HINGLOI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the government to the plight of the roads in Nanded and Hingoli districts of Maharashtra. Metalled roads have pot holes and the unmetalled rural link roads constructed as a link to the metalled roads are lying in the same condition for years. Due to non-availability of funds district administration is unable to undertake repair and convert unmetalled roads into metalled roads. I, therefore urge, upon the Union Government that a provision for Rs. 50 crores should be made for the above mentioned work and it should be ensured that the funds so earmarked are used for this purpose only.

- (viii) **Need for proper investigation into mysterious deaths of tigers at Nandan Kanan Zoo in Orissa and also provide adequate treatment Facilities in Zoo hospital there.**

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL) : It is a matter of great shock and sorrow that a dozen Royal Bengal Tigers and majority of them are shite tigers with recessive genes through too much of inbreeding died in a couple of days under mysterious circumstances at Nandan Kanan Zoo in Orissa. This kind of a tragic incident is unheard of in the 34 years of the history of that Zoo. The causes of the death of these rare species are yet to be known. As stated in the Press, these tigers were sick for quite some time. The Zoo Doctors suspected that they were suffering from 'trypanosomiasis' a vector-borne disease carried by flies. This was supposed to be dangerous disease for animals. Keeping this in mind these tigers were administered 'Bernyl' injection. It is a matter of great regret that a few minutes after the injection was administered the tigers died one after another in two days. The lives of these tigers could have been saved had their blood test been done the moment the sickness was noticed and specific treatment been given.

It is a matter of great regret that the lives of these Royal Bengal Tigers could not be saved despite the fact that a Zoo

hospital has been there. Due to lack of proper treatment these rare species which were on the verge of extinction were allowed to die.

In view of the mysterious circumstances in which these tigers died and since this is the Concurrent List, I suggest the Government to provide adequate modern diagnostic and treatment facilities in the Zoo hospital at Nandan Kanan.

(ix) Need to provide reservation benefits to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in private sector and also in judiciary.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : The present policy of reservation in public sector undertakings or statutory corporations should continue even after the Government equity in such public sector undertakings or statutory organisations is reduced to below 50 per cent. Policy of reservation should also be extended to the services in the private sector and necessary legislative measures should be taken for this purpose.

A National Judicial Commission should be set up which should also have representative of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The policy of reservation should be introduced in the higher judiciary also for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Similarly, in matters of appointments in various offices of Vice-Chancellors, Chairman and MDs or PSUs or statutory corporations, policy of reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be extended.

It is requested that necessary action may kindly be taken in this regard immediately.

14.38 hrs.

MOTOR VEHICLES (AMENDMENT) BILL - CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will continue discussion on Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill. Shri Rajo Singh was on his legs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me opportunity to continue my speech which I started yesterday on Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, but could not conclude due to lack of time.

It is a short Bill. However, Hon'ble Minister has taken much more time in introducing it before the House. It seems to me that a lot of things have been included in it. Perhaps this is the reason for Hon'ble Minister to take more time. On face of it, one is reminded of a proverb "It is small in size, but

has wider implications" you have proposed to amend only two clauses.

14.39 hrs.

(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*)

Hon'ble Minister, Sir, you are a gentleman. You have been in this department for a short time. I cannot say so whether you may have gone into the Bill thoroughly or not. Hukumdeo Baboo is sitting with you. He used to be my colleague in State Legislative Assembly and deliver very ardent speech. Here he is along with you, there he is always with Lohiya and a close associate of late Karpoori Thakur. This Bill came into light in 1939. Including the recent amendment, four amendments to the Bill have been made so far. You first amended it in 1988, then in 1994 and now again you have introduced it in 2000 for the very purpose. But the result is same, i.e. much cry little wool. What amendments you made? You have kept clause 52 unaltered except some changes in its language or phrases. If it was to be retained then, what was the need for amending it? You have added 'provision' at two places. See on page No.2. The provision is that the Central Government will be in position to make specification, approval, modification for such conversion kits and to prescribe provisions for the related matters. "Provisions will be prescribed" is an old tradition. It seems to me that law-makers want to enact such a law that is impossible to come into the understanding of public at large. It has a provision of making rule. Law Ministry should review it. It is generally observed that the Act is passed by the Parliament, but its manual is never prepared. They say there will be further amendment in the manual. In that, you added another provisions. Although, the Central Government may grant relaxation in special case for the modification of vehicles in a manner different than mentioned in specification. In such case, Bill loses its relevance, on this basis you have taken a special power. You said nobody will enter through the gate. We will replace engines, but we cannot do it. We will give you certificates, but we cannot take it. We will get it inspected by M.V.Is, we will get it checked. At the same time, you said we may give relaxation if a particular situation comes. This is nothing but just to make a back door entry. Why are you doing it? Why don't you allow a front door entry? This is a very serious matter.

You are a man working in public life. You are not a bureaucrat. A bureaucrat makes a law and minister introduce it in the House. Here those who are experts are senior parliamentarians. They have knowledge of all these things. You should consult them and if it is necessary, you should have introduced a complete Amendment Bill. If it is so, I think, the House would welcome it and it will be beneficial to whole of the country.

[Shri Rajo Singh]

You said that we would check pollution. Where and how would you do so? Take example of Uttar Pradesh. Whenever we get an opportunity to visit Varanasi and Vindhyachal. During this visit, we have to take a journey in buses from Mughalsarai Railway station. I do not know whether you may have seen those buses or not. You are a leader of grassroot-level as I assume; if you did not get an opportunity to travel in those buses, you must have atleast seen them.

Do they not emit smoke there? Do they not cause pollution? Are their glasses not broken? Are their brakes in order? Vehicles like these are running on the road. Who is responsible for it? Who is punished? Railway accidents took place but the resignation is tendered by Nitish ji. Was it he who was running the train? Way the world acts may have changed. it was a time of Vikramaditya. During that period those who spoke the truth would get scotfree. Now today those who speak the truth will be punished by the court within a minute. If they admit that they have assisted, they will get punished within a minute without any further witnesses. Now the time has changed.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : Time is changing, so the government should also be changed.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : No, the government should not be changed. We are not in favour of changing the government, as elections are to be held frequently. So we have to face great hurdles. The Bill is proper. We are not speaking against the Bill. We are just saying that a comprehensive Bill should have been introduced and we have objections Rajnath Baboo, that you have given power to M.V.Is. In our state, Bihar, a progressive Transport Commissioner called a meeting of all M.V.Is. on a day just after he assumed his officers. His name was N.K. Sinha. He told them that you issue a fitness certificate, and on the basis of it, District Transport Officers issue driving licences and register vehicles. He asked all of them to drive vehicles before him. You will not believe it, three vehicles met with accident. Among them, only one M.V.I. could successfully drive the vehicle. He suspended such persons. This proves the point that today none other than the M.V.Is, the District Transport Officer are the authority to issue licences to the drivers and register the vehicles. you have improved all the restrictions then which vehicles are registered. You said that it cause pollution. You said and even the hon'ble High Court passed an order that there should be a measure to check pollution. Who will take measures to control the pollution? Hon'ble Minister is sitting here. Now-a-days, all the work are carried out only when the orders are received from higher authorities. They are done as per their wishes. We are not higher authorities. Somebody else is higher authority. We follow his order, whereas he should have followed our orders. You are making a law for vehicles so they should be ahead of times but they are taking us back. I would like to know from

Hon'ble Minister whether you have made a law for whole of India or just for Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai. Where will these vehicles ply? Do they ply here only? You have made provisions for school-going children, but you know that schools are not only in Delhi but also in your blocks. How do those children, who belong to Blocks or villages, go to school? You, too, come from village. They go by three-wheelers, scooters or auto-rickshaws; and petrol is used as a fuel in auto-rickshaw, while it is adulterated. I was saying that Pétroleum Minister Ram Naik is sitting here. Whether he has the knowledge of such places? Will all this be set right just be making a law? There is a law in the country that the marriageable age for boys and girls will be of 17-18 years. But among us, how many people attend the marriage party? Under-aged boys and girls are getting married while we are watching these proceedings in silence. Law is enacted, S.H.O. is sitting there, all the people are having feast, but nobody is there to stop it. Law is being made by you but the vehicles will be running like this and smoke will continue to emit from them. Rajnath ji, have you ever seen the roads; people drive vehicles by putting clothes over their mouth.

Madam, I will conclude in five minutes. Petrol-diesel is getting adulterated. No matter the number of law is enacted, smoke will continue to emit from the vehicles unless adulteration of petrol is stopped. At the same time you should have also taken into the consideration the conditions of the road. Minister for Agriculture is sitting here. We are neighbours to each other, but he is not the representative of his district. The representative of his district is George Sahib. Whenever we go there, people abuse us. They remind us about the condition of roads. Whether it is mororable or not. Water-logging is everywhere. We tell them to ask those whom you have voted. You have not voted us; you have given votes to Bhartiya Janata Party. Even water-logging is there on the National Highway too. In such situation, fish-culture should be developed there. Unless you repairs the roads, vehicles cannot be plyed there. In the state of unemployment one purchases old buses and wants to operate it. But you are going to stop them by enacting a law. In such situation, their expenditure will go up. They have to pay lot of hush money to your officers for running old vehicles. Roads will be worsened further. They have to pay to your District Transport officer, M.V.Is and to those who are authorised to register vehicles. I would like to give you three suggestions in this regard. First you ensure the speed of vehicles; the kilometers covered by vehicles in one hour. If vehicles exceeded the limit it is driven by a drunkard who causes accidents when women and children cross roads. Nobody is there to tender their resignation. Nitish jee did, but it would have been better, if Transport Minister had tendered his resignation. However, I am not in favour of it. Those who are guilty should be punished. I have read a book of Rahul Sankrityayan - "don't run away, change the world". Nitish ji resigned. It is not a good thing.

But the shortcomings should be overcome. So I would like to say that fund should be sanctioned for National Highway which is approved for Bihar - you are taking more time in Uttar Pradesh. You have been elected to Rajya Sabha for six years. A common saying is—a lot of gains without any hansom. We have to go for votes. So, you are requested to start work on the National Highway in Bihar enthusiastically and repair the roads at the earliest. Once road is constructed all type of vehicles ply on. If you want to stop them and want to stop pollution, then go to villages. This Parliament is not for Mumbai and Delhi only. We are elected from villages, 12-13 lakhs voters elected us, but you do not work for them. You are accountable for the welfare of only 3% people and only work for them. I thank the hon. Minister and request him to make a law so that it did not require amendment for at least 12-15 years. I request you to reign the law enforcing officers so that they perform their duties strictly. Ask them to improve their performance. They think that they will make laws and hon. Minister would sign on them. You should put an end to this tradition. You should correct them at your level. The National Highway sanctioned by Shri Nitish Kumar jee, the proposal sent by the Government of Bihar and which has been accepted. Digvijay babu is sitting here, he is the Minister of State for Railways. I want to say that there is a road route from Barligha to Dumka. It is difficult to run buses on it. Construct a highway from Barligha to Dumka via Shekhpura, Sikandra, Jamui, Deoghar, Bajinath Dham. Rajnath Babu, then you will go to the new heights.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAMNAIK) : Madam Chairperson, I would like to intervene in discussion on this Bill. I liked the proverb used by Hon'ble Rajo Singh. He said "Small in size but wider in its implications" which I have changed as "Small in size but sufficient in benefits". Till now Petroleum Gas L.P.G. was not permitted to be used as fuel for vehicle which caused several types of inconveniences. As per the amendments L.P.G. would be allowed to be used in four wheelers. This in my view is an important and historic decision. Country today has plenty of L.P.G. We will clear the waiting list by the end of the year.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is a long waiting list in the rural areas.

MR. RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ) : Waiting list has been cleared only in cities and not in villages.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I said we are trying to clear the waiting list, I did not say that we have cleared it. We have taken a policy decision to award L.P.G. agency at every block level. Therefore in future more L.P.G. would be available. It will improve environment and the prices of Petrol & Diesel would also come down. Incidents of engine being damaged by adulterated Petrol-Diesel would also come down. Such a multipurpose fuel will be made available.

15.00 hrs.

What will happen after the bill is passed. This is what I want to say. After the bill is passed it will become an Act and ban on the use of L.P.G. in vehicles will be lifted through a notification and its use would begin. At present L.P.G. is being used illegally in several cities of the country. Domestic Cylinders which are subsidised are used in the vehicles. In this way, the car owners are taking benefits of subsidy. In case of accidents they get no insurance refunds. The benefits of changes made in this regard would be available in future. Not only in Metropolitan cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai but in the big cities of each state. We have started preparation regarding supply of L.P.G. gas. We will find set up 212 L.P.G. units and they will be set up where petrol pumps are situated. 92 Units have been completed in all respect.

Cylinder will be of different size. As I said commercial use of domestic L.P.G. will be a kind of misuse of subsidy. But these cylinders will be available at a price less than that of petrol and we will use accordingly. It will be first used in four-wheelers. All amendments and requirement has been completed in this regard.

The second stage is whether it can be used in two-wheelers like autorickshaw, scooter & motor cycle. A committee was set up on 23rd April, 2000 for this purpose. This committee comprise of Pune Automobile experts from Research Association of India, which is a big institution, L.P.G. equipment Research Centre Bangalore and Chief Controller of Explosives Nagpur. Auto-Rickshaw, Scooter and Motorcycle owners can use it. We are trying to encourage economically poor to use it.

We propose to start in all Metros alongwith all states. In view of it, I thought use of L.P.G. in vehicles will be an historic event. That's why I intervened in discussion on this Bill. I would request the House to pass it unanimously.

[English]

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (PONDICHERRY) : Will you be able to supply L.P.G. at a lesser cost for cars?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Lesser as compared to Petrol but not with subsidy.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Are you opening L.P.G. agencies in each block? Whether all would accept recommendation of M.P.s?

MR. CHAIRMAN : A committee has been set up for that purpose.

MAJ. GEN (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (GARHWAL) : Madam, Chairperson, I rise to support the Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill, 2000. Four main points are raised through this bill. Road, Security of passengers and reduce the pollution are its objectives. Educational institutions would also require permission under it. Provision to review permit is good. It is a good bill. As the earlier speakers said, it should have come much before.

But while repeating all that has been said by my earlier speakers, I would like to say that we have many rules and regulations and you are making a new rule. I fear whether you will be able to implement it. New laws continued to be made but there is no provision for their implementation. In this context, we have many rules and regulations. They are violated when somebody is walking on the road and they are rarely followed. I would request the hon. Minister to tell me in his reply as to how he would implement these rules and as to how he would ensure their implementation. Amendments should not be remain on paper without giving any benefit to the people. Public are not benefited by these kind of laws – rather they discourage the people. It raises doubt about the entire Institutions. I would like you to enlighten in this direction.

Madam Chairperson, some new points have been added after amending clause 52. It has been said in clause 52 (2) that one who has the permit of at least 10 vehicles can make changes without permission. I do not know why hon. Minister has put this clause. As Shri Raju Singh said that a person having 100 vehicles, would manage to transfer them in ten names. I do not know the need for this kind of relaxation? Why this kind of relaxation should be given? It is immaterial whether they have one vehicle or ten vehicles. Why do we want to make different kind of rules and regulations? I would like to know the need for giving relaxation to people who own less than ten vehicles. If all rules and regulations are applied on them, what would be the problem in giving permit. It has been written in clause 52 (3) that if some one acts without permission and again take permission within 14 days after violating the order, what the provision you have made in that case. There is no punishment or fine only to submit the fees. Why is it so happening what is the need and what is the compulsion. First we admit it and then violate the law and again we say that he will set it right within 14 days. A explanation is required for this.

Madam Chairperson, the third point, I would like to raise is that we have number of rules and regulations. When we walk on roads then we see that trucks are over loaded. The trucks are loaded over and above their heights. In such trucks long roads, still rolls and other things are loaded and they cover 8-10 feet of open area outside the body of trucks. We have law for that. But it is not being followed. I would like to know the manner in which will get these rules complied with?

Madam Chairperson, I would like to draw your attention regarding two three important points. The pressure horns of trucks are not being checked. They are so dangerous, noisy that they may cause accidents any time. You could not control it. At the same time the headlights of several trucks on national highways are very penetrating because they use high voltage battery. No provision has been made in this bill to control it. I would like that in view of such dangers hon'ble Minister should make arrangements in this regard. Usually our suggestions remain on paper but if it comes to knowledge of Ministers it is acted upon.

Madam Chairperson, In the end I would like to say that hon'ble Petroleum Minister is sitting here and we always remind him that no petrol pump are available in the remote places of hilly areas and we carry petrol and diesel in canes etc. Similar arrangements are also made by some vehicles and trucks and they carried additional tanks also. I know that it is not permissible. But would you manage it in hilly areas and plain areas where there is no petrol pumps. As for as my constituency sometimes I also have to cover 100 kilometers distance to bring diesel. If we do not have diesel then we would have to cover such distance to bring diesel only. The facility of carrying an additional tank was available in defence so that they could not face any difficulty. Would you provide some facilities and concessions to such areas after giving a thought over it? Therefore, I thank you for bringing forward this Bill and request to chalkout some strict measures so that it could be utilised. While supporting this bill I take my seat. Thanks.

15.11 hrs.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : Madam Chairperson, the Bill has very commendable objectives. I congratulate the hon. Minister for having expressed his concern at this important question of vehicular pollution as well as road safety. It is with these twin objectives of preventing vehicular pollution and of also considering the road safety aspects that this Bill has come.

At the outset, I would like to emphasise that mere legislation is not sufficient to achieve these objectives. There are several areas that need to be considered. I may draw the attention of the hon. Minister to some of these areas. For example, since 1993, there is a scheme to provide hundred per cent grants to States so that they may be able to procure pollution testing equipment. It is a good scheme in order to help the States to have the sophisticated equipment for testing pollution. But then, unfortunately a cut was applied and from 1st June, 1998, this hundred per cent grant-in-aid has been reduced to 75 per cent grant. So, we find that, on the one

hand, we express concern over prevention of pollution and come out with very laudable Bills, and on the other hand, we apply cuts to our schemes directed towards the control of pollution.

Further, you will find that with respect to budgetary allocations for the same pollution testing equipment, for 1999-2000, the Budget estimate was Rs. 100 lakh or Rs. 1 crore. But in the revised estimate, the whole thing was cut down by 50 per cent. It was brought down to Rs. 50 lakh.

I do not comment upon the amount involved. I say that on the one hand, we come with pieces of legislation to prevent pollution and on the other hand 50 per cent cut is given to budgetary allocations directed towards the control of pollution. These are areas that require attention.

Now, after applying this 50 per cent cut what is the position? The position is that during 1998-99, the State-wise distribution of funds came to hardly Rs. 64 lakh and out of so many States that we have, only four, namely, Kerala, Assam, Mizoram, and Goa were given the Grant-in-aid. I must therefore, emphasise on greater attention to various areas that we have selected for the purpose of control of this pollution.

Similarly, there are other schemes for control of pollution of motor vehicles. We are told that there are awareness activities. But what are those awareness activities by the Department concerned? Hardly two workshops to train our officials in the modern methods of pollution control, throughout the length and breadth of the country have been held. What I am emphasising is that there also the budgetary allocation was cut and that too could not be properly utilised. Hardly Rs. 10 lakh on these two workshops were there.

We are told about the safety aspect of the roads. It is a very big step. The entire machinery will have to be strengthened and a greater concern will have to be shown, say, for example, the condition of roads. That is very important with respect to accidents. Even, take the case of national highways. The condition of none of our national highway is equivalent to the norms that are internationally accepted for any highway? I know it involves gigantic expenditure, but then we have to see to it. But there is not a single national highway in India, the conditions of which may compare with the international norms of the highways.

There is this particular question that on the one hand, we have these national highways not conforming to all the norms of national highways and on the other hand what is the attention being given on maintenance or repairs of national highways? We find serious shortage in allocation of funds for maintenance of national highways as compared to the requirements. In the year 1997-98, we are told from budgetary papers that the shortage was as high as 34 per cent merely

on maintenance not to talk of the norms of the national highways. In 1981-82, this percentage of shortfall for maintenance of national highways was 15.39 per cent and this short fall figure for maintenance has gone up from 15 per cent to as high as 34 per cent. These are the areas that require greater attention.

Of course, there are constraints of resources. But the point that I was making is that not mere legislation but strengthening of machinery, strengthening of various schemes, greater resources, and all these are the things that will require the attention of the Government. Of course, I have congratulated the Government for having come out with this particular Bill that was needed except for one or two lacunae that are still there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Madam Chairperson, I have not yet come to the Bill as such.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Banatwalla, you have taken ten minutes on your introduction.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Madam, it is a very important matter and it relates to our roads.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are a member of the BAC. Only one hour has been allotted for this Bill. You must understand my problem.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I do not know as to who has suggested this time-frame.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It was the decision of the BAC.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : No Business Advisory Committee Report has come to us.

Madam Chairperson, now I come to the Bill. What is the position? The present position is that for any alterations or modifications as far as the vehicle is concerned, an application has to be made to the registering authority. Now, no application is needed. Now, with the passage of this Bill, no approval of the registering authority is needed in the area of carrying out modifications to the engine. Certain conditions will be prescribed. That is all. And then I have to comply with those conditions. I need not go to any registering authority for the purpose of any prior approval. Now, when prior approval was wanted and still we had so much of vehicular pollution, I only hope that by merely prescribing certain conditions for modifications of engine and then leaving to the persons concerned to carry out their modification without any prior approval of the registering authority may not aggravate the matter. Of course, I do understand that within 14 days, the Bill

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

says, the person concerned, who has carried out the modification, has to go to the registering authority but for what purpose. It is only for paying the fees and getting the thing recorded in his Registration Certificate. I think, it has to be strengthened more. That is what I am saying of this particular clause that is necessary.

Then, with respect to the conditions that may be laid down for carrying out the modifications to engine, etc., all the authority is concentrated with the Central Government. The State Governments, with their own problems, with their own local conditions, do not come into the picture at all. I think that in these days of decentralisation, this is an area that needs a greater attention.

I will make a last point and I will conclude. The Bill is good enough but then here are several other problems that must be considered. Now, there we know that adulterated fuel is also one of the major causes for pollution. We have just heard the hon. Minister, Shri Ram Naik telling us about LPG, etc. That apart, the ordinary machinery that we have for the detection of adulteration of oil that creates a lot of problems not only with respect to the old cabs and cars but even with respect to the newer ones also.

I have just referred to the old cabs. Here, in Delhi, under Supreme Court order, there are restrictions on taxis. But then those people are in a miserable plight. Something has to be done about them. The taxis of more than 10 years — I believe, it is 10 years — cannot ply. That is the order of the court. But then, when you go out, look at the situation and look at the ground realities, you find that those taxi people are in great miserable plight. I must, therefore, appeal to the Government to see that every endeavour, and not a half-hearted measure, but every endeavour is made in order to see that the plight of these taxi drivers is also mitigated.

In deference to your restlessness, Madam Chairperson, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : Madam Chairperson, Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill, 2000 has been brought to safeguard and strengthen the environment. First of all this law was enacted in 1939. Thereafter first amendment was brought in 1988 and second amendment in 1994. Since it was enacted in 1939 so many accident occurred up to 1998. Security system has reached a critical situation. Alongwith it environmental situation had been seriously deteriorating. I would like to know that why government did not consider to amend it during these 49 years? Every time law regarding security system is enacted and law makers come but the number of law offenders have been on rise continuously. So

the expected changing as expected not acquiring by making law is not achieved. Similarly lorry which runs on the road can carry up to twelve and half tons to fourteen tons of weight. I would like to say that in spite of the law in this regard 16, 18 and 20 tons of goods are carried in every lorry. The number of laws we made also increased corruption. If you carry 20 tons goods you have to pay some money to R.T.O. then only your vehicle can move. It is a very dangerous situation and due to this a number of accidents occur. I say the law should be enacted but more you made them punishiv more the corruption is. It is also necessary for us to ponder over how law to remove corruption in RTO. Then RTO department is very corrupt department. As long as people pay them, they will keep on taking money. As the vehicle runs on highways in same way your name is also Rajnath Singh. You have brought the bill for improvement of highways and my advice is only that we should also ponder over how to remove corruption in RTO department.

Madam Chairperson, today number of accidents are on rise. I would like to say that the road should be one way. We should construct the national highways like international highways. When one vehicle moves from one side and as other vehicle want to overtakes other vehicle it can not overtake, our vehicle. Due to this reason Rajesh Pilot's accident took place. It is necessary to widen the road for smooth traffic of vehicles. There should be a one-way system. It is not necessary that accidents takes place only on road. The government also have accident with Shiva sena, hooli-gsm. Naturally when government and Shiva sena fallen collides accident is bound to take place. The way we run vehicle there should be run we should have maximum numbers to run a government. If few members are there accident is likely to happen. I would not disclose when this accident will took place.

I have a suggestion to made regarding this Bill. Here at the moment Shri Ram Naik is not sitting. I would like to say that adulteration should be checked in diesel and petrol for improving environment. Petrol pumps owners says that they will not adulterate. There is a need to increase the commission on petrol and diesel to be given to owners of petrol pumps. This will reduce the content of mixing. ... (Interruptions)

Several drivers drive vehicles in a drunken state. The way a drunker driver drives vehicle your govt. is also run in same fashion. You have to drive the vehicle as well as the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There also content of mixing has increased.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I say there should be a ban on drunken driving. If once you cancel the licence of a drunken driver then it should not be reissued. There is a need for such provision. The vehicle are run on L.P.G. This damage

the engines of vehicle got damaged in this process. There is a need to make amendment in this regard. You are making a law to this effect. Already a number of cars, taxis are plying on road. There is a need for investigating agency this aspect. If gas cylinder affects engine that it should not be installed in vehicles.

Every year sixty-seventy thousand persons die in accidents. Every body will have to consider to minimise the accidents. So it is my advice to honourable Minister that national highways and state highways should be made one-way. Unless you construct one way roads, the government will not be able to complete five years term.

I do not support the bill because laws are enacted but seldom followed by the people. This law is not very effective law. You should try to improve this Bill as much as possible. Whatever law is enacted officer should safeguard the law. But law is enacted and officers daily violated. They are punished. There is need to make provision to the effect to punish those officers who violate law. Unless you people are ousted from power, the Government cannot run. Mr. Rajnath Singh, I will sit only when, an improvement can take place. There is a necessity of improving the law.

With these words, I conclude now.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (REWA) : Madam Chairperson, I support the Motor Vehicle Amendment Bill, 2000.

But, I would also like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister that some necessary amendments have not been included in it. There are many aspects, Motor Vehicle Act, 1988. One aspect is of registration of vehicle and driving of vehicle and the other is about compensation. There is discrepancy in paying the compensation under Motor Vehicle Act, 1988. If some one dies on road we have to take care of a number of section and rules for providing compensation to his family. There is a provision under section 161 in which Rs. 50,000 is paid as compensation to some one who is hit and killed by some vehicle on road and the vehicles number is known. However someone going on road on foot or by cycle is hit by some unknown vehicle, there is provision of providing only Rs. 25,000 as compensation in the Act. I request the hon'ble Minister that attention should be paid on it. I humbly ask, why this disparity is there. The person who has been injured or has died, compensation is given to the members of families of both persons and the compensation is needed equally to the both families in the both circumstances. I would like to draw your attention by reading the second part of section 140 because whole section is big :

[English]

Liability to pay compensation in certain cases on the principle of fault."

The second part is like this :

"The amount of compensation which shall be payable under sub-section (1) in respect of the death of any person shall be a fixed sum of fifty thousand rupees' and the amount of compensation payable under the sub-section in respect of permanent disablement of any person shall be a fixed sum of twenty five thousand rupees."

[Translation]

It is clear that there is the liability of Rs. 50,000 in section 140, and Rs. 50,000 paid the insurance company.

[English]

Section 161 says :

"Special provisions as to compensation in case of hit and run motor accident -(1) for the purposes of this section, section 162 and section 163"

[Translation]

This is the provision for hit and run. In such eventuality section 161 (3) (A) reads :-

[English]

In respect of the death of any person resulting from a hit and run motor accident a fixed sum of twenty five thousand rupees".

[Translation]

Here only Rs. 25,000 have been provided, why such disparity is there in the laws. I have been an humble request. In both circumstances, vide section 140 and 161, payment of compensation is made to the person who has become handicapped or to the family of the person who has died. If there is a provision of compensation, why such difference. In one case you are paying Rs. 25,000 and in other you are paying Rs. 50,000.

[English]

"Scheme for payment of compensation in case of hit and run motor accidents."

[Translation]

You have made a scheme under which the collector has

[Shri Sunder Lal Tiwari]

been authorised in the district and there is a committee which has been authorised through the law to pay Rs. 25,000 after scrutinising facts. You have fixed a ceiling in the Motor Vehicle Act that if a person dies in an accident, his family can file claim in the court within 6 months, but you have made away with that ceiling. Now, any member of the deceased person can submit file claim any time for the compensation and he will get the compensation. But in a condition when some unknown vehicle knocks down someone, you have fixed the ceiling for 6 months to the effect that if during this period he does not submit the claim application then his family will not be liable to get the compensation. If a ceiling has been abolished in a particular condition, why are you adopting different criteria. This too should be abolished. The member of injured or deceased family should be enable to apply anytime.

[Translation]

Madam Chairperson, I have drawn the attention of the Hon'ble Minister towards two points. Whether the people who have given their opinion to you to amend this Act or you yourself have collected information, you have left out a very important point regarding the cooperation to mankind in this Bill. If even today, this amendment is not made in this Bill, a good group of people will be deprived of this benefit. The Insurance Companies will continue to take advantage of it since they do not want this kind of amendment.

I support the Original Bill but I desire that my two points may be incorporated in this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rashid Alvi you are being given five minutes time to speak, thereafter the Minister has to reply and the time is short.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA) : The reply of the Minister should be lengthy and according to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Every member has supported the Bill and there is no controversy on it.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (AMROHA) : Madam Chairperson, the Motor Vehicle Act, 2000 which has been introduced in this House, I have a definite opinion that this Bill has been introduced and drafted in a haste. While going through the objects and reasons of this Bill, it seems that this Bill has only one objective that attention be paid on use of L.P.G. in Motor Vehicles and cars. The Government will be aware the L.P.G. is being used in motor vehicles openly in an undue and illegal way. Perhaps the government intends to legalise it. Had the Government brought this amendment to this Bill after a lot of deliberations in a comprehensive way, it would have been better. Motor Vehicles Act requires a major change but the amendment in Bill regarding the use of L.P.G. that has been

introduced in the House is very small. The number of accidents are on the increase, the people do not obey the rules of Motor Vehicles Act. Bureaucracy and police overlook the same. There are so many places in Delhi where Zero Tolerance Zone is written but the majority of offences are committed by the people at the very zone. The Government needs a will, to implement this Act. Until or unless the government has a will, this act can not be implemented. I am not an expert about this Bill, but I have knowledge that the speed of a vehicle decreases when L.P.G. kit is, provided with it, Motor Vehicles can not be run on the same speed as they are run by Petrol or Diesel. Their speed will be reduced drastically. Motor vehicles will not be able to run more than 70 to 80 kilometres. I am not aware whether the government has sought the opinion of the experts in this regard or not, if they had sought the opinion of experts or constituted a committee thereof, it would have been better. I can say how pollution will be reduced with the provision of L.P.G. Delhi is the most populated city in the world. The Government has made it obligatory for every person using motor vehicle to obtain a pollution certificate. I narrate an incident of a petrol pump. A very old car was brought for pollution check up. The needle of machine reached the last digic despite that the owner of the car obtained the certificate after giving double the amount. I would like to bring it to the notice of the Government. When you are introducing L.P.G. you should have sought the opinion of experts. If you do not seek the opinion of experts, I fear that the number of accidents will increase. In Motor Vehicles Act, there is a provision of compensation which needs to be changed immediately. People do not get compensation even after three-four-five years. Under such circumstances, there would be dire consequences.

Madam, I would like to put up my views on two three points without taking too much time. ...*(Interruptions)*. Madam, a provision has been made in the Bill that a person having ten vehicles, does not need to take permission. This condition has been stipulated because the person having ten buses. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Is the House being run by the Chairman or the Parliamentary Affairs Minister?

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is not the point. I have already told that you are the last person to speak because the Minister has to reply before 4 o'clock, and the debate on resolution by Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly has to start.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I am not running the House. Originally, two hours' time was given. We have already taken three hours.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : I am sorry that I am the last person to speak.

[Translation]

If you ask, I will sit down.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : At 4 o'clock, we have to start another discussion. Otherwise, we will take one more day for concluding this debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Alvi, I accommodated you; your name was not originally in the list. Please conclude soon.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Alright, I cried myself to hoarse during Zero Hour. I was not allowed to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb him, let his complete his speech.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : I would like to say that the provision of ten buses is not appropriate, it should be reconsidered. Second point you have mentioned that you will stipulate the condition of 14 days for approval, that should be informed to the authorities concerned within 14 days. Some conditions should also be stipulated therein otherwise people would take undue advantage of it.

I would also like to mention that a number of vehicles ply on the roads of U.P. without permit and permission. As you must be knowing that a vehicle named 'jugad', plies there which has no number written thereon and there is no restriction on it. Therefore, I desire that due consideration should be made over it and the laws should be enacted accordingly.

SURFACE TRANSPORT MINISTER (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH) : Madam Chairperson, many Hon. Members of this House have expressed their views on Motor Vehicle Amendment Bill. I was listening to discussion on this Bill. The Hon. Members have not only expressed their views on the amendments but they also suggested to add a comprehensive amendment in Motor Vehicle Amendment Bill. There are thirteen Hon. Members who have participated in this discussion but I have a very limited time period and I have to conclude my speech by 4 o'clock and Hon. Members have raised some very important points. It is very difficult for me to give out answers to each Hon. Member separately but I will try to do so as soon as possible.

Some Hon. Members have expressed their concern about the system of permit for school buses. They are of the opinion that there should not be any system of permits for school buses. But all Hon. Members know about many serious accidents which have taken place and in which many children were injured. A major accident had taken place in Delhi itself. So our Ministry has decided to make amendment in that form

the safety point of view. People have said that this permit should be free of charge. This is under state government's jurisdiction. The state government is free to fix as much fee as it thinks fit. There is not intervention of Central Government. Some hon. members have suggested that there should be some special colour for the school buses only. It depends upon schools they can for the desired colour. If state government so thinks, it may prescribe a particular colour for schools and in that we have no objection. But we can not prescribe any specific colour for the chartered buses of schools and colleges because there are so many schools and colleges which do not have their own buses and they hire chartered buses.

Madam Chairperson, some hon. Members have said that there is no need to delete 58 (4). We are deleting it so as to curb the practice of installing higher capacity tyres in small vehicles resulting into damage to the roads due to over loading and insecured the traffic.

I would like to assure the parliament that we would frame the rules in accordance with the objectives of this amendment as would be needed to bring about changes in the Motor Vehicle rules and the notification due to this amendment.

Some Hon. Members have expressed their apprehension regarding its complete enforcement. It's right that we frame the policies and state government enforce them. It has been found in the past so that different law and rules are framed in large number but these are not implemented in a proper way. We endeavour to regulate road transport through Motor Vehicle Act but its enforcement lies with the state governments. A meeting of state transport Ministers was held in June in which they had invited attention to a number of problems. There was a consensus upon providing for a citizen charter so that the transport officers could be kept informed of all facts. For example, what to do for seeking driving licence or permit and how much time is needed for the same. We have urged the transport officers too, to implement the provision of citizen charters in their respective states. Another reason for the same is to introduce transparency in the system of providing licences and permits.

There are complaints of some Hon. Members regarding driving licences that these are issued after insufficient examination. We all know that a lot of people get their driving licences through brokers at home itself. There may be some members too amongst us who might have procured their licences at home without going to any office. Some strict laws are needed to be enacted and we are seriously deliberating on this also.

Some Hon. Members have said that we have ensured the provision of alteration to those who are having more than

[Shri Rajnath Singh]

ten vehicles and not to those having less than ten. But I would like to say that we have not discriminated against anybody. I would like to assure the House that provisions of permission in the rules are to be formulated under section 52(1). There is provision of providing information when the engine of the same make and type would be replaced. I have provided for the same in the amended bill. When rules are framed in this regard, arrangements would certainly be made so that under no circumstances, this facility would be misused. While expressing his views, honourable Khanduri ji said that fourteen days time has been provided by you for regularisation of violated rules. I want to make it clear that we have provided no special facility to the violators of the rules. Rather, our intention is that as per the rules framed by the State Governments the owners of the largest number of vehicles, would be able to change the engines of their vehicles. with the same type and some more.

16.00 hrs.

And the details in this regard would be initiated within fourteen days for the record of the Registration Officer in the Registering Authority. With the very purpose we have talked of-intimating the Registering Authority with fourteen days in this bill.

Honourable Members, have expressed their concern regarding road accidents. We all know that bad roads result in accidents. However, this is not so. In developed countries, accidents are also on the rise due to good roads. Sometimes back, I was in Malaysia. I was told that after the condition of roads was improved, the number of accidents increased there due to fast driving. I feel that traffic sense should be developed among the people. Our government is trying her best to improve the condition of the roads. I would also urge upon the State Governments to improve the condition of the State Highways.

Shri Rajo Singh ji expressed his concern regarding the condition of roads in Bihar. I would like to inform him that the funds provided by the Central Government to Bihar, could not be utilised for the construction and improvement of roads, during the past financial year. We will seriously ponder over how to increase the traffic sense and what type of programmes should be launched. To present these accidents, in the Transport Ministers' Conference, we decided to set up a Unified Authority. It would comprise of members from the state police, transport authority and national highway authority. A committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of our State Minister Shri Hukum Deo Narayan Yadav, to work out its modality, which would give its report within three months and thereafter the Unified Authority would be constituted. Our endeavour would be as to how bring down crimes and accidents? This would be included in the modalities that would be worked out.

Apart, from this, the honourable Members have expressed fear that this Bill shall be passed and become an Act but we will not be able to frame the rules soon.

Our honourable Member also said that Act came into being in 1988, but the rules could not be framed. I would like to remind that Member that within six months of the Act coming into force, the rules were framed. The amendment being made by us here, would become rules within two to two and-a-half months. While framing the rules, it would be kept in mind that the objectives of this amendment is fulfilled.

Reducing Pollution is the most important thing. This amendment in the Bill would ensure the use of L.P.G. fuel in place of Petrol. Shri Ram Naik explained in details how the L.P.G. fuel would be cheaper and less polluting.

Apart from this, there are several more points but the time is short. I would like to refer to an important point raised by Sunder Lal ji. He explained the need to do away with the discrepancies regarding Section 140 and 161. I would like to tell him that after making a consultation with insurance company and finance Ministry in this context, we would take a decision.

The time limit, which has to be adhered to for registering a case in regard to hit and run incidents, has been done away with. I would like to thank all the honourable Members who expressed important views in this amendment Bill. I request them to pass this Bill unanimously.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are supposed to start the discussion under Rule 193 regarding resolution passed by Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly for autonomy at four o'clock. if the House permits, it can be taken up after this Bill is passed.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : We agree.

MR CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now taken up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clause 2 to 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 to 5 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.07 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Re : Resolution passed by Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly for Autonomy

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Before the House takes up this discussion, I have an announcement to make.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANTH GANGARAM GEETE (RATNAGIRI) : Madam, Chairperson, I have given notice under Rule 184 on this subject. I want to know the outcome of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Presently, discussion under rule 193 is going on. I am not aware of your notice and I would inquire about it.

[English]

I may inform the House that Shri Vilas Muttemwar, in whose name the item is listed in today's List of Business, has in his letter of today requested that Shri Madhavrao Scindia may be allowed to initiate the discussion on the subject in his place, and the Speaker has acceded to Shri Muttemwar's request.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Madam, I do not mind Shri Madhavrao Scindia speaking, but my request is that this should not be taken as a precedent in future. I do not mind his speaking at this juncture as an exception.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Speaker has taken this decision.

16.08 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I am not saying that he should not speak now.

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : When a Member's name is mentioned in the List of Business, common practice is that he should initiate the discussion. If he is not in a position to do so, the second name should be called.

MR. SPEAKER : I have given him permission to speak.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I am not objecting to it. I am saying that it should not be taken as a precedent for discussion in future.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have allowed discussion under rule 193. I have given notice under rule 184 on this very subject. I want to know about the outcome of it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let me find out about it.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the 27th of October, 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh signed the instrument of accession making Jammu and Kashmir an integral part of Indian Union. May I say, Sir, that this is an irreversible and accomplished fact. The history of Constitutional developments after that date too are well-documented - the appointment of Sheikh Abdullah in 1948 as Head of the Emergency Administration; the appointment of Yuvraj Karan Singh as the Regent in 1949; the summoning of the Constituent Assembly by the Regent in 1951; the election of Karan Singh as Sadr-e-Riyasat and Sheikh Abdullah as Prime Minister in 1952, and his subsequent dismissal and arrest; and the appointment of Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad; the culmination of the Constituent Assembly in 1956 and the coming into force of the Kashmir Constitution; and later in 1963 the regimes of Khwaja Shamshuddin and G.M. Sadiq.

What I am trying to say is that through this period, many Central Acts and Constitutional provisions became applicable and extended to the State of Jammu and Kashmir with the full concurrence of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

It began with the promulgation of the Constitution Order 1954 and was followed by the extension of the jurisdiction of

[Shri Madhavrao Scindia]

Customs, Central Excise, Posts and Telegraphs. In 1960, the Supreme Court was given powers to entertain Special Leave Applications; and the supervisory role of the Election Commission was also allowed through elections though elections continued under the laws of the State. Article 356 and 357 of the Indian Constitution were extended in 1964 and some Central Labour Laws were also there.

All that took place between 1947 and 1975, and then also between 1953 and 1975 were taken into account before the conclusion of the 1975 Accord between the nominees of Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Sheikh Abdullah. And, Shrimati Gandhi had this to say in Parliament on the 24th February, 1975. It is important to quote these things because the spirit of the time is reflected in these quotes. There was concern at that time too; there were aspirations at that time too. But after having threadbare discussions on a cross section of the subject, an Accord was signed. And I quote what Shrimati Gandhi said in Parliament on the 24th February, 1975 :

"Sheikh Abdullah was very anxious that to start with, the Constitutional relationship between the State and the Centre should be as it was in 1953 when he was in power."

"It was explained to him that the clock could not be put back in this manner. Mirza Afzal Beg pressed for the transfer of provisions relating to fundamental rights to the State's Constitution, the removal of the supervision and control of the Election Commission of India over elections to the State Legislature and the modification of Article 354 to require the State Government's concurrence before imposing the President's Rule in the State. It was not found possible to agree to any of these proposals." She went on to say :

"I must say to the credit of Sheikh Abdullah that despite his strong views on these issues, he had accepted the agreed conclusions."

In consequence of this Accord, Sheikh Abdullah became the Chief Minister. Here, I would like to point out that the Congress party is a political party but it is a political party which believes in subordinating any partisan views to the larger national interest.

An outstanding example of this is the follow-up to this accord when Sheikh Abdullah became the Chief Minister without a single National Conference Member in the Assembly, the Congress Chief Minister, with a full majority, stepped down in the national interest in accordance with the Accord, gave up his seat and asked all Congress Members to support Sheikh Abdullah as the Chief Minister of the State. I think, this was an outstanding example of how all political parties must in the ultimate analysis when it comes to the crunch subordinate their partisan views and requirements to the larger national interest.

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (ANANTNAG) : The 1975 Accord was broken by the Congress Party.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I must say that the spirit of sacrifice is conspicuously absent in the handling of the current crisis.

After 1975, all Union Congress Governments had adopted this national outlook and the situation of normalcy had been regained. But it was shattered in the aftermath of the demitting of office of the Rajiv Gandhi Government in November-December, 1989. The beautiful Valley of Kashmir, I may point out, had in the golden autumn of 1989 received the largest number of tourists. Within one week of the V.P. Singh Government taking over, the whole Valley was up in flames, the then Home Minister's daughter Rubaiya was kidnapped and atrocities by militants and misguided youths against sections, especially the Kashmiri Pandits leading to their exodus began. This community has also made a tremendous contribution to Jammu and Kashmir and it is bad that they had to leave their homeland. The Government of that day could not handle the situation. Even today, many of them are living in pitiable conditions.

The 1991-96 Congress Government determinedly fought off insurgency stoked from across the border and restored enough and sufficient normalcy to bring about the Congress-National Conference agreement in 1995 where the National Conference agreed to participate in the elections. The National Conference got a two-third majority in the subsequent elections and announced that they would suggest further proposals for autonomy.

But how do you define 'autonomy'? The contours are different to different people. If 'autonomy' means 'devolution', 'greater financial powers' or 'greater powers to the panchayats and local bodies', by all means have a dialogue on autonomy but no autonomy that borders on or comes anywhere near the term that is referred to as 'secession'. We are extremely clear on that.

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK : We want only autonomy. ...*(Interruptions)* We want to be a part of India with autonomy.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Naik, please do not disturb.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : In the follow-up, the State Government set up two Committees — the State Autonomy Committee and the Regional Autonomy Committee. Both the Committees had a rather chequered career right from their commencement with Dr. Karan Singh resigning as Chairman of one Committee and Shri Balraj Puri resigning as Chairman of the other.

They were replaced, of course, by Shri Moinuddin Shah

and Prof. Riyaz Panjabi.

Whilst asking for this discussion yesterday, my very respected and hon. friend, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav raised some points about Dr. Karan Singh. I am sure that he himself was confused on the situation. I will not accuse him of having tried to mislead the House. He is too senior and a respected Member, for that. But I would like to clear that confusion. He said that Dr. Karan Singh, the Chairman of the Autonomy Committee — without mentioning the fact that he had resigned and joined the Congress Party — was a Congress leader and thereby, linked the Congress Party in an inferential way, with this Autonomy Committee.

I would like to clear this misconception. This Committee was appointed on 29th November, 1996. Dr. Karan Singh felt that the whole attitude was to produce a maximalist report. There was a push towards producing a report, in a particular manner; and so, he resigned — not many months down the line. He was appointed on 29th November, 1996; he resigned in July 1997, within seven months of his appointment. The report of the Committee came two years later, in April 1999. Dr. Karan Singh, of course, joined the Congress Party on the 6th of August 1999, even later than that. Subsequently, he was the Congress candidate against the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. I do not have to remind the House that at that stage, the Samajwadi Party absolutely refused to withdraw its candidate to allow a one-to-one fight against the Prime Minister, Shri Vajpayee in Lucknow. I am just trying to set the record straight.

Shri Farooq Abdullah has also changed his mind several times. One day he ~~says~~ something and the next day, he says something else. He is a very good friend of mine and I have got a lot of affection and respect for him. Sometimes, he says that he wants a pre-1953 situation for Kashmir and at other times, he says that there is no *Lakshman rekha*. But if he was to take the trouble to read the autonomy document in detail, the implementation of which he is asking for, *in toto*, then, in effect, it overtly or covertly takes you to the pre-1953 position in many of its aspects.

What are the recommendations? Amongst the recommendations, the matters in the Union List, not connected with the three subjects of Defence, External Affairs and Communications and or ancillary thereto, but made applicable should be excluded from the application to the State. That means, everything that is being done in the last 30 or 40 years should be wiped clean. It also says that modifications made in article 246 in its application to the State, subsequent to the 1950 Order should be rescinded. It talks about this in an earlier paragraph, where it says that, "at this stage, it would be pertinent to mention that article 246 in its original form clearly laid down that in relation to the State of Jammu and Kashmir,

a reference to clauses 2 and 3, in clauses 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the article shall not apply. This made the existence of the State and Concurrent Lists, only a matter of theoretical interest for our State." Sir, it was always considered proper and amendments were made to this effect with the full concurrence of the State Assembly that whenever there is an irrevocable situation in the Concurrent List where reconciling is impossible of the two views, Parliament will override what the State Assembly says. This is attempting to put the clock back again. It is going back not just to the pre-1953 situation but going back to the 1950 situation. There is talk here of article 355, 356 and 358, should be made inapplicable in the State as was the position in 1954. There have been constitutional amendments in the Parliament, again with the full concurrence of the State Assembly. We are talking of the pre-1953 situation. I think that Shri Abdullah will have to look a little more closely at those autonomy recommendations before he says that he is not necessarily asking for a pre-1953 situation because a number of those very fundamental and important recommendations pertain to the State and the Centre in such a way that it would go back to the pre-1953 situation. In any case, whilst talking about going back to 1953 situation and wiping the slate clean, are we not, in a way, obviating, violating and annulling article 370? The Congress Party is committed to article 370. There are parties which are today and even earlier been talking about removal of article 370. The Congress Party believes that article 370 should remain. But when you talk of going back to pre-1953 situation, you yourself are violating article 370. What did article 370 say? ...*(Interruptions)* I will talk about substance of the provision. Article 370 in effect says that all the subjects that were covered by Instruments of Accession, that is Defence, External Affairs, Communication and residual ones were to be implemented after consultation with the Jammu and Kashmir Government. Parliament could implement them after consultation. Article 370 then goes on to say that as far as the remaining subjects are concerned, you must take the full concurrence of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly. This is clearly laid down in the Constitution. Whenever any Act or any provision was extended to Jammu and Kashmir, both the principles of consultation as far as three items that came under the Instruments of Accession were concerned, and positive concurrence as far as the rest were concerned, was always undertaken. I am not even mentioning that. Sheikh Abdullah in 1975 by signing this Accord in effect totally ratified it in a way. I am not even mentioning that. ...*(Interruptions)* All I am trying to say is that the National Conference and Farooq Abdullah asking for the slate to be wiped clean are tacitly and indirectly themselves hitting at article 370. It is because they want to say that whatever article 370 legitimised in those 30 or 40 years should be brushed under the carpet. Let us start again. So, they themselves are violating article 370. I would like them to pay a little attention to this. In fact, in many aspects the present Shri Abdullah is asking for much more than his father asked for. It is not possible

[Shri Madhavrao Scindia]

to get into a time capsule and go back in the space of time and erase everything that happened earlier.

Be that, as it may, Sir, it is at the juncture that the NDA Government makes its clumsy entrance on to the scene. This Government, it is very obvious, believes always in beginning with the bang and ending with the whimper. There was a nuclear bang at Pokharan which seems to be ending with CTBT whimper. The Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister when they go abroad, no longer talk of minimum: nuclear deterrent but talk of signing CTBT. When the Prime Minister went to Lahore, he called it as 'a turning point in South Asian history' but when our Prime Minister was embracing Shri Nawaz Sharif, Pakistani troops were settling into our bunkers on the icy heights of Kargil. In spite of being warned by the Intelligence, as early as in 1998, our Government was sleeping under the influence of the opium of the shallow knowledge that they have of the intricacies and complexities of the international relations in the neighbourhood.

Sir, at this juncture I would once again like to join my Party with the sentiments that you voiced this morning. We remember our Kargil heroes with great reverence. We will always remember their supreme sacrifice which will be an example for posterity. Today, we also remember their bereaved families who had to sacrifice their loved ones for the country. On behalf of my Party, Sir, I would like to pay our tributes, our humble salutation to all the heroes of Kargil who in spite of this Government won for us the heights of Kargil.

"The turning point in South-Asian history", was followed by the hijacking of the Indian Airlines plane and the shocking display of India's External Affairs Minister personally escorting the murderers and militants who were responsible for the lives of innocents and delivering them to freedom. Following the coup in Pakistan, that "turning point" has created a situation where the Government feels that it must refuse to even talk with Pakistan.

It is the same bang and the same whimper that we are witnessing in the Government of India's handling of Jammu and Kashmir. Members will recall that within a few days of Government formation in 1998, on 18th May, 1998 to be absolutely precise, the hon. Home Minister revealed with much fanfare what was called 'pro-active strategy'. On 17th January, 2000, yet another high-level meeting was called and we became all the more proactive. I quote what the *India Today* had to say about the second high level meeting and the second stage of pro-action.

I quote :

"Rejig the Army. Throw in additional troops. Make a few

more promises. Speak of crushing the SIS-sponsored proxy war and there it is - a brand-new action plan. A fresh formula with a pro-active approach. Every now and then, when terrorists walk away after brazen attacks, the Centre wakes up to the increasing threat in Jammu and Kashmir, summons a high level meeting and comes up with the same old wine."

Sir, the situation has deteriorated even more. When the US President, Mr. Bill Clinton, visited our country, we witnessed one of the worst massacres of Sikhs in Chhatishgphura and yet another pro-active bang had ended with the whimper.

Something curious has been going on in Jammu and Kashmir following Clinton's visit. The Government of India suddenly releases members of the Hurriyat Conference. Nothing has changed on the ground. Militancy continues unabated. The Government officers, the BSF, the para-military forces, the Army posts, the Minister of Jammu and Kashmir are being targeted, attacked, and murdered. Then, why is this sudden urge to release Hurriyat leaders? The Government may continue to deny that this was done under any pressure. But the express purpose was to enter into a dialogue with Hurriyat. Though you kept denying it at that time. Then why only Hurriyat? Was it the foremost representative of the people? Was there not an elected Government in the State? Let me say that you may have taken this strange and inexplicable action, and you may have pushed your own NDA partners into playing the autonomy card. Because Dr. Farooq Abdullah has stated on the 10th of July, 2000 and I quote *India Today* again.

The question was :

"...but you have put the Centre on notice."

His answer was :

"That is a language of confrontation. But I believe in consensus. All I am saying is : Do not try to reduce me to zero when we are the only ones who swear by the Indian Constitution. At least, I am not talking on *Jehad* and *Azadi* like Hurriyat Conference."

Now, these were Dr. Farooq Abdullah's sentiments on the 10th of July. What does this statement indicate? In many senses he was right. Just yesterday, there had been another declaration. Although we welcome the declaration of three months' cease-fire made by Abdul Majid Darr of Hizbul Mujahideen, I would implore upon the Government to exercise great caution before dropping our guard. Even as the cease-fire was being announced, militants were attacking and hitting the BSF posts in Srinagar and the Pakistan based leader of this militant organisation, Syed Sallahudeen whilst confirming the cease-fire by his number two, added that if the Government of India did not respond, this cease-fire would be withdrawn within one week.

Now, I would like to know what is the response that is expected. The Government of India must tell us how it intends to act and how its response is going to be structured. Because you may not really be having all that much time.

In other words, what I have tried to indicate is, as far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, the Government's policy has been what can be called a flip-flop. Because, at no point has the Hurriyat or the Hizbul Mujaheedin said that they would abide by the Indian Constitution. They continue to talk of *jehad* and *azadi* and Indian imperialism. They say that they cannot have conditional talks. In other words, the question of holding it under the Indian Constitution is not acceptable to them. Naturally Farooq Abdullah is also peeved because he feels that he is being reduced to a zero. He is not just the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, but he is also your ally. His son is a Minister in your Government.

Anyway, this Resolution has been passed. Then something more sinister seems to have happened. When the Resolution was passed, the Prime Minister was in Lisbon. There were conjectures and rumours that the National Conference would leave the NDA. The Home Minister tries to quickly cool tempers in the absence of the Prime Minister. He tries to placate Farooq Abdullah. What does he say? I quote :

"The Government will consider the Resolution and Parliament will decide its fate."

The hon. Home Minister does not reject the Resolution. He says Parliament will decide its fate. But this is nothing compared to what follows.

The Prime Minister, while returning from Lisbon, maybe in the aircraft, says something. What does he say? He said : "Whatever they are demanding is under the Constitution". What does the Prime Minister consider as under and within the Constitution? Had the Government of India adopted and implemented the Resolution, what would have been implications?

Specially what does the Autonomy Resolution mean? It would have meant—among other things the more important provisions are — that article 356 would not apply to Jammu and Kashmir. But the Prime Minister says this is within the Constitution. It would have meant that the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly would have the final say on the central role not just in cases of internal emergency, but in cases of external emergency too. But the Prime Minister says that this is within the Constitution. The President and the Parliament's role in Jammu and Kashmir would be curtailed because here they talk of article 246, 254, 355, 356 read with 358 and 359. The Parliament would not be able to amend any constitutional provisions in the State. The Supreme Court and the Election

Commission would have no say in Kashmir and the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India would not scrutinise the State's finances. But the Prime Minister declares that what was being demanded was within the Constitution.

Somebody has not read this. Somebody has not gone into this in detail. I do not think the Prime Minister has been properly briefed by the hon. Home Minister. At this stage the Prime Minister returns. Then the contradictions that we are seeing everyday within the BJP segment of the NDA once again become clear. The *Sangh Parivar* suddenly wakes up. They suddenly remember that there was a hidden agenda. They could not allow this to become the forgotten agenda. Therefore, tremendous pressure is brought to perform a 'u' turn to completely go against the spirit of the statements that were being made by the Home Minister and the Prime Minister just a few days earlier. And the Cabinet then summarily rejects the Resolution and indeed, with this rejection, to add music to it which is certainly not music to our ears, the RSS again openly asks for the rejection of article 370. So, we take a full circle because the Government of India wants to run with the hare and hunt with the hound. You cannot do this when you are handling such a heavy responsibility which the Union of India is.

The first flip was, under pressure. Government of India releases the Hurriyat. The second flop is Dr. Farooq Abdullah retaliates with the Autonomy Resolution. The third flip is, the Home Minister and the Prime Minister encourage this process and dump the Hurriyat. They say that Parliament will decide and that the demands are within the Constitution. And what do they say about Dr. Farooq Abdullah on the 4th July when the Union Cabinet rejected the Autonomy Resolution passed by the J&K Assembly? The senior BJP leader, Shri J.P. Mathur had termed Dr. Farooq Abdullah as 'a representative of Muslim fundamentalists' in Kashmir Valley and accused him of encouraging fundamentalists. What does Shri Venkaiah Naidu say today? He says suddenly that Dr. Abdullah was a patriot and his Party was very much part of the NDA.

Then another flip after having encouraged the National Conference, the Cabinet performs a total U-turn and rejects it outright. I cannot understand this ambivalent policy. Is there an understanding based on political expediency behind this charade? These are questions being asked. I am not just accusing but this sort of behaviour has given rise to these sorts of questions. These are legitimate questions that are being asked. Is it the objective to allow for a revival of the National Conference in Kashmir and the BJP in Jammu considering that elections are barely a year away? If this is so, it is matter of great pity, and history will never forgive the Government of the day for playing games with political sensitivities that have a great bearing on the unity and integrity of our country and the secular State that we established, not

[Shri Madhavrao Scindia]

to speak of international ramifications. This confusion also gives rise to doubts and misgivings about the true intentions of the Government. There is also an attempt to divide Jammu and Kashmir along communal lines. These are very grave concerns. I am not trying to voice these concerns in Parliament by way of scoring points. These are really matters of concerns and I hope that the hon. Home Minister can allay these concerns in his reply because a recent Press report did quote him though he did clarify yesterday that Dr. Farooq Abdullah also has denied that he was under no pressure from him. So, there is tremendous disquiet regarding the recommendations of the Riaz Punjabi Report which makes some dangerous and unacceptable recommendations that Jammu region be divided into three and Ladakh into two which are clearly on communal grounds.

I quote the following from a newspaper describing this Committee's Report.

"Regional Autonomy Committee Report set up by the Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah to overrule the recommendations of an earlier Committee which was headed by Mr. Balraj Puri had literally carved up Jammu and Kashmir on the basis of what it claims "historical, social, ethnic and developmental factors". The Report centres around the explanation that "the ethnic groups located in specific territories of the State are claiming a regional status essentially to realise the objective of democratic participation and sustainable development.

The solution is found in the ethnic division of the State which is quite contrary to the first Report where Balraj Puri identified regions on the basis of their economic development and suggested special financial provisions for the same."

So, the Balraj Puri Committee went on economic grounds. He resigned, no doubt, because he felt the same pressure that Dr. Karan Singh felt. He was replaced by Riaz Punjabi who then recommends the division of the State and its regions along ethnic and communal grounds. So, I think this is a very very dangerous move and the Congress opposes this attempt to negate the secular basis of our country. At the same time, we must recognise that grave misgovernance by a succession of State Governments by the National Conference has caused serious dissatisfaction in Jammu Region and in Ladhak Region. The refusal to devolve real powers and finances to the Ladhak Hill Council and the deliberate efforts by the National Conference to alter the demographic profile of the regions has profoundly alienated the people of Ladhak, in particular, the Buddhist community pleading to a strong demand for the separation of the State and its re-constitution as a Union Territory. The same is happening in Jammu. Therefore, in our view, any discussion between the

State and Centre on the future of the State must address itself to steps required to give the people of Jammu and Ladhak a sense of participation, a sense of identity and the confidence that the State will not be run only in the partisan interest of the leaders of the National Conference and their vote banks. In fact, what the Farooq Abdullah Government has to examine is how does autonomy help if there is bad governance. What people want is good governance....(Interruptions) Have the National Conference provided that? Jammu and Kashmir is receiving financial assistance to the extent of 14 times more than Bihar and 11 times more than Tamil Nadu. And yet there is a total lack of development, infrastructure, industry and economy. This has led the people frustrated and alienated. What does a young person do when he sees no prospects ahead? What does one do when there is no prospect of economic liberation at the end of the tunnel. So, autonomy should not become a measure of deflection or diversion from the real issues. The answer is to create an inextricable link between the developmental potential in Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of India's rapidly expanding economy. How can the National Conference ensure good governance and remove maladministration and corruption? This is what they have got to look at. How can the State Government provide more opportunities for higher education and better employment? These are the real questions that the National Conference will have to address and this is the real strategy against militancy because a young frustrated mind provides very easy recruitment for those forces which want to disrupt our nation.

Sir, I, therefore, appeal to the Government not to play with fire. We accept that Jammu and Kashmir does enjoy a special status in the Union and its people have some grievances. We are all for resolving this problem through dialogue but not this way. The dialogue should be well-structured and should be transparent.

Therefore, in conclusion, I would like to say that the Congress Party feels that, first, this dialogue should not be confined to the National Conference or for that matter the *Hurriyat* or any other body but it must involve all political forces in Jammu and Kashmir including the representatives from all the regions that comprise the State; second, the *Sheikh Abdullah-Indira Gandhi* Accord of 1975 should be the starting point of any dialogue. The clock cannot be allowed to be turned back to 1952-53 which itself would create a constitutional hurdle.

In fact, the 1975 Accord was one of the main planks of the National Conference in the 1977 elections that followed for which they received an overwhelming mandate. Therefore, it marks an irreversible watershed.

Thirdly, the dialogue should be undertaken strictly within the ambit of the Indian Constitution and with due regard to its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Fourthly, the dialogue should be undertaken with the entire spectrum of political opinion in the State and its composite regions. It must address itself to the grievances of the regions and lead to institutional and other arrangements which would give the people of the three regions a sense of participation in the affairs of the State, equitable opportunities for development.

Fifthly, the objective must be to lead to a new order of good governance in Jammu and Kashmir directed towards the welfare of the people, the rapid development of the State, strengthening of the security and sovereignty of the nation, and maintaining the sanctity of the Indian Constitution. Within this framework and without in any way impinging on the sovereign and territorial integrity of the Union of India, of which the State of Jammu and Kashmir, including PoK, is a constituent part, consideration may be given to such readjustments of Centre-State relations with respect to Jammu and Kashmir as might facilitate the attainment of the objectives that I had just enumerated.

However, there is room for doubt of this being achieved under a dispensation in which the Central Government is led by a political party whose political ideology contained as its central tenets the abrogation of article 370 and the deletion of the constitutional provisions relating to the rights of the minorities. Once again, a demand by the RSS is being made on these grounds and I do not have to repeat that the Prime Minister and the Home Minister are very proud members of the RSS.

Finally to conclude, any endeavour to bring peace and harmony to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, accelerate its economic development with such a framework as its basis will receive our support in a totally non-partisan manner in the highest interest of strengthening the sovereignty and integrity of our nation.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi.

SHRI VAIKO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Vilas Muttemwar's name was placed first in the list and my name second. I should have been called to initiate the debate according to the procedure. It was not done. All right, let him speak. Shri Madhavrao Scindia made a good speech. I do not object to it but the procedure is that I should have been called first when Shri Muttemwar was not present.

MR. SPEAKER : If he agrees, you can speak. Shri Vaiko.

SHRI VAIKO : I have no objection. Let him speak.

17.00 hrs.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (DEORIA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are discussing the report of the State Autonomy Committee. It is a very serious and a sensitive matter.

I am glad to see that my colleague has made a very serious speech. But I do marvel at his selective memory and it is those gaps that I shall try and fill during my speech. The political angle and the development of the Kashmir process from 1947 until now has been brought out very well and in a chronological order. But along with that, there have been developments on the ground and I will only touch upon those developments in the recent past, because to consider this Report in isolation would be doing a great deal of injustice to this subject itself. One of those developments was that there was a tremendous increase in the level of insurgency and terrorism in the State for the last two years and that has been fought tooth and nail by our security forces. When the foreign-trained insurgents found that they are not doing well, we had the Kargil conflict and we had a complete victory in the Kargil conflict. I do not think anybody is going to deny it. Pakistan was isolated in the international field and it was defeated on the battlefield also. So, we had a complete victory without losing an inch of Kashmir, which we have lost earlier, although our forces have always been capable of taking it back at any time. We lost our territory in Kashmir earlier, but we lost no territory during the Kargil conflict.

There was a complete victory for us both on the battlefield as well as in the international forum. So, again insurgency has started showing its ugly face and that has been fought again. Admittedly, there have been more killings; definitely the level of killings on both sides have increased. But the fact that Hizbul Mujahideen and other militant outfits are talking about unilateral cease-fire shows that we have tired them out and they are on the defensive now. They had the initiative with them some time back, a good six months back. In that context, the hon. Member referred to hijacking of the Indian Airlines plane also. They had the initiative with them earlier. But we have taken it back now. They are on the run and it is a fact that today even the tourism industry in the plains has picked up. That is the barometer to see whether peace is returning to the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Therefore, without going into too much of detail, we all know that Hizbul Mujahideen supports Pakistan and is supported by Pakistan. When such a militant outfit is making such an offer to our Government, it must be looked at with suspicion and we know that. We know that there are other militant outfits, which are saying that this is a stab in the back and they have said that there should not be a unilateral cease-fire. But if we take the sum total of all this, what emerges is that there is dissension among the various militant outfits in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, they are on the run and they are demoralised. We intend to keep them demoralised and for this, I would like to start by congratulating the Defence Ministry, Home Ministry and other components of our Government who are doing this job. There is just no doubt about that.

[Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi]

17.05 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

If there is a doubt, that can be removed. Today, we have regained the initiative and the militants are on the defensive. Otherwise, they are not the type of people who talk of peace and who talk of unilateral ceasefire. This is one point that I just wanted to remind. It was conveniently forgotten.

Eight militant groups have said that they do not form part of this and there is a wrong thing that Hizbul-Mujahideen have done. JKLF have said that they welcome this move. There is a cacophony of various voices coming up from one side and the other. But all in all, if there is a confusion in the Valley, the confusion is on the other side. There is no confusion on our side in our effort to fight this militancy. This one aspect must be taken into consideration for the timing of this particular Resolution.

Shri Madhav Rao Scindia made a mention that we must not talk only to the National Conference and so on. It is a Resolution of the Kashmir Legislative Assembly. It is not a Resolution of the National Conference. It is a Resolution of the Kashmir Legislative Assembly that we are considering. Therefore, in our concern about the totality of the situation in Kashmir, there should be no doubt in anybody's mind.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I would just like to clarify a point.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : You have had your say for one hour. Kindly let me proceed.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : It was passed with a voice vote. It was not a unanimous Resolution.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Whatever it is, it is a Resolution of the Legislative Assembly. ...*(Interruptions)* Various quotations were made. Things have been read out who said this and who said what. What happened when the Prime Minister was in the aircraft? But the basic fact and the fact that there should be no doubt was that after deliberating and giving due consideration, the Cabinet had rejected this Resolution. This is the ultimate fact. So, contradictions like 'he said this thing', 'he said that thing' appear. This is a thing of national importance. Various people have various views. If there is any confusion possible to be created, it is to quote several people on the same subject at different times, at different places and say : "He said this. He said that". But what is the reality? The reality is that a deliberate decision by the Cabinet has been taken by rejecting this demand *in toto*. So, where is the confusion? Where is the point about confusion?

We are talking a lot about whimper. I think, I must touch that before I come back to this thing about signing of the CTBT and the visit to Lahore. In itself, the visit to Lahore and the extension of hands of friendship to Pakistan cannot be questioned and that is no whimper. That hand is always there. If the hand from the other side comes about signing of the CTBT, we talk about consensus. If consensus is not acceptable to people, that is up to you. But the real whimper was, having exploded a bomb in 1974, not to be able to declare it till we exploded it and declared it and there was no whimper having become capable of explosion of the bomb and no to be able to take decision to explode it was a whimper. Whimper is not about signing. The whimper is about taking an action. When we are talking about whimpers, I want to know why for 30 years, it could not be exploded.

Those are the things about whimper, not about timing of the bomb.

I just want to say a few things that a Commission, as has been pointed out by Shri Madhav Rao Scindia, was set up on 29th. It is a fact that the Chairman of the Commission felt suffocated during the deliberations. Dr. Karan Singh resigned prematurely, we know that very well. But well before that, the then Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao had made this statement, 'that we will give autonomy.' Just short of Independence. He has made this statement. It is a well known statement. It is not a new statement. Not only that, on the 29th of November, 1996, when this Committee was formed, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda was the Prime Minister and a lot of people here were a part of it when this Commission was formed. That was a deliberate act and in that deliberate act, Shri Deve Gowda himself said, 'we are for maximum autonomy.' These are on record of this House. There is nothing new about it. Now, it boils down to a definition of the autonomy.

We have all been talking about Sarkaria Commission, the devolution of powers to the States. If autonomy is going to be limited to semantics then it is a different thing. If autonomy is going to be considered in relation to the specific proposals made in that resolution then it is a separate thing and it has been rejected by the Cabinet because some of those things that have not been mentioned, like the procedure for election. We follow a form of democracy, which has a uniform connotation in our country and anything that goes against that is not acceptable. They have recommended that the Election bid of our, election commissioner and so on should not be overseeing them, it is not acceptable. There are many other things that are not acceptable.

Things like fundamental rights have been questioned. It is said that fundamental rights should be changed. It should be according to their customs, traditions and so on. It is not acceptable. Change in emergency provisions is not acceptable.

They have taken this position that 1953 or the time before that they had a Constituent Assembly and they had a right to make their own laws. This is the basic point that they are fighting for and I do not think there is any difference of opinion that we cannot have a nation within a nation. There is no doubt that opinion.

There are a few more facts that I wish to bring to the notice of the House. One is that we have to look at the Kashmir problem on two tracks. Just saying that good governance could solve the problem is over simplification of the fact. If only good governance was a barometer of a problem solving, then by now Bihar would have probably seceded from India. That is not the only thing. We have to see the situation on the ground. It is a fact that we have been fighting a war for 52 years and therefore, the conditions on the ground, the conditions of the normal people have become better. We have to provide them peace. Fortunately, with our efforts today, in Kashmir people are talking about cease fire, peace and so on.

There is a question as to why only talk to Hurriyat or why only talks to Mujahideen or why only talk to 'x' or 'y'. Our experience on the ground is that you can talk to the person that you get. You can start a fair dialogue. There is no restriction on talking with anybody. We should be talking to everybody. That is the first point that I wish to make.

The second point that I wish to make is that historically, not 50 years but for the last 500 years, Kashmir has always been a cauldron. There has always been somebody or the other invading it, taking it, keeping it and losing it. This has been the history of Kashmir for a very long time. It is only for the last 150 or 200 years, Raja Gulab Singh brought some kind of stability to that place. That being so, only pumping in of money is not enough. The mindset has to change. My experience of Kashmir goes back from 1953 onwards. There have been certain changes but not enough change in the mindset of the people. Some of them are reflected in this Resolution.

What I do wish to say is that the Legislators of Jammu & Kashmir are slightly angry as to why we have rejected this Resolution outright. We are quite angry as to how suddenly they have come up with this Autonomy Resolution. And in that context, the statement of the Home Minister that we should discuss it, we should talk about it, and we should start a dialogue, I think, is a very fair thing. We should discuss it, we should give them as much powers as possible, and we should give them as much funds as possible.

It is a fact and I entirely agree with Shri Madhavrao Scindia that with the kind of money that has been invested in Kashmir, their standard of living, business, and everything should have come up much more but they have remained

and kept themselves only on tourism and handicraft. It is not enough. And, therefore, any effort to link it with the mainland is very necessary.

I do not wish to make a very lengthy speech. But one point that I wish to make is that this should not become an emotive subject. People are emotionally bound on this subject but this should not become an emotive subject. We should look at it with a cool vision and with a calculated temper. That is the first point I wish to make.

The second point that I wish to make is that those who have been thrown out of the Valley must be taken back to their places in the first instance. They must get back to their places and they must be settled there in the first instance on priority. All the points that have been mentioned otherwise, about the territorial integrity of the country, no compromise, and all those are unexceptionable, and I do not think that there is any need to debate on them. Those who have been displaced must be sent back to their places. As a matter of arrangement and policy, they must be settled back to their places. That must be given priority.

It is a fact that we do not agree with the provisions of their recommendations.

But it is also a fact that we are ready for a dialogue at any time, at any place and that must not be considered a flip-flop arrangement because dialogues are always flip-flops. Sometimes, they start the dialogue; sometimes the dialogue ends but the dialogue must continue. We must send a message from this House that the good of Jammu and Kashmir is at the centre of our heart, that they are secure at all events in our hands and that no harm shall come to them. At the same time, we are with them for any adversity that may come to them. As everybody knows, the Indian Army, the Indian Security Forces have been battling there for the last 52 years. Something close to 65,000 persons have died. In keeping that line of communication open, in keeping their line of control open, we are with them in every way. But this message must go to them that dialogue will always be open. Thank you very much.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If the House approves, the hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting would like to make a statement.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : I have given a notice and if the House agrees, I will make a statement. Since the Government took a decision last evening and there were

only speculative stories which were appearing, and it is the right of the House to be first informed, I sought your permission to make a statement in the House today with regard to the new policy.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, it is done.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : It has already been in the print media in the morning. The matter has been taken up.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : It is 5.20 p.m. now.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is already there. If you want to circulate the copies, you can do that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, let him make a statement.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : What have appeared in the media are not accurate. They are only speculative stories.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : How many pages?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : It is a two-page statement.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : All right.

17.23 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Re : New Uplinking Policy

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Earlier, the satellite TV channels were not permitted to uplink their programmes from India. However, as the hon. Members would recollect, satellite based TV channels have started beaming their programmes into India by uplinking their channels from hubs abroad since early nineties, as the satellite technology has become available. As a result they have remained outside the jurisdiction of Indian laws. In order to bring them back under the purview of the Indian laws, the uplinking policy was relaxed for the first time on 09-06-1998 and the Indian broadcasting companies with a minimum of 80 percent Indian share holding and Indian management control were permitted to uplink their channels from India but only through VSNL. This permission was restricted to only those Indian companies, which were being released foreign exchange for uplinking from abroad. The policy was further liberalised on 26-03-1999 and all Indian companies which were broadcasters, with a minimum of 80 per cent Indian share holding and Indian management control were permitted to uplink their channels through their own earth station as well.

The Cabinet in its meeting on 25-07-2000 has decided to further liberalise the uplinking policy. As per the new policy, an Indian company, which need not be a broadcaster, will be permitted, subject to necessary security clearance, to set up uplinking hub or teleport facilities for purposes of hiring it out to broadcasters. Permissible foreign equity in such companies will be the same as in the case of telecom sector, which is presently 49 per cent, inclusive of NRI/OCB investments with Indian management control. These companies will be permitted to uplink only those TV channels which would be specifically approved or permitted by the Government. All TV channels irrespective of their equity holding, ownership or management control will be permitted to uplink their programmes from India, subject to necessary security clearance, provided they undertake to comply with our broadcasting codes. This new policy will not only bring a large number of TV channels within the discipline of our broadcasting codes but also generate substantial employment opportunities as India becomes an important hub offering state of the art facilities for uplinking.

Our news agencies have been seriously handicapped vis-a-vis their foreign counterparts as they have been deprived the use of the latest technology of Satellite News Gathering (SNG) for purposes of news gathering and their further distribution. Because of this handicap, the news disseminated by Indian News Agencies reaches the electronic and print media late and in the intervening period contrary point of view remains unchallenged in the world media. The new uplinking policy of the Government would remove this handicap and permit uplinking facility to the Indian News Agencies for news gathering and their further distribution to other news agencies/broadcasters. For this purpose, the Indian news agencies would mean those incorporated in India and accredited by the Press Information Bureau and 100 per cent owned by Indians with Indian management control. This will give the Indian news agencies the much desired competitive edge over the foreign news agencies.

As in the case of earlier policy, such uplinking facilities will be permitted with both Indian and foreign satellites. However, proposals envisaging Indian satellites will be accorded preferential treatment.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri P.A. Sangma.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : It is a breach of propriety. It is not a breach of privilege, I will concede. But then this matter has already appeared in the media, both electronic and the print media. The hon. Minister may or may not have made a statement to the Press or the media but the leakage has been there. There must be a direction from you to the Minister to see that such leakages on policy matters do not take place when Parliament is in Session. Please take note of this breach of propriety.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I heard.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Let us know what you think about this. I have clearly stated that there is no breach of privilege. But at least what about the breach of propriety?

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR) : That also boils down to breach of privilege.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, do not hesitate. Say that this is a breach of propriety. Why do you hesitate? Uphold the dignity and decorum of the House. Are we to get such stale news from the Minister?

[Translation]

He provides stale news to the House. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : At least it should have been done at twelve o'clock.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It has appeared in the news media. That way the breach of propriety is definitely there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has not briefed the newsmen. Hon. Members, the hon. Minister or his Ministry has not given it to the media.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Parliament is in Session and it is a leaking Government. There is a leaking Government sitting over here. Let them look into the matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has not given it to the media. I cannot hold him responsible.

Shri Sangma.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Let the hon. Minister look into the whole matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let us not waste the time of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA) : MR. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has clarified that from the newspapers.... (Interruptions) if they have some knowledge of certain things in the statement.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MAJ. GEN (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (GARHWAL) : Nothing official has been given.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, many things appear in the media but we cannot attribute them to the Cabinet Ministers.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please give me a hearing?

Shri Sangma. Now let us not waste the time of the House.

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA (TURA) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Order please.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : There is no order here. This is what we are seeing!

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It should have come up at 12 o'clock. ... (Interruptions)

17.29 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Resolution Passed by Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly for Autonomy

[English]

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA (TURA) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I consider that this debate is a very important debate because we are dealing with an area which is very sensitive, especially after the Resolution which has been adopted by the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on the question of autonomy.

Unfortunately, there has been an obvious ambivalence in the utterances of the Central leadership about the resolution itself. Initially the hon. Minister of Home Affairs is reported to have said that this matter would be discussed in Parliament, and perhaps decided by Parliament. The hon. Prime Minister seems to have initially defended the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir saying that "well there is nothing wrong if it is within the framework of the Constitution of India". After having made these two important statements, the Cabinet rushed for a decision on the matter and outrightly rejected the resolution. I do not know whether each demand by the Assembly of the Jammu and Kashmir, which was on the basis of the Report of the State Autonomy Committee, has been really analysed and discussed by the Cabinet one by one because the time-frame that was available to the Government, I have some doubt whether every issue that has been raised in the Resolution has been discussed totally by the Cabinet or not.

[Shri Purno A. Sangma]

I have gone through the Report of the State Autonomy Committee and basically the demands can be summarised under ten headings. It covers at least ten areas of importance and in those areas there are issues, which were discussed in 1952 itself and where an agreement could not be reached. The matters were put off. That is all right, we shall see later on whether we can do something about it or not. There are at least two items which were deferred in 1952.

Now, my point is when the hon. Minister of Home Affairs had agreed and made a public statement that the matter would be discussed in Parliament, then what was the necessity for the Government to decide finally and reject it? After the Government has taken a decision to reject it outright, I really do not know whether this discussion in Parliament will now really be meaningful or not unless the hon. Minister of Home Affairs comes out and says, "yes, we still have an open mind; and on the basis of what has been discussed in Parliament, perhaps the matter can be again looked into".

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : He did it because someone got angry.

[English]

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA (TURA) : I do not think there is any meaning in discussing it here. However, having decided to discuss the matter in Parliament, I thought I will make a few points. I am not going to make a long speech.

Sir, as the House is aware, though I do not want to go into the whole history of it, I just want to refresh the memory of the House that in October, 1947, *Maharaja* Hari Singh executed an Instrument of Accession. Now, when we talk of Instrument of Accession, which was executed in 1947, perhaps some people have the impression that the Instrument of Accession by *Maharaja* Hari Singh was unique or different from other instruments of accession. It was not.

The same form or paper of Accession used for other rulers was used for Jammu and Kashmir. There was no separate form or paper specially meant for Jammu and Kashmir. It was a common form of Accession to the Government of India. This is a very important thing to note. Therefore, in 1947 itself, by this very Instrument of Accession, Jammu and Kashmir became legally an irrevocably a part of the territory of India. There is no doubt about it.

Then, in 1950, when we adopted our Constitution, Jammu and Kashmir was included as a Part-B State in the First Schedule to the Constitution of India, and in 1957, when the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir was adopted, the Constitution of the State declared Jammu and Kashmir to be

an integral part of the Union of India. Therefore, on this count, we have made this point several times, nationally, internationally, in all forums, that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. I just thought that there should not be any doubt on this.

Having accepted the situation that was obtaining at that time in Jammu and Kashmir, the Government of India then thought that the case of Jammu and Kashmir was something different from the rest of India and, therefore, they had to be given special safeguards, special protection and, therefore, article 370 was incorporated. Everything now depends on article 370. By the incorporation of article 370, Jammu and Kashmir already enjoys autonomy. They have a separate Constitution, they have a separate flag and the Parliament of India has limited jurisdiction over Jammu and Kashmir. All these autonomies were given by article 370. Subsequently, by different Presidential Orders, a lot of modification and perhaps innovation was made. I was wondering why this issue was now being raised and what was at the back of the mind of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. I think we are aware of the position of the BJP or the constituents of the NDA on the question of article 370. There have been demands that article 370 should be deleted from the Constitution of India. It certainly gives a lot of apprehension into the minds of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. I think this point has to be understood very clearly by the Central Government, by the ruling party and its constituents. I would like to know from the Home Minister when he replies, what is the stand of the BJP and what is the stand of the NDA Government on the status of article 370. If you make that position clear, I think much of the apprehensions of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, can be contained. After all the people of Jammu and Kashmir by and large, have accepted that they are part of India. We have already had democratic process in the last election to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly. Every political party participated in that election, which is a tremendous sense of satisfaction for all of us. Today, we have a popularly elected Government in Jammu and Kashmir to whom we can talk, with whom we can have a dialogue.

The National Conference is a part of the NDA Government here. The grandson of Sheikh Abdullah himself is a member of the Council of Ministers here. The grandson of *Maharaja* Hari Singh is a member in the Council of Ministers of Jammu and Kashmir. Dr. Farooq Abdullah is an out and out Indian, a true patriotic person. Nobody can doubt about this. When we have all this before us — a patriot as a Chief Minister of the State, popular election having been conducted, the National Conference being a part of the NDA government — we can have a free and frank exchange of views.

There are allegations from the leaders of Jammu and Kashmir that the report of the State Autonomy Committee,

the report which was submitted to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly in April, 1999, had been immediately forwarded to the Government of India for their comments, for the opinion of the Union Government. I do not know, perhaps, they did not get much of a response from the Union Government. That is one version. I would like clarification on that.

On the other hand, we get an impression from the media that the Chief Minister of J&K has assured not only the Home Minister but also Prime Minister of India to the effect that this report was going to be discussed in the Assembly and only a discussion will take place and no resolution would be adopted. We had gathered from the media that this assurance was given by Dr. Farooq Abdullah to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister; and yet they have passed the resolution in the Assembly. Why? Where is the misunderstanding?

When the Cabinet ultimately decided that : 'No, this report has to be rejected outright', without Dr. Farooq Abdullah's reactions having come out — I do not know whether it is true but media reports say — 'Well, Dr. Farooq Abdullah can decide whether he would like to continue with the NDA Government or not; he is free either to remain or to leave'. I think somewhere there has been a communication gap between the leadership in the J&K and the leadership at the Centre.

I must thank the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir that in spite of all these provocations, he is still cool; he has not withdrawn from the Government of the NDA. He still says: "Well, I am agreeable to a discussion; I am agreeable to a dialogue". I think these are very positive signs which the House should appreciate. There is no point in jumping to a conclusion that whatever they have done is hundred per cent wrong. I think it will be appropriate for the Parliament, perhaps, it will be appropriate for the Government, to look into as to how the Article 370 of the Constitution has functioned and how did it work. After all, whatever autonomy we had to give, we had given to them.

Maybe that there could be a special kind of a study by a team of experts from outside — not from J&K — an independent body who will objectively make a study of the working of Article 370 of the Constitution of India and see whether any changes are required.

Though I pointed out that there are certain matters which were discussed in 1952, but a careful reading of all these demands thus give a feeling to me that the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly has demanded to go the pre-1952 position. Of course, I am not agreeable to that personally. I do not know why we are talking about autonomy and why this word autonomy is so attractive. I think, what the people of Jammu and Kashmir would like to achieve can be achieved without even using the word autonomy.

I think, the Cabinet certainly took note of that and very cleverly, while rejecting the resolution, has also kept an option if there is any route to avoid certain problems.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR) : When you are speaking, you keep in mind that you are also a member of the Constitution Review Commission. You have expressed many things and views.

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA : I know that. That is why, I am talking about it. I am thinking not only about article 370 but also article 371 which is applicable to North-Eastern States. I am also thinking about the future of Assam as a member of the Commission, for your information. I only want that the Government should also take an initiative whereby these matters of special importance can be assigned to some people who are impartial and go into the working of a particular article. This Commission is for looking into the working of the entire Constitution.

My emphasis is on article 370. The Cabinet talked about devolution of power by quoting NDA manifesto that it is not a matter of autonomy as such; it is a matter of devolution of power. That is what the Cabinet decision rejecting the resolution has said.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : We have not used the word 'reject'.

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA : Yes, they did not use the word 'reject', but the sum and substance of it is rejection.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : We have said 'we cannot accept it'.

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA : That is why, I am saying that they have very calculatedly and very wisely spoken about the devolution of power.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Has he got a copy of that Cabinet decision?

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA : No. I am talking from the newspaper reports.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : It has appeared in the Press.

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA : Yes, it has appeared in the newspapers saying that it is a matter of devolution of power and not merely of autonomy. That is what the sum and substance of the decision.

I think, therefore, what is important is to emphasise on the devolution of power and the basis, as I have always been saying, should be the Sarkaria Commission Report. The Sarkaria Commission Report speaks of cooperative federalism. It is a new word, but it has become a very popular

[Shri Purno A. Sangma]

word. May be, there could be a way! The cooperative federalism as per the Sarkaria Commission Report may be made applicable to the rest of India, but as far as Jammu and Kashmir and the North-Eastern States are concerned, I think that article 370 and article 371 are very important and we will have to see how these articles can be made more effective and more workable.

I come from an area where there has been a lot of insurgency. So, we have a similar experience of the situation the people of Jammu and Kashmir are subjected to. One the one side, there are militants and terrorists, and on the other, the security forces. We know how security forces behave in the North-Eastern region.

I think, the people of Jammu and Kashmir are really fed up of what is happening there. They have been sandwiched between the militants and the terrorists on the one side, and the security forces on the other side. I had a lot of interaction with the people of Jammu and Kashmir. People are looking for a solution. This is the time when we can really, perhaps, get a solution because people are wanting it. After 52 years of suffering and bitter experience, I think, they are wanting it now. Therefore, I do not think that we should close everything. I am not, I want to make it very, very clear, agreeable to any autonomy position which is pre-1953. But within the framework of the Constitution, within article 370 of the Constitution of India, whether we can do something more for the people is the point.

I was reading some articles in a magazine which says, "Eight to ten thousand students, boys and girls of Jammu and Kashmir, are studying in various colleges of Karnataka, after paying Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 7 lakh of capitation fees. Four to six thousands students from Jammu and Kashmir are studying in Maharashtra; they are studying in Gujarat, and in other parts of India." Just imagine their plight; just imagine the kind of suffering they are undergoing. Therefore, I think, the economic development is a very important issue; job creation is a very important issue; people are not getting jobs there.

I would like to support Shri Madhavrao Scindia's point that when we talk about Jammu and Kashmir, our whole attention goes to the Kashmir Valley. In the process, we forget the people of Jammu; in the process, we forget the people of Ladakh. I think, it is a big injustice to them. When I visited Jammu, a few months back, they straightway asked me, "Should we also become terrorists? Should we also take to arms because unless we do it, we are not getting any attention from the Government? People who are taking to arms, those who are going underground, are the people who get every help, all the resources are poured there, and all the facilities are given there. Just because we are very simple and peace loving people, we are being neglected." I think, this is a very

important point to be noted down. Shri Madhavrao Scindia has made this point very effectively.

After all, Ladakh has resisted the resolution for autonomy, and they said 'no'; people of Jammu said 'no'. What does it mean? The people of Ladakh and the people of Jammu have rejected the demand for autonomy which was passed by the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly. I think, we must recognise that and do something special for them.

Sir, I plead with you that let this matter be taken very seriously and cautiously. Let us not condemn anybody. It has to be solved through a dialogue. I am very happy that the Government of India is going to open a dialogue with the Hurriyat leaders, and that there has been a cease-fire. This is a very, very positive development. I must congratulate the Government for that. The only question-mark is, somewhere I read, whether this move has got anything to do with Prime Minister Vajpayee's visit to USA in September, 2000, when he meets President Bill Clinton. We do not know what transpired between President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Vajpayee during the American President's visit last time. They are due to meet in September, 2000, and we know what America thinks about all this. So, there are some apprehensions. I set it aside, but the initiative to talk to them, and the cease-fire is a welcome thing. I congratulate the Government for that.

I think, when we are talking about a dialogue, we will have to have a dialogue where, in a democratic way, people are really representing the people, and therefore, this is very important.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, no doubt we are discussing a very important issue, specially as the Assembly of Jammu & Kashmir has passed a Resolution on a subject which, if I may say so, affects the people of Jammu & Kashmir. But we are discussing the matter on the basis of the reports that are available to us from the newspapers and journals. So far as the Government is concerned, there has been no official statement given to the Parliament. We have to anticipate what the Government's thinking is. There is even controversy over what the Cabinet decision was. Even Shri Sangma, who now has much closer interaction with them in certain matters, has not been fully taken into confidence. We do not know what the hon. Prime Minister said in the plane or while coming out of the plane. We do not know that the Spokesperson's view is. It is because now we have some Cabinet Minister as Cabinet Spokesperson! He has certain views.

Sir, this is a matter of importance. This is not a lightly saying. I feel, this discussion on an important issue like this — where a large segment of the House is concerned, as I am

concerned and as Shri Vaiko is concerned, in spite of his present aberrations, is — should have been on a Government motion. The discussion should have been initiated by the Home Minister himself and then we would have been able to give our response to the thinking of the Government. We now are only anticipating what the Government is thinking, if at all it can think in a relevant manner. ...(*Interruptions*)

However, in any event, this Resolution passed by our friends in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly gives us an opportunity to discuss a very vital issue that has been agitating this country not today but almost since the Independence. It is because the quasi-federal system that we have had has really had so many distortions that the Government of the day had to appoint a very high level Commission to go into the question.

17.59 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

MR. SPEAKER : Today the House would sit up to 7.30 P.M.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, my Party's view on the Centre-State relations, I believe, are well-known as that of Shri Vaiko's, Shri Karunanidhi's and of our good friends from the Akali Dal and also of others like Shri Chandrababu Naidu's, unless of course he has changed them recently. I do not know.

Sir, why is everybody clamouring for it? All the State Governments are clamouring for more and more powers. This is not a sudden development. This is not something that has emanated from the Resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly. It is because in a country where there are so many differences in language, in culture, in religion, on emphasis, on problems and on issues, there is bound to be different emphasis or different problems of development in different parts of the country.

18.00 hrs.

Nobody can deny that after 52 years of Independence we have a totally imbalanced and uneven development in the country. There are areas and areas in the country where obligations have been enforced on the State Governments without providing the wherewithal. Every meeting of the National Development Council has been marked with the unanimous demand of the Chief Ministers of the States — I am sure Sharadji as a Chief Minister, in spite of being the Chief Minister of the financial capital of the country, also made this demand — for more and more devolution of power and resources. Therefore, these are not empty matters. These are not empty issues raised for the first time today in connection

with the resolution for autonomy passed by Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

My friend Sangma had good things to say about Dr. Farooq Abdullah. I have nothing against Dr. Abdullah. He is no doubt a patriot and I concede that. I have no manner of doubt that he is trying his best to serve his people. But, how can he expect to get the autonomy which he is thinking of, or even a near edition of that, from his cohorts in Delhi? Who will give that to him? The main constituent of the ruling coalition is BJP which is committed to the abrogation of article 370 of the Constitution. How can Dr. Abdullah expect anything once he has aligned with these forces — say, the forces of obscurantism, or fundamentalism, or divisiveness — who are committed to abrogation of a very important article of the Constitution that gives some power, some position to Jammu and Kashmir? I do not agree with Sangma's likening the position of Jammu and Kashmir to some other States. Other States merged with the Union and lost their identity. Jammu and Kashmir joined the Union and kept its identity. That is why a special provision was made in the Constitution of India for Jammu and Kashmir. Of course, once Constitution applies, it has its own effect. So, how could Dr. Abdullah sincerely believe that this Government of which he is a component — maybe smaller component — could deliver what he wants?

Sir, I have a quotation from Sheikh Abdullah's statement that he made in 1951 and I seek your permission to read it out. He had an apprehension. He understood the danger that might come from the Government of India at one point of time. He felt if the colour of the Government changed, problems could be created. He said :

"Certain tendencies have been asserting themselves in India which may in the future convert it into a religious State where interests of the Muslims would be jeopardised. This would happen if a communal organisation had a dominant hand in the Government and the Congress' idea of equality of all communities were to give way to religious intolerance. The continued accession of Kashmir to India should however help in defeating this tendency."

This is what Sheikh Abdullah said.

That is the apprehension he had expressed, and he has proved to be true today. Today, they are expecting to develop Kashmir in the company of BJP and the RSS, the *Sangh Parivar*!

Sir, look at the reaction of the Government at the Centre. What did the very astute political leader of Shri L.K. Advani's eminence say? What was his reaction? I believe that he properly said that 'it is for the Parliament to decide. It is momentous decision.' It is for Parliament to decide and not

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

merely discuss away or talk away. He said something in the newspapers. I have to go by newspaper reports because they are not sending me all their statements to me like they send it to Shri P.A. Sangma!

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Everyone is citing this. I had gone to Israel and other countries. When I came back I learned about this Resolution. I was talking to the Press in another connection. They asked me about this. Then, I said :

"I have my views. I could give my reaction. But ordinarily, this is a Resolution of an Assembly, and therefore, I would like that the Government takes a considered view. And, that can be, after the Prime Minister returns back (At that time, the Prime Minister was abroad)."

And, the next sentence I said was :

"If something is to be done in connection with that Resolution, it can only be done by Parliament."

I did not say that it would be discussed by Parliament. I said :

"The Government will consider it as a whole and if something is to be done in connection with that Resolution, it has to be done by Parliament."

That is all. But it has been quoted again and again in a manner as if I said that it would be discussed in Parliament, decided by Parliament. I would think that every such issue is first decided by the Government, and if the Government has taken a decision that they accept so much or they do this or do not do this, then it would be my duty to come to the House with a proper Motion and a proper Resolution. But in this particular case, we were conscious when we discussed it. It was asked, 'will it be discussed in Parliament?' I said, "any Member has a right to raise it. It is a different issue whether we accept it or not. But here, we have taken a certain decision. We have not accepted this Resolution. Therefore, any Member can ask us 'why you have not accepted it'. That is precisely what is happening.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, we are humble mortals. We can only go by newspaper report. I have no access to his special statements. ...*(Interruptions)* ...I am accepting what he has said. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : This would not be provided

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : How it would become available we were not present. We were not asking ministerial berths for ourselves.

[English]

Sir, what appeared in *The Hindustan Times* of 28th June, there is not much of difference. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please allow us this much of understanding from your statement which has appeared in *The Hindustan Times*, which has gone over to your side. ...*(Interruptions)* ...I would quote what the Union Home Minister, Shri L.K. Advani has said in *The Hindustan Times*, New Delhi of 28th June, 2000. He said :

"A final decision on the Resolution passed by Jammu and Kashmir Assembly demanding greater autonomy for the State would be taken by Parliament."

Virtually, endorsing his party's point of view on the autonomy issue, Shri L.K. Advani said :

"Whatever needs to be done on the Resolution has to be done by Parliament. Everyone knows its composition and the views of those who constitute it."

Sir, we have been proceeding on this. There is not much of a difference in it. But he has now clarified, and I have not the slightest hesitation in accepting what he said, knowing him for so many years, all though how he is in that company, I do not know. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was wondering. Can anybody in Jammu and Kashmir sincerely believe that any proper consideration of this Resolution on autonomy will be given by this Government? This is a party which espousing Presidential form of Government.

It has not given up its agenda of abrogation of article 370. I have got a copy of a submission by the BJP in which one of the main demands before the Sarkaria Commission was the abrogation of the special provision under article 370. They now say that for NDA purposes they were not pressing it. The sooner they go, the better for the country. But once they go, they go back to the demand for abrogation of article 370. They will catch you by the throat.

They are not talking about the Presidential form of Government. I do not know what their real contribution is. I am a little bit anguished that my very good friend has gone there. My affection for him is so much that I cannot wish him anything but well.

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA : Thank you.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This is the Government that has been sitting over this Report for one whole year. The Assembly has formally forwarded it to the Government not now. Nothing has been done for one year. This is the consideration shown to one of its constituent —

giving a State Ministry is sufficient for National Conference to keep quite. They were now forced to bring a Resolution in the House. They found that the Report was meaningless and that this Government, like a Sphinx, was not moving at all.

Dr. Abdullah is more and more getting into problematic situations in Jammu and Kashmir because he is unfortunately losing mass support. Unfortunately, people are getting more alienated from the Government there. Therefore, he now thinks that there is an opportunity to establish himself as a saviour of Jammu and Kashmir by bringing this situation to a head so that at least some decision has to be taken. He will fight for the autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir. The Government sat on the Report for one year. Its main constituents have not given up their demand for abrogation of article 370 and it has already said that it has 'not accepted' the Report. Probably, the Oxford English Dictionary's definition of 'rejection' is 'not accepting'. The President of the BJP is not here and I should not take his name. He said, 'This is almost treason. It should immediately be rejected.' The *Sangh Parivar* takes up cudgels and says, 'Heavens will fall.' The gentleman who was released yesterday either showed his thumb or the 'V' sign. Perhaps, my friend was showing the 'V' sign and his leader was showing the thumb. He said that it was 'treacherous'. This is the reaction of the main constituent of the NDA Government.

Today, we are solemnly discussing what would happen to Jammu and Kashmir. Immediately, we find the reaction of Shri M. Karunanidhi. He said, 'It is very good. It should be supported.' Shri Prakash Singh Badal said, 'It should be supported.' Rumbblings have started within the NDA. Even Dr. N. Chandrababu Naidu said that it should be taken into consideration and no longer be ignored. They have to listen to the views of 29 plus so many plus so many who have given their support. Therefore, the Prime Minister says, 'Let us discuss.' Is it not political hypocrisy? What do we have to discuss? The Cabinet, constituting all the parties in the NDA, has said, 'No.' What do we discuss now? With the release of the Hurriyat leaders, what are you doing there? Dr. Farooq Abdullah is against it. He finds that the discussions between the Hurriyat and the Government is compromising his position. He brings forth the Resolution and now, the Government says, "Very well, let us discuss." What should we discuss? I would, very solemnly, like to know one thing from the hon. Minister. Is he conceding any part of it? I have said and my party also has said that we certainly do not wish to go back to the pre-1953 position. That cannot be done. It cannot be that any State of this country will deal with everything other than the three subjects of Defence, Foreign Affairs and Communications. Much water had flowed down since the 1950 Agreement was entered into. It is true that article 370 is there. It contemplated special position for that State. But since then, Presidential Orders have nibbled them away. The Party to my right has been responsible for that. Even the agreement, which

was entered into by no less a person than Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, was never really implemented. Not even the 1975 agreement was implemented. At least, on paper, that was acceptable to Sheikh Abdullah and Mrs. Gandhi. That can form the basis of a proper discussion on many things, with an open mind. Let us not forget that.

Sir, I am sure, you will agree me that it is essential to have a proper devolution of powers to the State Governments, if this country has to remain united. You cannot go on — having centralised powers here — controlling everything. Today, the economic policy is forcibly foisted on the people. No country has an economic policy of selling away the country's interests to the foreigners. Important companies in my State are being sold away and closed down and I cannot say anything. Even in Uttar Pradesh, a big company had been closed down and nobody can say anything. I know that Shri Manohar Joshi is not happy. As the Minister of Heavy Industries, this is what is happening. I am sure, he will agree with me. Shri Ram Naik is also not happy with that.

Now, the State Governments are just sitting like that. You do everything here and we cannot have any say. But we have our obligations to the people. Just for the sake of having the centralised power, you are exercising your power here and you are taking the States for granted. But I have my aspirations. Shri Sangma has his aspirations. People of different States have different problems and they have special issues. What is to be done for this? Dictats are being given from here; there is no money and there is no resources for the States.

The ridiculous state of the situation is this. Huge public sector undertakings are being closed down by the Central Government and what does it say? It asks the State Governments to purchase and run them. This is the ridiculous state of the situation. Has it become a joke? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (SANGRUR) : What is the relevance of his speech with the Resolution? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : With all respects, probably, I would say that he had been sleeping.

Therefore, it is important that there has to be a proper devolution — whether you call it autonomy, whether you call it proper Centre-State relations, whether you call it proper decentralisation or whatever you may call it. It cannot be resisted altogether.

Therefore, I sympathise with the people of Jammu and Kashmir primarily. But they must also not make demands, which are not possible to concede. It will not be good for the country and it will not be good for them also. So, at least, we

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

want that a proper discussion be held. The Parliament should have been taken into confidence much earlier, by the Government. A sincere effort should have been made on this.

We do not know what kind of discussion is being contemplated by the hon. Prime Minister. But we feel that 1975 Agreement can provide a good launching pad and it can provide a good basis. This Government should reiterate that article 370 will continue with full vigour. That is the very basis of the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India. Whatever be the discussion and whatever be the autonomy, that has to be within the Indian Union and that has to be within the Indian Constitution. It cannot be outside the framework of Indian Union.

The other thing which is very important is the development of Jammu and Kashmir. Development of that State should be accelerated. This is the crux of the matter. People do not want autonomy for the sake of autonomy. They want it because that would help in the development of the State, in meeting the needs of their areas and in meeting the needs of the people. They are clamouring for autonomy not just for some legal provisions. We want equal opportunities to be given to this State. Even Public Distribution System is not functioning well there. Employment opportunities have to be created. Measures have to be taken to accelerate the pace of development. We call it a paradise. But tourism has suffered because of neglect. There are many areas, like infrastructure, which needs our attention. You all know this.

We do not subscribe to the extent of the demand that they have made in their Resolution. We are against going back to the pre-1953 position. I am happy that this has given us an opportunity to discuss the question of Centre-State relations all over the country. Maybe the problems are a little different in other States from the problems of Jammu and Kashmir. We are conceding that article 370 should continue. That gives them a special position. Let there be transparency and let there be sincerity of approach and let it not be only for public consumption. If this Government believes in this, let it undertake a proper study. They used to speak about Sarkaria Commission. What had happened to that? They are not speaking about Sarkaria Commission and its recommendations any more. Even in the Sarkaria Commission Report, there are many grey areas. We are not fully satisfied with that Report. But a beginning can be made. It talks about article 356, devolution of financial resources etc. I am sure every State wants some kind of financial autonomy. If you kindly study the representations of the State Governments to the Planning Commission and the Finance Commission, whether it is BJP Government or Shiv Sena Government or Congress Government or Left Front Government, you will find that their demands are same and even the language is same. There

are all very serious issues. I am happy that the House is taking up this issue with all seriousness. I have the privilege of knowing Shri L.K. Advani for the last thirty years. I am sure that an eminent person like Shri L.K. Advani will give proper response to this, not guided by the old RSS link or the continuing RSS link. ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Advani is not touchy about RSS. Why are you so touchy about RSS? He is not touchy. He is enjoying it. Why are you upset over it? It is not he, but the Prime Minister, who said that RSS is his soul. The hon. Minister did not say it. I am sure he shares that soul also. He does not want to be a soul-less Home Minister.

Therefore, Sir, this is a matter on which we expect a proper response from this Government. I must again express my serious objection to the fact that the Government did not come out with a Motion itself and make a *suo motu* statement in which case it would have been a much more meaningful discussion. We are here only giving our views without knowing the Government's response. I am happy that the BJP spokesperson has also come now. Let us hope that tomorrow there shall be no other misleading newspaper report.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Sir, let us take it up tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Tomorrow we have another discussion listed under Rule 193.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, serious discussions have been held on this subject and a lot of us here have spoken well. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should be given an opportunity to speak. I am not making it an issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Major Parties should be given chance first.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I have not much to speak. *(Interruptions)* You please give him a chance to speak.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO : As per the practice of the House, I should have been given a chance....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Next is your turn.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Hon. Mr. Speaker Sir,

while the Jammu and Kashmir issue is of international importance, even then it has been deliberately blown out of proportion. We would not like to pinpoint the mistakes, wrong policy of any particular government in today's discussion. Our few leaders have hinted as to why the proposal of autonomy was brought forward. Shri Somnath Chatterjee and many other friends have hinted at it. The issue of autonomy which made a demand for separate Constitution, Judiciary. Abolishment of the post of Governor and also asked for a separate Prime Minister for the State was first raised in 1953. Mr. Home Minister Sir, should not we consider, seriously in providing all other rights except the above subjects to the people of Kashmir. Because the National Conference party which has got the proposal passed is also one of the components of NDA government. Shri Farookh Abdullah is a patriot. There is no two opinion about it. He is with India. You have lauded his speech but if you go through the proceedings of the State Assembly, you would be surprised to think as to how such things crept into his mind. Shri Farookh Abdullah, who is not only considered a leader of the State but of the country as well, said that had he been in Pakistan he would have been the Prime Minister there. How did he say such things after being swayed away by emotion? Would you not consider as to why such things came into his mind? Of course, we would like to tell him about the fate of the Prime Minister of Pakistan. We all know what happened to two previous Prime Ministers of that country. But why such things came into his mind that had he been there he would have been the Prime Minister there. To me, rather he could have become the Prime Minister of India. It is our wish and desire for him that he may become the Prime Minister of the country, but why such emotional outburst happened. It happened because it has been always said that the N.D.A. is against abolishing article 370 of the Constitution. But whenever any top leader of the Sangh Parivar or your Party has spoken, he has made it clear that Article 370 would be scrapped once it gets a clear majority. You must clarify it in your reply because once the issue has been raised at international level. Pakistan would get a better opportunity to discuss the issue and pressurise India by saying that the people of Kashmir do not want to live in India. Though this question has been raised in Lok Sabha today but there might be discussion over it at international level. To avoid this situation you should clearly state that your party gives up the demand for the abolishment of Article 370 and it should remain in the form as it is. You should also add this in your answer. Many Ministers and leaders have expressed different views. Hon. Shri Tripathijee was saying right now that it is the Individual's viewpoint. My suggestion and view is that please do not try to experiment with Kashmir at political level. Many other places of the country can be selected for this. Please do not say in an experimental way about the views of Hon. Prime Minister or Home Minister on the autonomy proposal of Kashmir. You may say it even if we are absent by going

through newspaper reports. What transpired between you people. But suspicion is there because Shri Farookh Abdullah introduced the proposal in the Legislative Assembly on 20th of June and discussion was started. On the 22nd of June, he arrived New Delhi and some discussion must have taken place between him and the Prime Minister or Home Minister. What sort of discussion was held at that time and how the proposal would have come up in N.D.A. at some time and if it is not so then what is the reason. On the other hand the militants have not one but four groups. You have released persons belonging to one group and another group has declared ceasefire. We would like to question the wisdom of welcoming it after your reply. It means that we are welcoming it because our security forces or the Government failed to ensure the security of Kashmir. Please clarify it. If they have surrendered, we welcome the move. We feel that people of Kashmir feel more threatened by our Government than the militants. We are coming to this conclusion because the problems are being created, such feelings are being generated. Yesterday also you were saying that whatever is passed by the Assembly, would be respected, and we had just asked whether the proposal for division of the State, if passed by the Assembly would also be welcomed by you, accepted by you? Would you accept the proposal passed by the Assembly? So far as pre-1953 autonomy is concerned, the Samajwadi Party is not ready for that at any cost, and does not accept it. But as Shri Somnath ji said that the people of Kashmir have their feelings as well as problems other states also have problems all of which should be solved with a view to protect the unity of the country by providing them freedom under the Constitution so that the country may progress further.

So we want you to answer some 2-3 questions. The first is that the Sangh said that Kashmir should be divided into three parts, though you denied saying that. Had you told yesterday that Sangh Parivar would not do so, we would not have said anything today. Chatterjee babu just said that you should not do anything under the pressure of Sangh Parivar; because the Sangh Parivar has reportedly said that Jammu-Kashmir should be divided into three parts. You have said that it cannot happen, so you should make it clear on behalf of Sangh Parivar also that Jammu-Kashmir would not be divided into three parts nor is it a demand from their side. A lot of problems can be solved if the misunderstanding which is created among us and in the country is cleared by you. As far as the statement of Shri Farooq Abdullah is concerned, I do not understand why he wants to be talked and listened to when his party itself is a component of the government. He is complaining that you are not listening to him. Don't you want to solve the problem? You see the voice has come from various quarters that autonomy should be granted, it should be taken into consideration. I do not want to reiterate it. Scindia Sahab, Sangma Sahab and Somnath ji also voiced it, somehow or

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

the other they all supported it but we did not do so. We have supported it to the extent that if some autonomy or some rights are granted for the development of Kashmir or Tamil Nadu, Assam, Punjab or other areas then we are in agreement with it.

Mr. Sangma raised a question. We feel apprehended about it that Prime Minister is going to America. But there is a news that there would be some solution of J&K problem through this visit. If there is solution, Lok Sabha is in session and during its session our opinion should also be taken into account. If they have an agenda to solve the problem of Jammu-Kashmir and the dispute over border, they should put it before the country. And, we would like it to clarify during the session of Lok Sabha. Another thing, we have heard is that we shall put our signature on CTBT. If signatures are not made at this time you will meet Clinton and Prime Minister will promise to sign on it as there are such apprehensions and discussions. We would like a reply from the Prime Minister or from you during the session of Lok Sabha whether CTBT is being signed or not. Whether some talks are being held or not to find out a solution in connection with Jammu-Kashmir border or Indian border. This thing is also in the air that Mr. Clinton has given time upto September and asked for a reply for this whether some solution comes out or not by September. India is being subjected to such an ordeal. If it is not like that today is Vijay Divas and we pay tributes to our those brave soldiers who have protected our borders. But it is a matter of pity that there has been no denial in this connection so far from the Government. Mr. Clinton claimed on 22nd March in the presence of all Parliament Members that Pakistan had withdrawn its army at America's behest. A denial should have been issued by the Government that Pakistan army was repulsed by our army and not at America behest. We are scared that there is pressure, either from Sangh's or from international side. Therefore, I request you to clarify these points in your speech. In addition our opinion is that this issue cannot be left out pending for a long time in the name of holding talks.

With these words, I express my thanks and conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to take part in this very important and very significant discussion in the Parliament of India. It is a remarkable and unique discussion. Not only the people of Jammu and Kashmir, but the people all over India are looking towards Parliament when it is discussing the Resolution adopted by the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on 27th of June this year.

Sir, a sense of alienation has fast developed in the minds of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. On 8th July, on the invitation of Dr. Farooq Abdullah, I participated in a seminar on the Report of the State Autonomy Committee. I had the occasion of meeting some *shopwallas* and people near the Dal Lake. I was totally distressed to find a sense of despair and frustration in the minds of those people who are not attached to any political party. Unless we go deep into the roots of the problem, I am afraid that the future of the Kashmir Valley will be facing very serious problems. Of course, today, we salute the bravery and stupendous sacrifice of our soldiers who defended the lofty peaks of the Himalayas in Kargil. Sir, what is the reason for this sense of alienation in the minds of the people of Jammu and Kashmir? From some quarters, there is a criticism about the pronouncement of the word 'State autonomy'. I belong to a Dravidian Movement. We cherish the concept of State autonomy and decentralisation. Shri Somnath Chatterjee, when he was speaking, criticised this Government that this Government has not bothered to think about the Sarkaria Commission. Sir, our manifesto is the manifesto of the National Democratic Alliance. In that manifesto, we have very clearly stated that it is high time and therefore, "we shall appoint a Commission to review the Constitution of India not only in the light of experiences and development since 1996 but indeed of the entire post-independence period and to make suitable recommendations. We are convinced that there is a clear case for devolution of more financial and administrative powers and functions to the State. We will take suitable steps to ensure harmonious Centre-State Relations in the light of recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission and also effect decentralisation right upto the grassroot levels by activating and involving panchayats and local bodies". So, in the light of the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission, the National Democratic Alliance has made a commitment for decentralisation.

Maharaja Hari Singh, on 26th October, 1947 signed the Instrument of Accession which was accepted by the then Governor-General Lord Mountbatten. After four days, on 30th October, 1947, he issued an order appointing Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah as the Head of the Emergency Administration and appointed a 23-Member Emergency Commission pending the formation of the interim government. On 5th March, by another proclamation issued, the Maharaja decided to replace the Emergency Administration by a popular interim government to provide for its powers, duties and functions pending the formation of a fully democratic situation.

Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah was appointed Prime Minister. Before October 26, 1947, Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah was launching a mass agitation, the Quit Kashmir Movement. His National Conference was the most outstanding outfit of the Valley. He was imprisoned. He was undergoing

imprisonment. Maharaja Hari Singh realised one basic factor that unless Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah decides and supports the move, things will not be all right, when he signed the Instrument of Accession. For the people of Kashmir, Sheikh Abdullah was the tallest leader, a mass leader. For these reasons, Sheikh Abdullah was made the Prime Minister. Sheikh Abdullah, without any oscillation, threw his lot with the Government of India. I would like to quote his marvellous inaugural speech in 1951 in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly. This is what Sheikh Abdullah said and I quote :

"I may be forgiven if I feel proud that once again in the history of the State, our people have reached peak of achievement through what I might call the classical Kashmiri genus for synthesis, born of toleration and mutual respect. Throughout the long tale of our history, the highest pinnacle of our achievement has been scaled when religious bigotry and intolerance ceased to cramp us, and we have breathed the wider air of brotherhood and mutual understanding."

"From my experience of the last four years, it is my considered judgement that the presence of Kashmir in the Union of India has been the Major factor in stabilising relations between the Hindus and Muslims of India. Gandhiji was not wrong when he uttered words before his death which paraphrase : "I lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help"

So, Sir, Sheikh Abdullah was such a great personality. What was the reward he received for such a benevolent gesture of his to this country? Of course on the 26th January, 1950, the President of India made the first Constitution Order, 1950. Under article 370 of the Constitution of India, it confirms strictly to the Instrument of Accession. Then, there was the Agreement of July 1952. What happened? The blackest day in the history of Jammu and Kashmir was the 8th August, 1953. Sheikh Abdullah's Government was dismissed and he was imprisoned. For twenty long years, he had to suffer in jail. So, what is the root cause for this sense for alienation in the minds of the people of Jammu and Kashmir? His Government was dismissed. The promises which were given were not fulfilled. He was kept in the jail. He was imprisoned. After nearly 22 years, when the Government at the Centre, realising the fact that they could not carry on with the Quisling Governments they did set up in the Kashmir Valley, invited Sheikh Abdullah. And Sheikh Abdullah was invited. Another Agreement in 1975 was signed. Shri Madhavrao Scindia quoted that here. Sheikh Abdullah wrote a letter on the 11th February, 1975 to the then Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi.

Sheikh Abdullah said :

"It is my view that the Constitution relationship between the Centre and the State of Jammu and Kashmir should

be what it was in 1953. Nevertheless, I am happy to say that the agreed conclusions provide a good basis for my cooperation at the political level and for Centre State relationship.

"It will be my constant endeavour to ensure that the State of Jammu and Kashmir continues to make its contribution to the sovereignty, integrity and progress of the Nation. By the same token, I am sure that the Central Government would cooperate with the State Government fully in respect of measures to be undertaken by the State Government to further the progress and welfare of the people of the State as an integral part of India."

That was the letter of Sheikh Abdullah dated 11th February, 1975.

The agreed conclusions of the Kashmir Accord are :

"The State of Jammu and Kashmir, which is a constituent unit of the Union of India, shall in its relations with the Union continue to be covered by article 370 of the Constitution of India.

"The residuary powers of the legislation — it is very important — shall remain with the State".

"The following matters relating to elections, namely the superintendence, direction and control of elections by the Election Commission of India, eligibility for inclusion in the electoral rolls without discrimination, adult suffrage and composition of the Legislative Council, being matters specified in section 138, 139, 140 and 50 of the Constitution of the State of Jammu and Kashmir."

The important factor is that the then hon. Prime Minister made a speech on 24th February, 1975 on the floor of the House. There, the Prime Minister of the day, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, congratulated Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and said:

"Hon. Members are aware that Sheikh Abdullah had played a notable part in the freedom struggle and in the accession of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to the Indian Union. ...He reaffirmed that the accession of the State to the Indian Union was final and irrevocable. His main area of concern was about the legal and constitutional changes made after August, 1953."

I want to clear my position and my party's position on this demand. I do not agree with the demand of going back to 1953 or to retain the pre-1953 position. For that, I would like to express what Sheikh Abdullah stated on this. I quote from the statement of the former Prime Minister :

"Sheikh Abdullah was very anxious that to start with, the constitutional relationship between the State and the

[Shri Vaiko]

Centre should be as it was in 1953 when he was in power. It was explained to him that the clock could not be put back in this manner. Mirza Afzal Beg pressed for the transfer of provisions relating to Fundamental Rights to the State Constitution, the removal of the supervision and control of the Election Commission of India over elections to the State Legislature, and the modification of article 356 to require the State Government's concurrence before imposing President's Rule in the State. It was not found possible to agree to any of these proposals. I must say to the credit of Sheikh Abdullah that despite his strong views on these issues, he has accepted the Agreed Conclusions.

"The manner in which differences with Sheikh Abdullah have been resolved shows the vitality of the functioning of our democracy."

Sir, I would like to congratulate this Government for the discussion because in 1947 in the Assembly of Tamil Nadu, the DMK Government under the leadership of Dr. Karunanidhi passed a Resolution on State Autonomy. That Resolution was a unanimous Resolution in the State Assembly of Tamil Nadu. That Resolution was sent here. Before that, a Committee was appointed by the Tamil Nadu Government under the chairmanship of Justice Rajamannar; Justice Chandra Reddy and Vice-Chancellor of Chennai University, A.L. Mudaliar, were the other two members of the Committee. Sir, that Report was sent to the Union Government. The Resolution was sent here but that Resolution was not even placed before the Cabinet.

That was the attitude of the Congress Government. That Resolution of the State Assembly was not even placed before the Cabinet by the then Congress Government. It was not discussed in Parliament. But today we are discussing the Resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly here. The Prime Minister and the Home Minister have said that they are ready for a discussion.

Sir, I may not agree with the views expressed by my friends. I may not agree with the views expressed by Shri Madhavrao Scindia or Shri Somnath Chatterjee, but, as Voltaire has said, democracy means : "I may not agree with him. But I will fight till the last to defend the basic right of expression of my opponent". Discussion is the cornerstone of democracy. The three 'Ds' - Discussion, Debate and Dialogue - give strength to the fourth 'D' - Democracy. Therefore, we are discussing here the Resolution adopted by the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

Sir, this is a very grave issue. We are for State autonomy and more power. But the time has changed. Therefore, I would appeal to my friends in the National Conference not to demand to get back to pre-1953 position. I belong to a movement which demanded a separate country. I belong to a movement which

demanding a separate Dravida Nadu, under the leadership of Arignar Anna. I joined that movement in my student days. But when the Chinese cannot roared in the Himalayan border, it is our leader, late lamented Arignar Anna who said : "We give up the secessionist demand; we give up the separatist demand". We demanded a separate country in 1960 and 1961. Then, we have given it up. Now, we are proud to be citizens of India. I feel proud to be a citizen of India, the tallest democracy, with the confidence that the aspirations of the regions could be definitely fulfilled. India is a very vast country. But we could retain our identity, the individuality, the originality of different cultures, different languages and different civilisations.

Sir, our leader, late lamented Arignar Anna, when he became the Chief Minister of the State of Tamil Nadu, said :

"Nor am I happy of being the Chief Minister of our State under a Constitution which on paper is federal, but in actual practice tends to get more and more centralised...."

True, a sense of determination at the appropriate stage is all important. But this should be preceded by educating the public on federalism itself. ...

If, by being in office, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (D.M.K.) is able to bring to the notice of the thinking public that the present Constitution is a sort of Diarchy by the back door, that would be a definite contribution indeed to the political world. ...

We have a federal structure. That is why the framers of the Constitution wanted a federal structure and not a unitary structure, because many political philosophers have pointed out, India is so vast - in fact it has been described as a sub-continent - the mental health is so varied, the traditions so different, the history so varied that there cannot be a steel framed unitary structure here....

He further said :

"Lift it up to the highest political arena and allow it free play; make the Federation become a real Federation."

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : But the book from which you are quoting has your photograph on its backside.

SHRI VAIKO : This is our document on State Autonomy.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (AKOLA) : Is this a sermon to the B.J.P.?

SHRI VAIKO : No, this is not a sermon. Times have changed. That is the point. We have changed our conception. We have changed our ideology. That is why, I appeal, on the floor of this House, to my friends in the National Conference

and to Dr. Farooq Abdullah not to demand to get back to pre-1953 position.

Sir, it is very painful for me to mention here that some political parties — I do not want to name them — criticised the Government. It is they who had instigated Dr. Farooq Abdullah to adopt this Resolution. It is a sinister attitude. ...*(Interruptions)* It appeared in the newspapers. Then, the very same people attacked the Government that it has rejected the Resolution.

19.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, what about time?

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, I have not gone into the Report at all. I made an elaborate study of the Report. It is really a serious discussion. It is a discussion on the Report itself because the Report was adopted on the floor of the Assembly of J&K. They adopted a Resolution on the Report.

MR. SPEAKER : We have allotted two hours. The other hon. Members are also to speak. Otherwise, it would be difficult.

SHRI VAIKO : It is a very important discussion. I have to express my views on this. ...*(Interruptions)* All the States are clamouring for more powers. I would like to tell my friends, particularly Shri Somnath Chatterjee, who say that nothing has been done by this Government. Steps have been taken by this Government in the right direction regarding devolution of financial powers. After the Report of the Tenth Finance Commission, 29 per cent of collected taxes will go to the States. The Report of the Eleventh Finance Commission has also been submitted. Now, there is another increase of four per cent. We are not satisfied with that. But a right step has been taken in the right direction by this Government.

A Constitution Review Commission has been appointed by the Government in view of the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission. ...*(Interruptions)* What is the danger in that? I do not understand what is dangerous. The Congress Party, which was holding the reins of power for nearly 45 years, was playing with the destiny of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. That is the root cause for all these problems. In 1953, the Sheikh Abdullah Government was dismissed. After 31 years, when Dr. Farooq Abdullah was taking his morning tea, he came to know just a few hours earlier that his Government has been dismissed. That was the reward he got. I do remember that when I met Sheikh Abdullah in 1980, I was a new Member of Parliament. I was very anxious to see him. In those days, when he was in jail, we used to admire him like anything. He was called the Lion of Kashmir. I went to him. I was a new Member. He showed great affection to me even though I was a new Member. At that time, he uttered words which I can never forget. He said, "My dear young friend, do

not forget one thing that there is no place either for friendship or gratitude in the dictionary of Congress." These were the words used by him. The Accord was signed in 1975. Within six months, a No-confidence Motion was tabled by the Congress Party against Sheikh Abdullah Government. Then, what had happened? The Governor did not agree. The Assembly was dissolved. An election took place and he was elected.

Now, my point is that you have to win the confidence of those people. Of course, there is a demand from Ladakh region. There is a demand from Jammu region. There should be regional autonomy in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. I agree with you. But we do not agree to this demand of getting back to the pre-1953 position. There are so many recommendations. I would like to quote the following from page 73 of that Report :

"We have noticed above that in the eagerness to create an image of cementing close relations, what followed 1954 is a series of Constitution (Application to K&K) Orders numbering 42 till now which were not conceived at any point of time, either in 1950 or in 1952 or even later in May, 1954.

"...Among the changes brought about, the most important were restricting the powers of the legislature of the State, extension of powers of Union Parliament, application to the State of financial provisions of the Constitution of India, provisions relating to emergency, All India services, superintendence, direction and control of elections of the State Legislature and several other matters."

Between 1954 and 1975, there have been so many Presidential Orders from the Central Government, trampling upon the rights of the State. This is the menace created by the Congress Government here. This is the reason for the sense of alienation developing in the minds of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. After 1954, after Sheikh Abdullah's Government was dismissed, between 1954 and 1975 so many orders from the Central Government, encroaching into the domain of the State Legislature, have been issued. This is the basic factor.

I do not agree to all the demands and recommendations of the report. I do not accept most of the recommendations. But, definitely, there is a case for discussion. We cannot slam the door on their face. There are areas, issues which have to be reconsidered. Some of the orders, which have been passed by the Central Government, have to be reconsidered. For example, all matters under finance, trade and commerce are now applicable, even the rudiments of the financial autonomy have completely been swept away. It is true.

[Shri Vaiko]

At the same time, special provisions of article 249, dealing with the Parliament's power of legislation in the State List, have been extended to the State of Jammu and Kashmir quite surreptitiously in a brazen and clandestine manner by misinterpreting and misusing article 370. Who has done this havoc? This had been done by the Government at the Centre; those who were holding the powers at that time.

Sir, I do not agree with some of the recommendations. But on page 94 of the report it is stated :

Changes from 1954 onwards:

"Particularly in 60s, they're so rapid that things started changing even beyond recognition. Encroachment on State jurisdiction was obvious, thereby reducing the State autonomy to a mockery."

Who has done this? It has not been done by the BJP Government, but it was done by the Congress Government. They were stabbed behind the back. They were betrayed. Sheikh Abdullah was betrayed. This is the reason for the sense of alienation growing in the minds of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sir, I do not agree to the demand of Jammu & Kashmir Assembly Resolution regarding jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, regarding Comptroller & Auditor General, and regarding the sphere of Election Commission. In the summary of the recommendations in the Resolution they demand, 'matters in the Union List not connected with the three subjects of Defence, External Affairs and Communications and are ancillary thereto but made applicable should be excluded from the application to the State.' This is for discussion.

I do not say only Defence, External Affairs and Communications should be vested with the Centre. But there are some areas, for example, during Emergency when we were imprisoned in the dark cells under detention in MISA, where State subjects were encroached upon. They were swallowed by the Centre. From the State List they were annexed to the Concurrent List, education, agriculture, for example. Here they have demanded, 'that all modifications made in article 246, in its application to the State subsequent to the 1950 Order, should be rescinded. This is about the subject matter of law made by Parliament and the Legislature.

They have demanded, which I do not accept, that the fundamental rights part should be deleted. They say, 'a separate chapter on fundamental rights be included in the State Constitution.'

Sir, there is nothing wrong in discussing it. Again about the Union, they have demanded article 72 (1) should be made non-applicable to the State. I do not agree to it because under this article, powers are given to the President to grant pardon,

to suspend, remit, or commute the sentence. This is given under article 72. Now, they want that these powers should not be there. We do not agree to this.

Likewise, they want to do away with article 72 (3), article 133, 134, 135, 136 and 138 of the Constitution, which deal with the powers of the Supreme Court and the rules of the Courts. I do not agree with them. At the same time, regarding Finance, Property, Contracts, and Suits, this matter could be discussed between the State representatives and the Union Government, as agreed to during the talks in 1952. That discussion could take place on those lines. But regarding the Services under the Union and the State, that is All India Services, I do not agree to their demand. And regarding the special provisions relating to certain clauses. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, you have taken more than 30 minutes.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, I will take only three or four minutes.

Sir, they want that the application of article 338, 339, 340, 341 and 342 to the State should be omitted and corresponding provisions should be made in their State Constitution.

Regarding the amendment of the Constitution of India, that is article 368, they want that it should not apply to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. That is their demand. I do not agree to that. But, Sir, there are some areas where there could be an understanding and an agreement, and, therefore, the discussion is very much essential.

Sir, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have stood for the unity and integrity of India. Dr. Farooq Abdullah, risking his life, facing the threat from the extremists when cross-border terrorism was very much there and the insurgency instigated by ISI elements, had stood for our country and he said, 'Till my lifetime, I am an Indian. I am for India.' At the same time, what has happened all these years, for four decades? So, when he speaks, it is not the lone voice of Dr. Farooq Abdullah. This is my feeling. This is the voice of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the Muslim people.

Therefore, when they have placed such demands, we may not agree with all of their demands but the discussion is very essential in democracy. The discussion has started in Parliament. The discussion, right now, has started on the floor of Lok Sabha. Let the discussion continue. Sir, I would appeal to my friends in the National Conference that they can place their views before the Constitution Review Commission. There could be Chief Ministers' Conference on this. This matter could be discussed in the Inter-State Council. There are so many forums. Therefore, this discussion is a right signal. When the people of Jammu and Kashmir, risking even their lives at the

gun point of the terrorists, stand for the unity of the country, we have to respect and honour the sentiments of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and also the commitment we have made under the Instrument of Accession and article 370.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR (BALIA, UTTAR PRADESH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to conclude within 5 to 10 minutes. Many a disappointing speeches have been made here. We have failed to understand the seriousness of the problem. We have to remember two things – the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government is at the Centre and Shri Lal Krishna Advani is the Minister of Home Affairs. Only these two people can either improve the situation or allow it to worsen further. They may allow it to become more complicated. Dr. Farooq Abdullah is the Chief Minister, sitting in Srinagar. Nothing substantial can go past if these people are ignored. And, which is why I said that this problem cannot be solved only by mentioning as to what the RSS's thinking is or what Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee says. But I feel sad for certain things. My friend Shri Madhavrao Scindia is not sitting here. He had started this debate. He tried to establish that everything was fine in Congress's regime and all the catastrophe has occurred only during the present regime. I am not telling anything secret. You were the ruling party during the period 1991 to 1996, when a proposal to divide Kashmir came into the tray. A conference was held somewhere near Washington, which was sponsored by the State Department. An institution named 'Centre for Policy Research' is there, which organised it and some delegates from India, went there. Some persons from Azad Kashmir and Pakistan as well as some intellectuals from America also attended the conference. It was suggested in that conference that Kashmir should be divided into three parts. A friend of mine was also there, who expressed his desire to talk to me on Kashmir issue. I asked him as to who were the others likely to join us in our discussion. He told me the names of one of his friends. When I went to his place, I found two of his friends already present there. Advaniji, you will be surprised to know that they belonged to your party and they are still holding important posts. I talked to them but the proposal had come from the government's side. Priyaranjan Dasji, it was at that time when you people were in power, that both these friends gave their approval to proposal. I asked them whether they knew its implications. I told them that approval to that proposal would imply our acceptance of self-determination. It would imply our approval to Two-Nation theory and it would further mean the ouster of Muslims from the country forever. Thereafter, we stopped our discussion. At that time, the then Minister had promised to me that he would give the report. But, I have not got that report till today. Advaniji, please donot mind if I say that R.S.S. has not

supported this demand innocently. RSS has got its own plans, its goals and its own target, and in order to achieve it, they need support of the people for Two-Naiton theory in this country.

Pakistan accepted the Two-Nation Theory and it became an Islamic state. If this Two-Nation theory is not accepted here in India, we are unlikely to have a Hindu State. You cannot understand it. I beg your pardon, but being a student of political science I want to tell you that the senior and intellectual RSS people have supported this thought and presently related report is in limited circulation in Delhi. It is being printed and distributed among certain people. When I asked for its copy, I was told that it is under print. But I myself have seen that report in the possession of one of my senior friends and it does not contain the name of any Indian, it instead reads – Study Group on Kashmir and all names are American in that report. Those people have visited India and met the people in your government. They met Farooq Abdullah and some other senior person.

My friend Shri Mulayam Singh has expressed his apprehensions which holds water, though his language might be little harsh. Mr. Home Minister, please do not take my words otherwise, rather you think over it and find the difference according. The Hindustan Times in its Editorial has published today an article on such institutions, which is titled – 'Rise of the Robber Intellectuals'. I do not want to say anything in this respect. These Robber intellectuals are circulating these reports in the country. This is not happening uncassarily. I am sorry, Priyaranjan Dasji, but when you started your liberalisation policy in 1991, I had said even at that time in this very House that, today you are approving interventions in economic affairs, be prepared to approve the same in political affairs tomorrow. Today, such open intervention as mentioned in Indian political affairs is quite evident and has become a common phenomenon.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with due respect and humbleness I would like to say that if we keep on creating such disputes and controversies and if we keep on fighting then it won't be possible for us to fight and stand against those forces. We are in deep trouble. I know Mr. Farooq Abdullah. You have ignored him and made him look helpless. It was not fair on your part to side-line him and carry on your talks with Hurriyat. You also did not lay any condition for them to work within framework of the constitution which was again not fair on your part. Nobody sees any fault in yours or Atalji's statements. Your fault was only that you should have frankly told them that you do not support the separatist tendencies, which were in that proposal – but you did not say so. When it was said that they would consider the proposal, a person like Mr. Vaiko is saying that he is not opposed to it. Your statements also do not give any indication in this respect. This is a complicated

[Shri Chandrashekhar]

matter and the statements of Home Minister and Prime Minister may further complicate it and infact, it has already become complicated. I would also say that some voices have come from Chandigarh. I beg your pardon, Mr. Vaiko, but some voices also came from Chennai and from Guwahati in Assam. This is the matter and, excuse me, Somnathji, I have got lots of respect for you - yet, the country may land in great trouble if these tendencies are encouraged in the name of states autonomy or economic Autonomy. It is repeatedly said and, I know, that I am going to be criticised for saying this — but how can you call it a federal government? This is a unitary government, a union government. A federal government consists of those autonomous states which accept that federation. It was very casual, when some intellectuals and smoe politicians spoke of this federation. I have been hearing about this kind of federation almost everyday, but we ought to be more careful and thoughtful while using these words or else it might be fatal and life threatening for us in coming future, remember it.

Mr. Vaiko, I agree with you. The states should be given more autonomy in financial matters, but they are getting financial assistance from foreign countries today and pressurising the central government to counter-guarantee it. Your demand counter guarantee from the Union Government but you reserve the right to get foreign financial help with you. Further-more, you talk of so-called disintegration and disparity in the country. Where will the financially poor states go for such help? Lt me know one thing. If you go to the planning commission seeking help for the Tamilnadu's financially weaker areas, how, at all, will it provide you that help? What will happen to Leh-Laddakh, Jaisalmer and Barmer? Shri Sangma ji has left the House, he was also expressing same views, yet he always emphasised the need to give the highest possible level of financial help to the North-Eastern States. I know there may be various administrative shortcomings. I do not want to go into that. For that, we all are equally responsible. But, our constitution was framed after much deliberations and discussion and the same constitution is governing the country for the last fifty years. Try to remove the shortcomings. We should refrain ourselves

from fanning the feelings of people to get the constitution amended—that, too, just for our personal interests.

I give an example. My friends should not that I am supporting the government. The Government has said one thing some time back that there should be a natural calamity fund. If there is natural calamity anywhere the Union Government will provide the money. The State governments have said as to how the Central Government will retain the money because it is distributed among the State Governments and when there is natural calamity the Central Government asks to come and take the money as a loan. Then, there is a hue and cry that the calamity is there, they are giving loans, not doing help. On the one hand, you distribute the money and you say on the other that the centre does not provide the money, this is not the way to run the country but this is the way to lead the country to havoc. I would like to tell you that every question which was raised was dealt with mutual differences and mutual concealment and reservation except one or two speeches out of all. I would say that this is woeful and gloomy period and in such circumstances. We should sink our differences and work. I do agree with you to this and please remember that if you do not talk to Mr. Farooq Abdullah, you will find no one to talk to you in Kashmir. Therefore, it is not necessary for us to disagree with him and if Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Mr. Lal Krishan Advani do not talk, I cannot send Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Mulayam Singh and Shri Dasmunshiji for this act even after being desirous of sending them. Today's politics is facts based politics. Today, there is no need to deliver lengthy speeches by ignoring realities. It is a sad co-incidence. I want to conclude my speech by quoting a 'sher' of Shri Firaq :-

"In khandharon mein kahin kuchh diye hain tute huye,
Inhin se kaam chalao badi udas hai raat."

19.25 hrs.

Then Lok Sabha adjourned to reassemble at 11.00 o'clock on Thursday 27th February, 2000/5 Shravan 1922 (Saka).

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Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)

Wednesday, July 26, 2000, Sravana 4, 1922 (Saka)

Col./line	for	Read
18/7(from below)	YOGI ADITYA NATH	YOGI ADITYA NATH
47/14(Fom below)	455	456
97/5	(d)	(c)
97/7	(e)	(d)