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Tuesday, July 7, 1998
Asadha 16, 1920 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Second Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)

(Vol. III contains Nos. 11 to 20)

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CORRIGENDA TO LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Tuesday, July 7, 1998/Asadha 16,1920 (Saka)

....

Col./Line	For	Read
(ii)/28	Shri S.Mallikarjunaiah	Shri S,Mallikarjuniah
(iii)/12	Shri B.M.Mensikai	Shri B.M.Mensinkai
(iii)/16	Shri Kantilal Buria	Shri Kantilal Bhuria
21/4	hri Manikrao Hdlya Gavit	Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit
41/2 (from below) 184/18 231/2 (from below) 263/16 (from below) 270/22	Shri Gordhanbhai Javia	Shri Gordhanbhai Jadavbhai Javia
45/25	996	696
71/15	Shri Bikram Deo Keshari	Shri Bikram Keshari Deo
167/16	Shri R.Sambasiva	Shri R.Sambasiva Rao
179/9	Shri Francico Sardinha	Shri Francisco Sardinha
212/12 (from below)	Dr.Sanjay Sinha	Dr. Sanjay Sinh
233/16	Shri Madavrao Scindia	Shri Madhavrao Scindia
289/7-8	Shri Madal Lal Khuran	Shri Madan Lal Khurana
293/12 375/20	Shri Basu Deb Achariya Shri Basudev Acharya	Shri Basu Deb Acharia
322/11 (from below)	Shri Dalit Ezhilmlalai	Shri Dalit Ezhimalai
330/19	Major General Bhuvan Chandra Khankduri,AVSM	Major General Bhuvan Chandra Khanduri,AVSM
338/25	Shri K.D. Sultanpur	Shri K.D.Sultanpuri
437/11 (from below)	Shri Hiral Lal Roy	Shri Hira Lal Roy

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, July 7, 1998/Asadha 16, 1920 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Incentives to Food Processing Industries

*302. DR. *CHINTA MOHAN :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided several incentives to the food processing industries in the country to promote exports during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the value of exports made by the country during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(d) the year wise amount of investment made during each year?

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

(b) To encourage exports of the processed foods Government is providing financial assistance for the setting upexpansion, modernisation of food processing plants, for R&D, and for promotional activities, publicity, market promotion, quality control etc. In addition, in accordance with the general policy of Government for promoting exports, 100% Export Oriented Food Processing units and such units located in our Free Trade Zones, get complete customs duty exemptions on imported capital goods, intermediates, components and raw materials in accordance with the EXIM Policy in force. That policy also provides in general for upto 50% of the production of a 100% Export Oriented Unit, or a unit in the Free Trade Zone to be sold in the domestic market. Furthermore, all profits from export sales are completely free from corporate taxes.

(c) As per enclosed Statement.

(d) The following investments were approved by the Government in last 3 years:

Year	Investments (Rs. crores)
1995-96	7496
1996-97	8365
1997-98	7263

During these three years, the investment approved for establishing 100% Export Oriented Units is Rs. 1271 crores, Rs. 570 crores and Rs. 592 crores respectively.

Statement

Export of Processed Foods

(Rs. in crores)

S. No.	Product	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98*
1.	Processed Fruits and Vegetables.	491.59	473.78	745.00
2.	Animal Products.	682.58	803.59	910.00
3.	Marine Products.	3501.11	4121.36	4842.93
4.	Rice			
	(a) Basmati Rice	850.67	1247.63	1600.00
	(b) Non-Basmati Rice	3717.41	1924.72	1674.00
5.	Other Processed Foods:	1171.97	1835.92	1492.00
	(a) Ggoundnuts			
	(b) Guar Gum			
	(c) Jagger & Confectionery			
	(d) Cocoa Products			
	(e) Cereal Preparations			
	(f) Alcoholic Beverages			
	(g) Miscellaneous Preparations			
	(h) Milled Products			
	Total	10415.33	10407.00	11000.93

*Provisional

[English]

DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are giving several incentives to exporters and yet exports are not picking up. This is particularly so in the case of products like mangoes, shrimps, non-basmati rice, onions, grapes, etc., which are produced in States like Andhra Pradesh and other places. On the one hand we are giving them incentives and on the other hand producers want remunerative prices. Export houses are working day in and day out. However, in comparison to 1980, exports have fallen sharply today. What are the real reasons for this fall in exports? Would the Minister like to undertake any special drive in the Department to improve the situation?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not correct to say that exports have fallen. Rather, exports have shown an all-round growth since 1991-92. The annual growth percentage rates of exports are in the following manner. Processed foods and vegetables have grown at the rate of 31 per cent per annum since 1991-92; animal products at the rate of 25 per cent per annum; non-basmati rice at the rate of 156 per cent; other processed foods at the rate of 61 per cent; and marine products at the rate of 24 per cent per annum. So it is not correct to assume that the growth rate of exports has fallen.

But, in the case of non-Basmati rice, there has been a fall since 1995-96 and this is because of the unusually high exports worth Rs. 3717 crore during that year as compared to Rs. 340 crore in the year 1994-95. This was because of the failure of crops in the rice exporting countries.*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : What is the point in saying in rupee terms? You say, what is the export increase in dollars terms? *(Interruptions)* When there is devaluation of rupee. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

SHRI SOMPAL : I am saying in terms of percentages. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Kurien, let him complete.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I am sorry. You say in dollars terms. I do not bother to know in quantity terms. When devaluation of rupee is taking place, what is the point in saying in rupee terms?

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Kurien, let him complete.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Mr. Prime Minister, I crave your indulgence. He is misleading the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way.

SHRI SOMPAL : I am answering to the question raised by Shri Chinta Mohan. I should be allowed to complete the answer. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you may continue.

SHRI SOMPAL : These are the growth rates that have been observed. So far as hon. Member's query is concerned about what steps are being taken to encourage the export, I would like to say that we are taking several measures including policy measures to encourage investment, foreign as well as domestic investment food processing sector. It has been identified as a priority sector.

Then, we are extending certain logistic supports like financial assistance, packaging assistance, quality management, establishment of cold chains and also freezing space including freezer vessels and freezer vans from the producing areas to the export and import zones and to the importing countries. So, we have taken these steps. This is a long list of steps which we have already taken and which are on the way.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN : The reply given by the Minister is not satisfactory. He is reiterating the same thing which he said in the answer.

Sir, we have foreign Offices abroad. Most of the officers working in foreign offices are sitting idle. They are only looking after the protocol work. The Minister of Commerce and the Minister of External Affairs are sitting in the House. Can we involve these foreign officers to get more exports to India? Is it possible to call for a meeting of all these officers on the one side and the export houses on the other? Producers also wanted to get more remunerative prices. Can we involve all these agencies and see that some comprehensive mechanism is brought in?

SHRI SOMPAL : There is a continuous and regular interaction between the producers, food processing units

and our commercial and other establishments abroad including our agencies which are looking after exports including APEDA and the Ministry of Food Processing. But, there is always a room for improvement. If the hon. Member has some specific suggestion to make, I will go by it. But, there is a continuous interaction and the growth is showing that we are progressing well in this sector.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has said in his reply that the government has given many incentives to the Food Processing Industry for promoting exports which include loan facilities, tax exemption, power connections on priority basis and land at very low rates etc. But I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether those industries have fulfilled the commitments which they had made with the State and Central Governments? For instance, I would like to give an example of Punjab, where Pepsi had made many commitments with the Government regarding processing of tomato juice, tomato soup, grapes etc., but it is simply doing nothing there. The farmers who are producing tomatoes and grapes in large quantities are suffering huge loss, as their tomatoes and grapes are getting rotten and perished as usual, I would like to know the reasons as to why the commitments made by the industry have not been fulfilled? Has the Government taken any action in this regard? Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second point is that now-a-days, there is depression in sugar industry. Production has increased manifold, there is glut in the industry. Sugar mills are full with the stock of sugar and heavy amount of arrears of sugarcane growers are pending against the sugar mills. The sugar mills and the sugarcane growers both are suffering, due to more production and less sale of sugar. Our government is not exporting sugar. Through you I would like to ask the Minister that when our farmers are suffering, why the government is not exporting sugar and what is their policy in this regard?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Chandumajra wants to know that the units that had made certain commitments regarding export, whether they have fulfilled there commitment, if not then what action has been taken against them. Food Processing Ministry do not look after this work. this comes under the Ministry of Commerce. Our senior friend, hon'ble Hegde ji is present in the house and right now I do not have any information in this regard. I will collect information from Ministry of Commerce in regard to the name of the units that made commitments about export whether they fulfilled them or not and the actions taken against them, and will send the information to the hon'ble Member. As far as his statement regarding the production of fruits in large scale in Punjab is concerned, what he has said is true. But the cultivation on grapes and keenus that were being grown in large areas in the bygone years, had to be stopped because Processing Units were not set up in that area and their produce were being damped in the market. This is really a matter of deep concern and profundity. These units should have been set up there. I will collect and give him the specific information that he demanded regarding Pepsi but something certainly needs to be done in these areas. As far as the sugar is concerned, this is a subject related to the Ministry of Food. As per my information right now there is no scope for the export of sugar in the international Market because sugar is being produced in large quantity in every country and we too are producing sugar in large quantity. As far as the payment to the farmers is concerned this subject comes under the Ministry of Food. I will surely convey the views of the hon. Member to the Ministry of Food.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Since a lot of concessions have been given to these export-oriented units, I would like to know, among the investments which were approved by the Government in the last three years, how many are foreign companies and how many are Indian companies. I would also like to know what are their respective performances in exports.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL : I will collect information about the number of foreign units or amount of investments given permission during previous years and will send it to the hon'ble member.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, a lot of concessions have been given and the Minister does not have any information about this.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister will supply the information to the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he has got the estimated

figures as to the quantum of the perishable products that get spoiled every year? According to my supposition 25-30 per cent is destroyed whereas in the other developed countries only 2-3 per cent is destroyed. We suffer big loss. You have said that you are arranging for the cold storage. Have you made any agreements for them? Have you earmarked some amount for that. Instead of being encouraged the Food Processing Units have been discouraged in the present budget. Do you remember any provision made in this regard in the budget? Please tell us something. I feel that unless arrangement for grading, packaging, forwarding, storage, transportation and Processing in the Food Industry is not made India will have to incur heavy loss as compared to the other countries. That is why we did make an effort in the Seventh Plan under the item of Horticulture and Agriculture, the amount of Rs. 24 crores was increased to 1000 crores and upto Rupees one crore the rate of interest was 4%. On that basis, was any new step taken or not? It requires to be seen as to why did the problem arise, how did it all happen? Whatever the farmer produce is destroyed. He suffers in both the cases whether he produces more or produces less. That is why I want to know as to what have you done in regard to the cold storage? Last year, potato was destroyed as there was excess production of potatoes, when the production was less, consumers had to suffer. Same is the situation with onions, we did not have the sufficient storage facility.

I will not say that you might have done something in this regard within two months but what steps you have taken for the future? Prime Minister is sitting here, his presence is necessary, nothing can be done without him. Just now you have said that we cannot export, yesterday itself I read in the newspaper that we are importing sugar ...*(Interruptions)* Please analyse it in detail.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of fruits and vegetables getting spoiled in large quantity is really quiet a serious question, but its rough estimate is available. No regular or detailed study has been made in India to find out the actual wastage. It is estimated to be 30 to 40 per cent, but no special study has been done in this regard, it ought to be done because if half of 30-40 per cent could be saved it would mean that the production has increased by 20%. As far as the question of creating infrastructure and cold storage and other storage facilities is concerned, I have already stated in the reply to the first question that we are making consistant efforts in this direction. Because this question is related to the resources at the moment. I am not in a position to tell you as to how much budget has been provided for the needy areas but the data can be collected and sent to the hon'ble member. as you have said we are not able to create infrastructure including cold chains, processing units sufficiently for exporting all these products. The main problem is in the export of fruits and vegetables which are processable products. Fruits and vegetables of uniform size and prescribed shape and quality that can be handled by the machine are not being produced in a sufficient quantity in India. We are making our efforts in the direction of improving their quality, developing seeds and variety of the required kind and for manufacturing appropriate machinery to handle them. We are gradually making progress in this direction. The hon'ble member, who had been the Minister of Agriculture, knows about it very well. Second question is related to development of horticulture. Since the final question was related to export of Processed Food it would not be possible to give reply to this question

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me ask a question. This is the root cause of price rise, you are not giving me a chance to ask question.

OECF Assistance to Irrigation Projects

*303. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total financial assistance received from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan, so far for some medium and major irrigation projects of the country;

(b) the status of progress of these projects, State-wise;

(c) the number of projects completed and the number out of them at the final stage of completion, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the States where implementation of these projects is behind the schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan has extended assistance to the tune

of Yen 44544 million so far only for five major irrigation projects in the country. The progress of these major irrigation projects is given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Amount of Assistance (Yen (Million)	Date of signing Agreement/ credit closing date	Disburse-ment upto 4/98 (Yen Million)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Upper Kolab Irrigation Project	Orissa	3769	15.12.1988/ 20.07.1998	2700.902
2.	Upper Indravati Irrigation Project	Orissa	3744	15.12.1988/ 20.01.1999	3045.46
3.	Rengali Irrigation Project	Orissa	7760	12.12.1997/ 05.02.2003	141.53
4.	Modernisation of Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal	Andhra Pradesh	16049	25.01.1996/ 26.03.2003	000.00
5.	Rajghat Canal Project	Madhya Pradesh	13222	25.02.1997/ 25.02.2002	225.00

(c) and (d) No Project with OECF assistance has been completed as yet. The Upper Kolab Irrigation Project and Upper Indravati Irrigation Project, both in Orissa, are at final stages of completion with their scheduled date of completion being 20.07.1998 and 20.01.1999 respectively and the project "Modernisation of Kurnool Cuddaph Canal in Andhra Pradesh has been taken up for execution recently after clearance by Planning Commission.

Japan Government has extended financial assistance to the tune of yen 54544 million to India for five major projects under the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund. Out of these five projects, three projects are in Orissa and one each in Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. These projects are in progress as per the schedule.

SMT. SURYAKANTA PATIL : Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Japan, which has imposed economic sanctions against this country, after nuclear tests, conducted at Pokhran, will continue to release the loans sanctioned for the five irrigation projects, or has it given any indication of its decision not to release the said amount.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as these five projects are concerned, Japan has not imposed any ban on release of funds for these projects and they will continue to receive funds as per the schedule.

SMT. SURYAKANTA PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the upper Kolab Irrigation Project of Orissa, which was signed in 1988 and was to be completed by 20. 7.98 and for which financial assistance to the tune of yen 2700.902 million was to be extended, will be completed by the scheduled date 20.7.1998? If it is not likely to be completed in 1998 when would the project be completed? I would also like to know to what extent the cost of project is likely to increase and how would the project be completed if the cost escalates?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is correct that last date for completion of this project is 20th of this month. The work is progressing according to the set schedule. Physical progress has been made to the extent of 95 per cent and 72 per cent of the amount sanctioned has been spent. This project will take time beyond its target date.

SMT SURYAKANTA PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second supplementary has not been answered.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : In second supplementary she has asked the date on which the project will be completed? Is the cost likely to escalate?

SHRI SOMPAL : There would be not cost escalation.

SMT. SURYAKANTA PATIL : Some projects out of these which were to be completed in 1997 will be completed in the year 2002 or 2003. I would like to know whether the cost will also escalate during the extended period, or it will be completed at the rates fixed for 1977? What is the practice generally followed in this regard? Whether the government intends to say that there will be no cost escalation even if upper Kolab Project is completed in 2003 instead of 1997 and whether the project will be completed at prescribed rates? ...*(interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have not called you. Please take your seat. This is not a discussion. This is question Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is related to the financial assistance received from Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, Japan. The utilisation of funds and the progress on projects is going on as per the scheduled programme.

SMT. SURYAKANTA PATIL : It is a streo-typed reply. I need your protection. My second supplementary was whether the rates would be increased or not?

[English]

Sir, I need your protection.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. He is replying.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL : I have already informed the House. The Government of Orissa is taking steps to ensure that the project is completed within the stipulated time. All the projects will be completed in time. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SMT SURYAKANTA PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Justice is not being given to me. Reply has not been given.

[English]

I am asking about escalation.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : He is asking a supplementary.

SHRI SOMPAL : Even a supplementary has to be within the precincts of the question. It cannot be like this.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Minister, you can say that you do not have the information.

SHRI SOMPAL : This question pertains to only the OECF component of the project and its progressing according to the schedule. All the components will be completed by the scheduled date.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is Narmada Project in Gujarat which is the life line of Gujarat. The Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and leaders of all parties were of the opinion that Narmada project should be completed at the earliest. I want to know whether any negotiations were held with Japan for getting assistance for this project? If so how much amount we will get from them? If no negotiation was held, what steps are you going to take in this direction?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, OECF had given financial assistance only for five projects. I have given reply to this question. This question does not come within the purview of main question. It requires a separate notice.

[English]

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Sir, the main question is with regard to assistance from OECF. Not only OECF, there are other agencies also, like World Bank and IMF, which are lending money to various States. I would like to know from the Prime Minister whether there is any overall guideline from the Government of India or the States to make borrowings or is it that the States are at freedom to go and approach them or run from one place

to another and get money from other countries. What is the principle, I would like to know. In fact, some of the States are today providing more amounts for debt servicing than their expenditure on the plan. In the coming few years, the plan size will further reduce and the debt servicing will further go up. Looking to all these facts, what is the overall view of the Government of India, I would like to know from the Prime Minister.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Question pertains to only the OECF's Japan component and there are certain guidelines for that. The States are free to approach the international agencies. But this is all done in consultation with the Central Water Resources Ministry and all these proposals of any kind of assistance by any external agency are facilitated by the Central Ministry of Water Resources. There are set guidelines about it and the States are not free to approach without these guidelines.

[Translation]

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the amount disbursed for Madhya Pradesh project out of the five Irrigation Projects and the time by which this project will be completed? The pace at which the work is going on this project shows that work will not be completed even by the year 2002. As it is we are in the middle of the year of 1998 and not much work has been done in this direction.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister the amount of funds released and the amount utilized for this project . My other question is what is the last date for completion of this project and how much amount will have to be paid on this loan as interest?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, financial assistance to the tune of yen 13,222 million has been received for Rajghat project of Madhya Pradesh under OECF. Agreement in this regard was singned on February, 25, 1997 and February 25, 2002 was set as target date for its completion. So far its progress is concerned, so far 1.7 per cent financial progress has been made.

[English]

The major components of the preliminary works are: Civil works in left bank canal, Datia carrier canal, Datya irrigation Canal and remodelling of the Bhander canal.

[Translation]

Its preliminary work has already been taken up. The work on the project is going on according to the schedule. So far interest is concerned, it will be paid at the rate of 2.3 per cent p.a. Repayment period is twenty years and the grace period is ten years.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir water from Kishanpur Pump Canal project, constructed with the help of foreign aid covering the three eastern districts of Kaushambi, Allahabad, Fatehpur in Uttar Pradesh is still not reaching the Railway and minor. Besides, I would also like to know the time by which the proposed Gurolli Saidpur Project of U.P. will be completed?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shailendra Kumar, this question relates to OECF assistance to irrigation projects.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : If it is not relevant at least I should be told the time by which the irrigation project of Uttar Pradesh will be completed? Whether any provision has been made in the current five year plan for the said project?

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : May I know from the hon Minister whether, in the current post-sanctions situation following the Pokharan nuclear blast II done by India, the OECF assistance is expected to continue as it was in the past?

Secondly, the Yen has seriously depreciated in its external value. I would like to know whether any study has been made as to how materially we are going to be affected even if the assistance continues, in the matter of implementing all those projects.

SHRI SOMPAL : The first part of the hon. Member's question has already been answered. So far as the second part is concerned, there is a fixed exchange ratio which is taken in such cases and this will continue to obtain as it is. So, there will be no impact of devaluation on these projects.

Pak Invitation for Talks

[Translation]

304. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA ;
SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Pakistan has invited the Prime Minister of India for talks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(d) whether some countries have expressed their willingness to mediate between both the countries; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government thereto?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (e) Prime Minister wrote to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on 14 June, 1998 reiteration India's commitment to fostering a peaceful and friendly relationship, and developing a stable structure of cooperation between India and Pakistan. In his letter, Prime Minister also conveyed to the Prime Minister of Pakistan that their presence in Colombo for the SAARC Summit would enable them to hold bilateral discussions on all issues of mutual interest, and also to decide on how to proceed further with the dialogue process. In his reply of 23 June, 1998, the Prime Minister of Pakistan agreed with Prime Minister's suggestion to hold bilateral discussions during the SAARC Summit in Colombo. This meeting would be in keeping with the tradition of such bilateral meetings between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan.

There is no place for any third party involvement of any nature whatsoever in India-Pakistan bilateral relations. This has been made known to the international community through official statements as well as interaction at political and diplomatic levels.

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, though we are initiating bilateral peaceful talks with Pakistan but Pakistan is firing on the border and creating a war like situation and also carrying on anti-India smear campaign in the newspapers. In spite of all that it is in the fitness of things to start bilateral talks for world peace. I want to know from the Prime Minister as well as this House wants to know from him whether India will accept a third party mediation in these talks as Pakistan is telling almost daily that they will not hold any talks without third party mediation. What is the clear cut policy of India in this regard?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE : I have already stated that only bilateral talks will be held between India and Pakistan. There is no place for any third party mediation.

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second question is whether issue pertaining to occupied Kashmir will also be figured in these talks and whether these talks would be held under Shimla Agreement or not? Please make it clear.

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE : Sir, as far as this question is concerned, we are in the middle of the dialogue just now between the two countries. The Prime Ministers will be meeting at the SAARC Summit. This is a part of the dialogue and all these issues will figure. I think that we should wait till those talks begin.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madhavaro Scindia.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a matter within the Scindia *Parivar.*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to clarify that this may be within the Scindia *Parivar,* but certainly not within the *Sangh Parivar.*

Sir, every sovereign nation has a right to take adequate steps in the interest of its national security and in this spirit we have applauded the tremendous technological achievements of our scientists Dr. Abdul Kalam and Dr. Chindambaram in successfully completing Pokharan-II. But it is the post-Pokhran handling of the situation by the Government which seems to be extremely amateurish and a lot of jingoistic phraseology has been used by every senior Cabinet Ministers which has tended to create, sometimes, a very wrong impression, because the collective action of the Government must be to universally establish this conviction that India has the maturity, sobriety and the depth of thinking to be able to digest this awesome capability. It is a national issue. It should not become a pawn on the domestic political chess board. The Foreign Office has now launched a very belated effort and in this context, I must commend and appreciate the Herculean efforts put in by Shrimati Vasundhra Raje at her level, her globe-trotting has been very effective at her level. So, in the larger nuclear context, I would like to know whether India would be prepared—specifically for the nuclear issue, to minimise the chances of a nuclear war, however remote we may think it may be to call for a Summit of the four Asian nuclear powers for a 'no first use' agreement limited only to the 'no first use' aspect on the lines that has been recommended by Dr. K. Subramaniam.

Secondly, since Pakistan has exploded its nuclear device, I think, all of us know, who live in the general milieu, that there is a sense of insecurity that is now pervading the citizens, may be of Pakistan but certainly of

India, because they feel that they have been drawn into the battle front and it is only a three-minute war into annihilation and oblivion. Therefore, in this context, I think, specially keeping in mind that during the Cold War—it is well know—that there have been very many near misses of accidental war, a command and control structure assumes very great importance. So, I would like to know from the Prime Minister—because his answers on this have been rather vague—whether the Government is seriously formulating and expenditiously implementing such a command and control procedure for the nuclear button as every responsible nuclear nation should and in the large context also whether this would feature as suggestions in the talks.

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Gwalior is my place of birth and the elected hon'ble Member of that constituency has raised a number of important points. I do not think that there is any delay in initiating diplomatic move. We have projected our case before other countries in a very forceful and logical manner. The countries, which belong to nuclear club do not want other countries to enter into it. Therefore, their opposition was quite natural. But when we explained our position before G-5 super powers, I am calling them super powers because they are equipped with nuclear weapons, their attitude changed. We have taken these steps in self defence and not for any aggression or war. We have definitely taken these steps to avoid war. Alongwith projecting our case we have also given some constructive suggestion. We have said that India will not conduct any more nuclear tests in future. We wish that Pakistan will reciprocate in the same manner. They had made declaration but later on made their stance confusion by using ifs and buts therein. The hon'ble member has suggested to summon a conference of some countries and pass a resolution of 'no first use' of nuclear bomb. India has already taken initiative in this regard. We have already declared that we will not first trigger the nuclear weapons. If Pakistan makes a similar declaration by accepting this view then it will further give a boost to our confidence building measures. We do hope that Pakistan will definitely co-operate with us in this regard. We will have detailed discussion on all the issues that may be raised in Colombo talks. We do not want war. We want to improve the relationship between India and Pakistan. This talk is being held to improve relations. I hope that the Colombo talk will bring tangible results.

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA : I want to know whether command and control structure is also being discussed?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : This is quite an important point. Command and control structure is being given due attention. There hardly exists any scope for any accident. We are keeping a regular watch over it. I do believe that there will be satisfactory arrangement.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has also been mentioned in reply to the question asked by the hon'ble member and the Prime Minister has also given a public statement saying that India is ready to hold dialogue with Pakistan. Has any response come in from Pakistan side? We have stetd and have read also about associating China as a third party in this dialogue. It is not acceptable to us. Nobody can accept this. We wish that India's relation with Pakistan and other neighbouring countries must improve. Prime Minister has also stated that we do not want war. Whether any date has been fixed for talks with Pakistan or we will remain tense or continue to entangle in the quagmire. ...*(Interruptions)*

Has any date been fixed for talks between both the Prime Ministers? We also want to know about the assignment on which the former Prime Minister Shri Indra Kumar Gujaral has been sent abroad.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the date for talks between India and Pakistan has been fixed. These talks will be initiated in Colombo. Efforts are being made so that these talks continue in future as well. There is a controversy going on for months together regarding the procedure to be adopted and the subjects to be included in it. I hope that this problem will be sorted out during Colombo summit. Shri Gujaral had been our former External Affairs Minister and was also the Prime Minister of the country.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : He is experienced as well.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Lalooji at present you are at the helm of affairs. You are unnecessarily taking his name.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I have referred him as an experienced person and not as a prospective one.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : They are making efforts in their own way. We welcome such efforts.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, about three years ago, this august House has passed a motion that the Pakistan occupied Kashmir is an integral part of India, but it is seen that in the same Pakistan occupied Kashmir foreign mercenaries are being trained for the last 8 years. People from Jammu and Kashmir

are being taken and trained there and upto now lakhs of people have gone across the border from there and have come back. Not only this about 4 lakh people of Jammu and Kashmir had to leave their homes because of militancy. Thousands of people have been killed. Several women have been raped. The centre of all these activities is Pakistan occupied Kashmir. I would like to know from the hon'ble Prime Minister whether any effort would be made during talks scheduled to be held in Colombo to get the Pakistan occupied Kashmir vacated and to annexe it with India as it is an integral part of India.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker , Sir, it is correct that insurgents, after being trained in Pakistan occupied Kashmir infiltrate in large scale into our territory. Recently it is learnt from the nabbed terrorists that they didn't belong to Jammu and Kashmir, or that part of Laddakh which is in India. When the dialogue will be held in Colombo, this issue will be discussed in detail. In Colombo talks, Pakistan is stressing that priority may be given to Kashmir. I want to say that issue of infiltrators, terrorism, training of large number of millitants and sending them equipped with arms into the Indian territory, all are serious issues, related to peace and security. All these issues should be discussed and these will be raised during the talks.

[English]

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it had appeared in the news that the hon. Prime Minister's emissary to the United States, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, had reportedly discussed with the U.S. authorities that India was prepared to have a dialogue on making the existing line of control as the international border.

I would like to now from the hon. Prime Minister whether such a proposal was actually made by the Prime Minister's emissary to the U.S. authories and whether this type of an issue will be discussed in the meeting between the Ministers of India and Pakistan. What is the Government of India's stand on this?

It is because this type of news appearing in the media had really caused a lot of concern in the minds of people.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is good that this question has been asked I will take it up with question raised by Shri Chaman Lal Gupta.

The entire State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. The Parliament of India has passed a motion in this regard. So far we haven't received any proposal regarding line of actual control.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : But Farooq Abdullah is saying that an agreement should be reacted about the line of actual control. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Mr. Speaker , Sir, through you I would like to put a very focused question to our Prime Minister regarding the 'no first use' offer that he had made. We know that this 'no first use' offer had been taken by Pakistan with great reservation and has not responded to it. Now we have to understand why they have reacted in that manner. The reason in Pakistan feels very insecure. They think that there is an imbalance in conventional warfare between the two countries. That is why, they have gone for this blast. Now they want to keep that option. Because of this—it is their feeling, not ours—they have this feeling that there will be an imbalance if there is a conventional war. So, they want to keep this nuclear option in their hands. That is why, they are very reserved about this 'no first use' pact. They have, I think, offered a 'no aggression' pact to us. I would like to ask the Prime Minister if he shall positively respond to them because that will also ambrace the 'no first use' offer that we had made and it will also send a good signal to the other nations of the world about the peaceful intentions that we have regarding our nuclear power.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister of Pakistan while delivering his address to the UN General Assembly said that there should be non-aggression pact. But officially he has not sent any proposal or suggestion to us. It is wrong to think that Pakistan is suffering from the feeling of insecurity and thus he is not agreeing to the proposal of 'no first use'. It is our experience of 50 years, that we have always been the victim of aggression. One third of Jammu and Kashmir is in possession of Pakistan. The number of insurgent being infiltrated into Indian territory does not indicate that Pakistan feels itself insecured. Pakistan will have to change its policy and Pakistan should have no objection in accepting the proposal of 'no first use.'

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : I wanted to ask the same question which Shri Mukul Wasnik had asked. Thank you. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed the Question for more than half-an-hour. Please cooperate with me.

Indians in Foreign Jails

*305. SHRI D.S. AHIRE : SHRI MANIKRAO HDLYA GAVIT : Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indian Soldiers and Citizens are imprisoned in foreign jails for a long period;

(b) if so, the number of Indian Soldiers and Citizens still imprisoned in foreign jails, country-wise;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken for their early release; and

(d) the number of Indian Soldiers and Citizens released from foreign jails as a result of the efforts made by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) According to Government's information, there are at present 54 Indian soldiers and 5062 other citizens imprisonment in various foreign countries. A country-wise break-up of these imprisoned Indian nationals and those so far released from foreign jails is given in the Annexure.

As soon as an Indian diplomatic mission/post is apprised about the arrest of an Indian national, a request is made to the host government for seeking consular access. An officer of the mission/post visit the detainee and tries to ascertain the circumstances leading to this arrest. Where necessary, the mission/post takes up the matter with the host government for speedy and fair trial and also for review of the sentence. The prioners are normally released on completion of their sentences. However, in deserving cases, our mission/posts have succeeded in obtaining remissions of sentences.

ANNEXURE

INDIAN NATIONALS IN FOREIGN JAILS

Country	Indian National currently in Foreign Jails		Indian Soldier/ Civilians released during 97 and 98 (till date) unless otherwise specified.
	Soldiers	Civilians	
1	2	3	4
Algeria	nil	nil	nil
Angola	nil	nil	nil
Argentina	nil	nil	nil
Autralia	nil	25	nil
Austria	nil	26	nil
Bahrain	nil	120	nil
Bangladesh	nil	500	133 (July '97 to June '98)
Belarus	nil	50	205

1	2	3	4
Belgium	nil	1	nil
Bhutan	nil	32	65 (Sep '97 to March '98)
Botswana	nil	1	nil
Brazil	nil	nil	nil
Brunei	nil	2	16 (during last 1 year)
Bulgaia	nil	nil	nil
Combodia	nil	nil	nil
Canada		Information not available	
Chile	nil	nil	nil
China	nil	2	nil
Colombia	nil	nil	nil
Cuba	nil	nil	nil
Cyprus		Information not available	
Czech. Rep.	nil	3	nil
Denmark	nil	nil	nil
Egypt	nil	12	1
Ethiopia	nil	nil	nil
Finland	nil	nil	nil
France	nil	nil	nil
Germany	nil	7	4
Ghana	nil	nil	nil
Greece	nil	68	45

1	2	3	4
Guyana	nil	nil	8
Hong Kong	nil	16	15 (in 1998)
Hungary	nil	nil	nil
Indonesia	nil	6	nil
Iran	nil	13	18 (in the last 3 years)
Iraq	nil	nil	1
Ireland	nil	nil	nil
Israel	nil	nil	nil
Italy	nil	14	nil
Ivory Coast	nil	nil	nil
Jamaica	nil	3	nil
Japan	nil	4	7 (during last 6 years)
Jordan	nil	4	24 (during last 5 years)
Kazakhstan	nil	nil	nil
Kenya		Information not available	
DPR Korea	nil	nil	nil
Rep. of Korea	nil	nil	nil
Kuwait	Nil	68	Nil
Kyrghyzstan	nil	nil	5
Laos		Information not available	
Lebanon	nil	16	52 (from 1998 till date)
Libya		Information not available	

1	2	3	4
Madagascar	nil	nil	nil
Malaysia	nil	422	577
Maldives	nil	1	1
Malta	nil	nil	nil
Mauritius	nil	50	nil
Mexico	nil	nil	nil
Mongolia	nil	nil	nil
Morocco	nil	nil	nil
Mozambique	nil	nil	nil
Myanmar	nil	56	16
Nepal		Information not available	
Netherlands	nil	nil	nil
Namibia	nil	nil	nil
New Zealand	nil	nil	nil
Nigeria	nil	2	nil
Norway	nil	nil	nil
Sutanate of Oman	nil	226	2
Burkina Faso	nil	nil	nil
Pakistan	54	1314	740 (upto 1991)
Panama	nil	nil	10
& Bolivia	nil	nil	nil
Philippines	nil	3	nil

1	2	3	4
Poland	nil	nil	nil
Portugal	nil	nil	nil
Qatar	nil	58	700 (in 1998)
Romania	nil	8	156 (for the last 5 years)
Russian Federation	nil	6	4
Saudi Arabia	nil	83	1773
Senegal	nil	nil	nil
Seychelles	nil	nil	nil
Singapore	nil	555	2980
South Africa	nil	10	10 (during the last 3 years)
Spain	nil	5	nil
Sri Lanka	nil	32	3
Sudan	nil	nil	nil
Suriname	nil	nil	nil
Sweden	nil	nil	nil
Switzerland	nil	2	nil
Syrian Arab Rep.	nil	1	nil
Tanzania	nil	nil	nil
Tajikistan	nil	nil	nil
Thailand	nil	26	142 (June '97 to May '98)
Trinidad and Tobago	nil	nil	nil

1	2	3	4
Tunisia	nil	nil	nil
Turkey	nil	2	nil
Turkmenistan		Information not available	
Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi		Information not available	
Ukraine	nil	2	nil
United Arab Emirates	nil	850	510 (during last year
United Kingdom	nil	300	1617 (from April '92 till date)
United States of America	nil	49	133
Uzbekistan	nil	nil	nil
Venezuela	nil	nil	nil
Vietnam	nil	1	nil
Yemen Arab Rep.	nil	nil	10 (during the last 5 years)
Yugoslavia	nil	nil	nil
Zambia	nil	nil	nil
Zimbabwe	nil	2	nil
Croatia	nil	nil	nil
Palestine	nil	nil	nil
Papua New Guinea	nil	1	1
Slovak Republic	nil	3	nil
Total		8062	

[Translation]

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked the hon'ble Prime Minister the names of the countries where Indian citizens and Indian soldiers are still imprisoned? What efforts has the Government of India made so far for their release. In reply to it has been stated that about 54 soldiers are currently held captive in Pakistan but in the column of released soldiers number shown is 740. Similarly about 5062 Indian citizens are stated to be in captivity in different countries. But the number of released citizens shown in that column is 9600. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the Hon'ble Prime Minister when the number of captive soldiers in Pakistan is shown as 54, how could the number of released soldiers be 740? Is it correct or wrong. In other countries, when the number of captive citizens is shown as 5062 how could the number of released citizens be 9600. I have received no details about it. Alongwith this I would also like to know that what efforts have been made so far by the Government for the release of Indian soldiers and citizens who are held captive.

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE : Sir, the hon. Member has just asked about the people who have been imprisoned in Pakistan. In the first column, there is the number of soldiers, which is 54.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : There are one thousand soldiers. ...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : I request the hon. Minister to reply in Hindi because he has asked the question in Hindi.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE : The number mentioned in the second column i.e. 1314 is the number of civilians held captive. 740 is the number of civilians released.

[English]

It is an ongoing process.

[Translation]

The hon. Member has raised the issue of the release of 54 soldiers. We agree that with a humane point of view this is a tragic and unfortunate situation. We are pursuing it vigorously. It is a matter of regret that the Government of Pakistan has not fully cooperated with us. We have continuously been raising this issue and we will continue to do the same. We will raise this issue in our bilateral meetings also. I am confident that some day we will definitely get response from them but the government will leave no stone unturned in this regard.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the year in which these 54 Indian soldiers were held captive and how long will it take to get them released. Besides whether Prime Minister or the Government of India has any knowledge about the number of persons died out of them.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : The 54 missing defence personnel are believed to be held captive since 1971 during Indo-Pak conflict. But as I have stated in my reply that despite repeated requests the Government of Pakistan has given no satisfactory reply ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

We feel it is approximately 1971.

[Translation]

But we are making all out efforts to get them released.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second supplementary was ...*(Interruptions)* The reply to my question has not yet been given.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. P.J. Kurien.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Sir, I have to put my second supplementary ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have already called Prof. P.J. Kurien. Do not waste time. There is only one minute left. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, a large number of Indians are languishing in the Gulf jails.

12.00 hrs

They are mostly workers. They were arrested because they do not know the law of the land. The problem is genuine. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Kurien, pleased take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : This question should be answered as to how many out of 54 are alive. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : How many Indian workers in the Gulf countries are in jail? Are you thinking of providing any legal assistance to them? You can answer both the questions. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have asked the number of persons died out of these 54 soldiers.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to the question raised by hon'ble Member, the reply which I have given is that despite repeated requests we are not getting satisfactory reply. We have tried a lot we are not getting the reply from Pakistan even on humanitarian grounds.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : How many soldiers are there?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : We cannot tell because they do not tell us.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Appraisal of Unemployment Situation

*306. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have made any appraisal regarding unemployment situation in the country at the end of the Eighth Plan period both in organised and unorganised sectors.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of jobs created as against the target fixed during the Eighth Plan period both in the organised and unorganised sectors;

(d) the number of unemployed persons likely to be added during the Ninth Plan period; and

(e) the strategy formulated for providing employment to the maximum number of job seekers during the Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Unemployment in the country as per Usual Principal Status (UPS), is estimated to be 9.0 million as on 1st January, 1994.

(c) The Eighth Five Year Plan envisaged 8 to 9 million annual addition in employment opportunities during the period 1992-93 to 1996-97 in the organised and unorganised sectors taken together. The addition to employment during 1987-88 to 1993-94 was 43.91 million on Usual Principal Status basis. This implies an average addition of 7.3 million employment opportunities per annuam.

(d) The projections for the Ninth Plan have not been finalised.

(e) The approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to productive employment which will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and under-employment.

Delayed Projects

*307. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL : Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether 60 of Mega public sector projects are running behind schedule;

(b) if so, the names of such projects;

(c) whether their costs have been escalated by more than 35%;

(d) if so, the details of cost escalated in each case and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to complete the projects in schedule time period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) As per information available, 25 out of 45 mega projects costing Rs. 1000 crores and above constituting 55.5 per cent of the total number of projects, are running behind schedule.

(b) and (d) Details are given in Col. 1 & 2 in the enclosed statement respectively.

(c) The overall cost overrun in the 25 delayed projects with respect to their approved latest costs is of the order of 21.9%.

(e) Monthly as well as quarterly monitoring by this Department, interaction with the concerned Departmental Secretaries for ensuring proper steps to avoid delays by suppliers, vendors as also monitoring by the concerned Departmental Secretaries in respect of these projects undertaken by PSUs under their charge is also requested and pursued. Periodic reviews with the concerned Departmental Secretaries by the Cabinet Secretariat and in respect of some important core sectors by the Prime Minister's Office has also been undertaken. Co-ordination and help to project authorities in respect of matters pertaining to State Governments concerned, have also been undertaken wherever needed. Corrective measures suggested should help in overcoming delays in implementation of these projects.

Statement

Delayed Mega Project (As on 1.6.98)

Sr No	Project Name State/Agency	Cost (Rs. Crores)		% cost overrun w.r.t	DOC		Reasons for cost overrun	Steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Govt. to complete projects in time
		Latest Approved	Now Anticipated	Latest Cost	Latest Approved (Year/ Month)	Anticipated (Year Month)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Rajasthan Atomic Power Project, NPC Rajasthan	2107.00	2107.00	0.0	1997/05	2000/08	No cost overrun	Vendors and suppliers are being chased to supply balance material.
2.	Kaiga Atomic Power NPC, Karnataka	2275.00	2275.00	0.0	1998/11	1999/10	No cost overrun	Vendors and suppliers are being chased to supply balance material.
3.	Dudhichua OC Phase-I NCL, M.P./U.P.	868.93	1149.04	32.2	1998/03	2001/03	General escalation, on account of delay in forest land acquisition, etc.	World Bank Loan is being expedited, State Government of UP/MP are being pursuaded to release balance forest Land.
	Expansion of Mine-I NLC, T.N.	1336.93	1406.84	5.2	1996/10	2000/04	General cost escalation, increase in cost of equipment etc.	Ministry of Coal, Finance and Planning Commission have been asked to resolve local resource problem.
5.	Thermal Power Station-I Expn. NLC, T.N.	1590.58	1618.68	1.5	2001/03	2003/03	General escalation.	Lignite Corporation has been asked to expedite award of contract for main and other packages. Ministry of Railways has been asked to operate this track.
6.	Steel Plant Modernisation Durgapur, SAIL W.B.	2667.60	4867.03	82.4	1993/04	1998/03*	General cost escalation, exchange rate variation, change in custom and excise duties, modification in design etc.	Project has since been completed
7.	Steel Plant Modernisation Rourkela SAIL, Orissa.	3954.00	5112.13	29.3	1995/12	1999/10	General cost escalation exchange rate variation, change in custom and excise duties, modification in design etc.	Balance equipment supplies for hot strip metal shop are being expedited.
8.	Modern. of Bokaro Steel-I Dhanbad, Bihar, SAIL	1792.80	2235.45	24.7	1997/07	1999/03	General cost escalation exchange rate variation, change in custom and excise duties, modification in design etc.	Balance equipment imported and indigenous supplies are being expedited.
9.	Gandhar Petrochemicals Bharuch, Gujarat	3484.37	3895.00	0.6	1998/10	1999/12	General escalation.	IPCL asked to resolve the C2/C3 processing plant problem

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10.	U.P. Petro Chemical Auriya, U.P., Gas.	2941.46	2593.23	- 11.9	1998/12	1998/08	Cost saving	Delay in supplies are being chased.
11.	Upgradation of HBJ Pipeline Gujarat/U.P., Gas.	2376.00	2376.00	0.0	1997/07	998/03*	No cost overrun.	Project has since been substantially completed.
12.	Visakh. REF. Expansion HPCL, A.P.	999.26	1139.02	13.9	1998/12	1999/09	Inadequate cost estimation, and general escalation.	Equipment suppliers are being chased and pending items are being rewarded.
13.	Kandla-Bhatinda Pipe Line IOC, Gujrat, Rajasthan.	917.55	2391.84	160.7	1995/06	1998/06*	General escalation, and change in specification etc.	Project nearly completed.
14.	Panipat Ref. Project IOC, Haryana	3868.00	3694.20	- 4.5	1997/08	1998/10	No cost overrun.	Defaulting venders and contractors are being chased.
15.	Mathura FEF. EC. Process IOC, U.P.	1041.00	1041.00	0.0	1999/12	2000/02	No cost overrun.	Initially delayed contracts are being expedited.
16.	Oil Refinery at Numaligarh NRL, Assam	1930.00	2497.40	33.5	1997/10	1998/12	Delay in award, change in specification and general escalation.	Award and supplies are being expedited.
17.	2nd Bassein Hazira Pipeline ONGC, Offshore	2864.72	2864.72	0.0	1998/07	1998/03*	No cost overrun.	Project is substantially completed.
18.	Gandhara Dev. PH-II ONGC, Gujarat	1245.82	1441.82	15.8	1998/05	1998/06*	General escalation, increase in excise duties and customs.	Project is nearing completion.
19.	Maiia TPP, DVC Bankura, W.B.	1999.14	1999.14	0.0	1998/03	1998/09	No further cost overrun	Balance work of Unit III are being expedited.
20.	Kathalguri GB CC PP Neepco, Assam	1347.57	1347.57	0.0	1998/03	1998/07	The actual expenditure has marginally exceeded the approved cost.	Balance works of ST-III are being expedited.
21.	Ranganadi HEP Neepco, Arunachal Pradesh	675.74	1024.10	51.6	1997/07	2000/09	Delayed start due to land acquisition and damage by rains and floods	Close monitoring of critical works (viz. HRT, Dam etc).
22.	Dhauliganga H.E.P.-I NHPC, U.P.	601.98	1881.49	212.6	1998/10	2004/09	Delayed start due to funds constraints and disturbances by land oustees	Funds tied up and work is progressing now.
23.	Tehri Dam H.P.P. THDCL, U.P.	2963.66	2963.66	0.0	1998/03	2000/09	No escalation reported	The report of the IMC for rehabilitation is under examination of the Govt.
24.	Nathpa Jhakri H.E.P. NJPC, H.P	4337.95	7217.05	66.4	1998/12	2002/03	Delayed start due to non-availability of land, rock slides, geological problems and flash floods and landslides	Rate of progress is being closely monitored.
25.	Nathpa Jhakri Tr. System PGCIL, H.P	889.95	1347.43	51.4	1998/04	1998/10	Delayed to match with HEP	Tr. works being delayed to match with general projects.

Legends :

REF	–	Refinery Total
H.E.P.	–	Hydro Electric Project
TPP	–	Thermal Power Project
MODRN	–	Modernisation
IMC	–	Interministerial Coordinaton
DOC	–	Date of Completion

[Translation]

Water Mills

*308. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be please to state:

(a) the number of water mills set up under the Promotional Incentive Scheme as on March 31, 1998 in the country, State-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon and the installed capacity thereof;

(c) whether these water mills are functional and generating power as per their installed capacity;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of such water mills which have been closed down and the reasons for these closure; and

(f) the details of work done for setting up water mills in private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Ministry of Non-conventional Energy sources has two programmes for development/up-gradation of water mills:—

(i) Demonstration Programme under UNDP/GEF Hilly Hydro Project.

(ii) Promotional incentive scheme, 1997.

So far, 17 demonstration water mills have been set up/up-graded in Uttar Pradesh (13 Nos.); Himachal Pradesh (2 Nos.) and Jammu & Kashmir (2 Nos.).

(b) and (c) Expenditure of about Rs. 4 lakhs has been incurred by the Ministry. 16 water mills are operating at present. Only two are electricity generating water mills which are generating power to capacity of 5 KW each.

(d) and (e) Only one water mill is temporarily out of order, due to breakage of grinding-stone.

(f) All the 17 water mills are in private sector.

Watershed Development Project

*309. SHRI VITHAL TUPE :
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the achievements made under the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed-Area Scheme, State-wise, particularly in various districts of Maharashtra and Gujarat States during last three years;

(b) the area of cultivable-land covered under the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed-Area Scheme (NWDPRA) so far during the above period; and

(c) details of the future programme in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) was implemented in 25 States and 2 Union Territories during VIII Plan. Under the Project a Watershed is saturated (fully treated) in a phased manner over a five year period. The Statewise physical achievement of the NWDPRA in the VIII Plan & districtwise in case of Mahasrahtra and Gujarat together with area treated during the 1st year of the IX Plan (1997-98) are given in the enclosed Statements I, II, and III respectively.

(c) NWDPRA is being continued during the IX Five Year Plan in 25 States and 2 Union Territories. The IX Plan outlay for NWDPRA is Rs. 1100 crores. The budget allocation of the Project has been increased from Rs. 155 crore in 1997-98 to Rs. 270 crore in 1998-99. According to a 25 year Perspective Plan prepared by the Planning Commission, Rs. 5000 crore would be required for coverage of rainfed areas through Watershed development, including NWDPRA, during the IX Plan period.

Statement I

Statewise cumulative Physical Achievement During VIII Plan and 1st Year of IX Plan Under National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA)

(Area in ha.)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Physical achievement during VIII Plan	Physical achievement during 1st year of IX Plan
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	176939	29001
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1970	120

1	2	3	4
3.	Assam	70221	17587
4.	Bihar	23189	7976
5.	Goa	2100	49*
6.	Gujarat	292579	17901
7.	Haryana	20272	158
8.	Himachal Pradesh	34309	11900
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	14044	462*
10.	Karnataka	485109	60000
11.	Kerala	88276	11000
12.	Madhya Pradesh	660202	10470*
13.	Maharashtra	847522	9240
14.	Manipur	8682	150*
15.	Meghalaya	2877	1000
16.	Mizorm	18198	2820
17.	Nagaland	14510	821
18.	Orissa	295000	28000
19.	Punjab	18035	706*
20.	Rajasthan	547931	2850
21.	Sikkim	7626	2000
22.	Tamil Nadu	172657	25145
23.	Tripura	7694	2286*
24.	Uttar Pradesh	303683	20311
25.	West Bengal	131000*	13176
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	84	28*
27.	Andaman & Nicobar	1785	513
	Total	4278858	289181

* Estimated figures

Statement II

Districtwise Physical Achievement in Maharashtra State Under National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) During VIII Plan and 1997-98 of IX Plan

(Area in ha.)

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Physical achievement during VIII Plan	Physical achievement during 1997-98 of IX Plan
1	2	3	4
1.	Thane	19842	184
2.	Raigad	37577	412
3.	Ratnagiri	22433	222
4.	Sindudurg	20507	153
5.	Nasik	54575	668
6.	Dhule	28465	211
7.	Jalgaon	28711	229
8.	Ahmadnagar	26645	288
9.	Pune	40222	425
10.	Solapur	35641	414

1	2	3	4
11.	Stara	45638	335
12.	Sangli	35777	332
13.	Kolhapur	39887	224
14.	Aurangabad	18046	280
15.	Jalana	11642	223
16.	Beed	20061	488
17.	Latur	18049	241
18.	Osmanabad	22084	198
19.	Nanded	19375	567
20.	Parbhani	27700	459
21.	Buldhana	34268	570
22.	Akola	30955	304
23.	Amravati	38107	368
24.	Yewatmal	34079	996
25.	Wardha	34510	90
26.	Nagpur	42874	209
27.	Bhandara	17992	48
28.	Chandrapur	19558	156
29.	Gadhiroli	22302	246
	Total	647522	9240

Statement III

Districtwise Physical Achievement in Gujarat State Under National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) During VIII Plan and 1997-98 of IX Plan

(Area in ha.)

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Physical achievement during VIII Plan	Physical achievement during 1997-98 of IX Plan
1	2	3	4
1.	Banaskantha	31427.940	1620.210
2.	Mehsana	19306.780	1343.330
3.	Saburkantha	10665.890	430.000
4.	Ahmedabad	20564.780	1100.00
5.	Khed	30264.210	1396.000
6.	Panchmahal	7500.000	435.000
7.	Vadodara	10686.720	1486.000
8.	Bharuch	10387.000	161.000
9.	Surat	7796.000	936.000
10.	Valsad	4625.000	1009.000
11.	Kutch	10989.200	0.000
12.	Sur. Nagar	24597.790	2375.960
13.	Rajkot	15806.770	950.000
14.	Jamnagar	14181.960	2963.000
15.	Junagadh	39261.730	193.500

1	2	3	4
16.	Bhavnagar	18249.380	932.000
17.	Amreli	15166.000	570.000
18.	Gandhinagar	742.610	0.000
19.	Dang	157.000	0.000
	Total	292578.740	17901.000

[English]

Change in Foreign Policy

*310. SHRI ANUP LAL YADAV :
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any change in the foreign policy of the Government after Pokhran Nuclear tests;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh measures taken/proposed to be taken to normalise relations with our neighbouring countries after the nuclear tests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In our statements in recent weeks, we have stressed that India is committed to fostering friendship and cooperation with all neighbouring countries. After the tests we have made significant proposals for confidence building and for peace and stability in the region and beyond, including the reiteration of our willingness to discuss a 'no-first-use agreement' bilaterally with Pakistan, as also with other countries, bilaterally or in a collective form. Recently, we addressed an invitation to an official delegation led by Foreign Secretary of Pakistan to visit New Delhi to resume the round of FS-level talks adjourned in New Delhi last September. A letter has also been addressed to the Prime Minister of Pakistan. We have also stated that with China, India seeks a relationship in which both sides are responsive to each other's concerns. The Bangladesh Prime Minister has visited India after the tests and discussions were held on all matters of mutual interest. Government will continue to remain engaged in substantive dialogue with our neighbours to improve relations and to expand the scope of our interactions in a mutually advantageous manner.

[Translation]

National Policy on Agriculture

*311. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI ADITYANATH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union government propose to formulate a new national policy on agriculture immediately to increase the production in agriculture sector and in order to solve the problems of the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) A comprehensive National Policy on Agriculture is in the final stages of drafting and is likely to be finalised shortly in consultation with the States.

The Policy will aim at the management and conservation of the natural-resource base through sustainable management of land and water resources. It will seek to promote environmentally non-degrading, technically sound, economically viable and socially acceptable improvement of natural resources to promote sustainable development of agriculture. The policy will focus particular attention of measures such as Land reforms to channelise the energies of small an marginal farmers.

The policy will, to this end, seek to achieve :

(i) conservation of the natural-resource base through sustainable management of land and water resources and protection and conservation of bio-diversity.

(ii) maintenance of food self-sufficiency.

(iii) greater employment generation, higher household incomes and reduction of poverty through diversification of farming systems.

(iv) Reduction of regional imbalances through greater emphasis on rainfed framing and developing areas of untapped potential;

(v) efficient use of inputs;

(vi) expansion of the rural infrastructure through increased public and private sector investment;

(vii) remunerative prices for agricultural produce through the strengthening of marketing institutions and infrastructure and creating a favourable economic environment for the growth of the agriculture sector;

(viii) value addition to farm produce through agroprocessing and improved post-harvest facilities;

(ix) revitalization of the rural credit institutions to augment the flow of credit for agriculture and rural sector;

(x) strengthening of agricultural research and education;

(xii) higher agricultural exports and integration of the Indian commodity markets with global markets;

(xiii) creating quality conciousness among farmers an agro-processors;

(xiv) securing benefits to the agriculture sector at par with industry;

(xv) greater participation of user communities;

(xvi) safeguarding the interests of women and weaker sections of the rural community; and

(xvii) land reforms that lead to higher productivity without affecting equity considerations;

The farmers will be the principal focus of attention in the Policy, both as the mainspring and the beneficiaries of agricultural development.

The policy will seek to introduce new and innovative approaches to management of agriculture by the Central and State Governments and promote use of the latest information ethnology for accelerating the growth process.

[English]

India' Stand on Nuclear Tests

*312. SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had deputed a number of his emissaries to foreign capitals to explain India's stand on Nuclear Tests conducted at Pokharan in Rajasthan in May 1998;

(b) if so, the details of the emissaries, alongwith the capitals they visited, particulars of the dignitaries they met and the impression they gathered therefrom; and

(c) the ultimate result achieved by their visits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) As part of the present exercise to explains the rationale underlying India's decision to conduct the nuclear tests and to address concern expressed in certain countries, Government is actively engaging key interlocutors in various countries in a substantive dialogue. Shri Jaswant Singh, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, utilised the opportunity provided by his visit to New York in connection with the UN Special Session on Drugs, to interact with NRIs, media, NGOs and academics in the United States. He also met Mr. Strobed Talbott, Acting US Secretary of State and Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations. Smt. Vasundhara Raje, MOS(EA), visited Wanoi, Manila and Singapore. Smt. Vasundhara Raje held meetings with President Estrada and Foreign Minister Siazon in Manila, Ambassador Tommy Koh and Foreign Minister Jayakumar in Singapore and, held a substantive meeting in Hanoi with Deputy Prime Minister (Foreign Minister) Nguyen Manh Cam. Shri Brajesh Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, visited Paris, London and Moscow. In London, Shri Mishra called on Prime Minister Tony Blair, in Paris he called on President Jacques Chirac and in Moscow he called on Prime Minister Kiriyenko. Shri Nareshwar Dayal, Secretary (MEA) visited Abu Dhabi, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain. Shri Dayal held meetings at the senior officials level in the capitals he visited.

(c) Prime Minister's special Envoys were received at high levels in all the capitals. While there was an appreciation of the security context India was situated in, there were expressions of concern, particularly from the Western countries, who saw the tests as undermining their attempt at instituting a global non-proliferation regime. The visits by Prime Minister's Special Envoys have ensured a greater understanding of India's rationale for undertaking the nuclear tests and presented a valuable opportunity to explain the various initiatives announced by Government in the wake of the tests.

Welfare of Fishermen

*313. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: WILL THE PRIME MINISTER BE PLEASED TO STATE:

(a) whether there are some welfare schemes in operation for the benefit of fishermen in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total outlay for fishermen's welfare schemes in 1997-98;

(c) the allocation for these schemes, scheme-wise and State-wise, particularly in Gujarat; and

(e) the funds spent on model villages for fishermen in 1997-98, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Government of India is implementing the Centrally Sponsored National Welfare of Fishermen Scheme for the welfare of fishermen. The scheme has the following three components:

(i) Group Accident Insurance for active Fishermen;

(ii) Development of Model Fishermen Villages; and

(iii) Saving-cum-Relief for Marine Fishermen

(c) An outlay of Rs. 1529 lakhs was provided for the National Welfare of Fishermen Scheme in the Revised Estimates of 1997-98.

(d) State-wise allocations are not made for this scheme and the amount to be released to any State Government/Union Territory is determined on the basis of availability of funds in the State budget and unspent balance available with the State Government/Union territory out of the release made in the preceding year(s).

(e) during 1997-98, a sum of Rs. 5,42,87,999 was released to various States/Union Territories as per the details given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	No. of houses, tubewells & community halls sanctioned	Amount released as Central share	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1460 houses	1,02,20,000	—
2.	Gujarat	106 houses, 3 tubewells and 1 community hall	19,55,000	—
3.	Maharashtra	—	23,42,500	Towards committed liability pertaining to the year 1995-96
4.	Uattar Pradesh	699 houses & 35 tubewells	72,52,500	—
5.	Karnataka	650 houses	1,47,39,000	Including Rs. 62,39,000 towards committed liability pertaining to the years 1995-96 & 1996-97.
6.	West Bengal	586 houses, 28 tubewells and 6 community halls	36,00,000	—
7.	Tripura	60 houses and 3 tubewells	10,72,500	—
8.	Pondiherry	—	26,85,194	Towards committed liability pertaining the year 1996-97
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	200 houses	15,00,000	—

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Tamil Nadu	300 houses, 15 tubewells and 4 community halls	40,00,000	—
11.	Bihar	200 house & 10 tubewells	5,00,000	—
12.	Kerala	300 houses	44,21,305	—
	Total	4561 houses, 94 tubewells and 11 community halls	5,42,87,999	

Kesari Dal

*314. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have banned the production and sale of Kesari dal;

(b) if so, whether it is still being produced and sold by some States despite the ban; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The Union Government has not banned the production of Kesari Dal. However, under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules 1955, no person in any State shall sell Kesari Dal with effect from such date as the State Government concerned may by notification in the Official Gazette specify in this behalf.

(b) All States/Union Territories except the State of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal have issued notifications banning the sale of Kesari Dal in any form. Since there is no ban on production, the Kesari Dal is being cultivated in some States.

(c) Central Government has advised in the past to the Kesari Dal growing States to discourage its cultivation. The ICAR had been working on the development of low toxin varieties with low BOAA content and they have now developed and released in 1997 a variety known as BIO-L-212 which has very low toxin content (0.05%). The Central Government has also constituted a High Power Committee under the Chairmanship of DG, ICAR to look into the relationship between consumption of Kesari Dal and incidence of lathyrism in the Kesari Dal consuming population. The Committee has finalised its report.

[Translation]

Cyclone in Gujarat

*315. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
SHRI K.S. RAO :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment of loss of human lives, property, cattle, etc. in Gujarat and Rajasthan hit by the recent cyclones, has been made available to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some Union Ministers and senior officers of various Ministries were deputed by the Prime Minister to assess the situation on the spot;

(d) if so, the details of their impressions, assessment of loss and suggestions for relief;

(e) whether the Government of Gujarat have sought substantial financial assistance from the Union Government to cope with the situation and for rendering relief to the people in the cyclone-hit areas;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government have received any information that no timely action was taken by the Rajasthan Government official despite timely warning about the cyclone;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the details of the Central financial asistance sanctioned for cyclone-hit areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) As per

the information made available by the State Government, a severe cyclone on 9.6.1998 affected 12 districts in Gujarat in varying degrees, causing loss of 1178 human lives, killing 12747 heads of cattle, damaging 2.61 lakh houses and huts and causing substantial loss to public property. In Rajasthan, the cyclone reportedly caused a loss of 12 human lives and 51295 cattle heads and damaged 14603 houses/huts.

(c) and (d) The Home Minister visited the affected areas of Gujarat alongwith a team of senior officials on 11.6.1998 for an on-the-spot assessment of the extent of damage as well as rescue and relief operations being undertaken. Their impressions were that vast damage had been caused to human life and private and public property like houses, huts, electric lines, telecom lines, Kandla Port, and some railway infrastructure, etc. The state Government was doing its best in taking rescue and restoration measures. Other Ministers and Senior Officers from the Centre also visited the State to assess damage caused by the cyclone and to initiate and step up action for restoration of normalcy.

(e) and (f) The Government of Gujarat has submitted a memorandum seeking additional assistance of Rs. 500 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief for providing relief and rehabilitation to the affected people.

(g) and (h) No, Sir. the Government of Rajasthan took elaborate preparatory measures well in time.

(i) Immediately after the occurrence of the calamity, the second installment of Centre's share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1998-99 amounting to 29.03 crore was released to the Government of Gujarat in advance on 10.6.1998 to enable the State Government to speed up the relief work. The second installment of Centre's share of CRF for 1998-99 amounting to Rs. 37.23 crore was released to Government of Rajasthan on 1.7.1998.

In response to the memorandum submitted by the Government of Gujarat for assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team has already visited the affected areas in the State to assess the extent of damage and relief assistance required and has submitted its report. Further action will be taken as per the established procedure for release of additional assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief.

Flood Control

*316. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :
SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISHRA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire country suffers from flood havoc every year;

(b) whether any scheme is being formulated by the Government to make the river bed deeper so as to avoid floods in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the Government intends to provide protection from such flood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Floods of varying magnitude occur in some parts of the country every year.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Planning and implementation of flood protection works are the responsibility of the State Government. Over the years, the State Government have been executing various flood management measures such as construction of embankments and drainage channels, anti erosion works etc. apart from providing flood storages in selected multipurpose reservoirs. Apart from the above structural measures, non-structural measures such as flood forecasting, flood plain zoning and flood proofing are also being taken. Central Government has been providing flood forecasting services on all important river systems of the country.

[English]

Sharing of Ganga Water

*317. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the Ganga water sharing treaty with Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereo?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

HYV of Wheat

*318. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Scientists are working on high yielding wheat varieties to get more output than the current best varieties;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these varieties of wheat are likely to be supplied to farmers?

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

(b) Intensive research efforts are under way to develop superior high yielding wheat cultivars. A three pronged approach is being applied in wheat breeding which includes:

(i) Development of superior genotypes with improved yield attributing character.

(ii) Development of hybrid wheat.

(iii) Application of molecular biology and marker aided selection for combining quality traints with high yield.

(c) Crop improvement for desired traits like higher yield and resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses is a continuous process. Such new improved varieties are released every year. However, a quantum jump is expected in the next 5-10 years.

Agricultural Research

*319. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides funds to State Governments for their agricultural research institutions;

(b) if so, the total fund provided during the 8th Five Year Plan; and

(c) the achievements made by such institutions during the same period?

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

(b) The approximate total funds allocated during 8th Five Year Plan by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to Centres of All India Co-ordinated Research Project (AICRPs) and Project Directorates (PDs) in State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and few other Research Centres under States Governments were Rs. 353.84 crore.

(c) These Institutions are Centres of AICRPs and PDs located in SAUS and few other Centres in the States. As important components of National Agricultural Research System, they make significant contribution in National efforts on Varietal/Breed Improvement and tecnology Development Programme and also support in multi-locational testing.

Several high yielding and promising varieties and hybrids were evolved and released during this period. These varieties are for food crops, fodder crops, pulses, oilseeds, commercial crops, horticultural crops (fruits, vegetables, plantation crops, mushrooms, flowers). The techniques have been developed for Integrated Pest Management, Integrated Nutrient Management, Input Use Efficiency, Soil and Water Management, Cropping Systems including Crop Rotations, Post Harvest Technology, Small Farm Implements and Tools. High yielding breeds of cattle, poultry, sheep, goat and other livestock etc. have also been evolved.

The consolidated achievements of National Varietal/ Breed Improvement and Technology Development Programmes including the achievements of Centres of AICRPs located at SAUs are included in the Annual Reports of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) and laid in both Houses of Parliament every year.

Permanent Seat in UN Security Council

*320. SHRI VAIKO :
SHRI KAMAL NATH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has almost lost its chances of getting a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council because of its recent Nuclear tests;

(b) the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Discussions on Security Council restructuring are continuing in the Open Ended Working Group of the UN General Assembly. India's candidature for permanent membership in any expansion of the UN Security Council remains on the table.

(b) Question does not arise

(c) Government will continue its efforts to promote our objective.

Low Level Radio Activity

*321. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKARA REDDY :
DR. SAROJA V. :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any nuclear low-level radio-activity was generated following the explosion in Pokhran;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the temperature in the country especially the areas surrounding Pokhran shot up as a result of nuclear tests;

(d) whether the Atomic Energy Safety Regulatory Board proposes to check the impact on environment due to low-level radio activity in the surrounding area of Pokhran; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) There is no radioactivity on a surface of the ground at the explosion sites. All the radioactivity is contained underground.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Since the experts of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) have visited the site and certified that there was no release of radioactivity in the area, there is no such proposal for the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).

(e) Does not arise.

Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre

3036. SHRI M. RAJAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements of the JNCC (Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre) at Indian Embassy, Moscow during the last three years;

(b) the strength of the present staff, category-wise;

(c) the number of the foreigners and Indians received training from it during the last three years; and

(d) the number of groups/troupes from India who had visited Moscow for cultural activities during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The functioning of the Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre (JNCC) at Moscow during the last three years has contributed to a further consolidation of India's already close and multifaceted cultural ties with Russia. During the last three years, JNCC has organised cultural programmes, seminars, panel and round-table discussions, programmes to mark various special anniversaries, visits by Indian cultural troupes to different parts of Russia and by Russian scholars to India, regular classes for Indian dance, music, Hindi and yoga, essay and painting competitions, film shows, publication of books, etc.

(b) The strength of the JNCC staff, category-wise, is a follows:

* India-based staff—6, consisting of the director, 4 teachers (Hindi, Yoga, Dance and Tabla), and Personal Assistant to Director.

* Russian staff—7 plus 1 part-time, consisting of 1 Secretary/Intrepreter, 1 computer assistant, 1 Administrative Asistant, 1 maid, 1 driver, 1 courier, 1 boilerman, 1 gardener (only during summer months)

(c) Approximate number of foreigners and Indians who have received training during the past three years at the JNCC is (i) Yoga-665 (620 foreigners and 45 Indians); (ii) Dance-485 (425 foreigners and 60 Indians); (iii) Tabla-350 (320 foreigners and 30 Indians); and (iv) Hindi-160 (all foreigners).

(d) Numerous cultural groups/troupes from India have visited Russia over the last three years. The major ones amongst these include:

A 12 member Kohinoor Langa Group in July 1995 to participate in the Second Festival of Music and Dance for Asia-Pacific Countries held at Krasnoyarsk.

143 Indian artists and others for the "Days of Indian Culture" in Russia, organized over a two week period in September 1996, and covering 12 Russian cities.

12 member folk dance and music troupe in September 1997 for the 850th anniversary celebrations of Moscow.

Money Stuck In Central Sector Projects

3037. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the total amount of money stuck in incomplete 233 Central sector projects in the country at current price.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : As on March 1998, out of 454 projects costing Rs 20 crores and above on the monitor of the Department of Programme Implementation, 234 projects were due for completion by March 1998 as per the original schedule but remained incomplete. The latest estimated cost of these 234 projects is Rs. 94,042.5 crore.

Kendriya Bhandar

3038. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have authorised Super Bazar and NCCF to supply items of stationery etc. to the Government Departments;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to constitute a Committee to monitor the price of stationery items at Super Bazar/NCCF/Kendriya Bhandar and circulate price list to all the Govt. Departments;

(c) whether any guidelines have been framed by the Department of Personnel and Training in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) According to the instructions of 14.7.1981 issued by the Government, prices of articles as are generally indented for by Government Departments etc. from the Kendriya Bhandar were required to be fixed by a Committee consisting of a representative each of the Departments of Supply, Works and Housing (now Urban Affairs and Employment) an the Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society (Kendriya Bhandar). Instructions regarding local purchase of stationery and other items required by Central Government Offices were subsequently extended to Super Bazar and NCCF, but there was no mention of the constitution of such a Committee. Due to frequent fluctuations in the market prices etc., the system of pricing by a Committee could not function. The instructions of 14.7.1981 have since been modified to do away with the requirement of the said Committee for fixation of prices of items being supplied by Kendriya Bhandar to the Central Government Offices. However, to ensure that there are no complaints on the quality of goods being supplied by the Kendriya Bhandar at fair and reasonable prices, instructions have been issued to Kendriya Bhandar to undertake survey on the level of satisfaction provided by it to the various user Ministries/Departments on yearly basis. Simultaneously, the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs, the administrative ministry for Super Bazar and NCCF, has been requested to consider introducing the system of survey in respect of Super Bazar and NCCF also.

[Translation]

UN Security Job

3039. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries where civil and army officers of India have been sent in regard to maintain peace and security in the current year;

(b) the number of Indian officials sent to each country;

(c) whether the expenses on their stay in the foreign countries are met by India or by international institution of the concerned country; and

(d) the number of Indian officials sent to foreign countries who died while on duty and financial assistance provided by India or other countries to the family members of said officers after their deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The details are given in the enclosed Statement

(c) The expense of stay of Indian military and police observers deputed to UN Peace Keeping Missions is borne by the United Nations.

(d) One Indian civil police observer Shri Arun Bansal, Sub-Inspector died while on duty with UN Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina and his family will be provided assistance as admissible under relevant rules of the UN and the Government of India.

Statement

Names of countries where Indian Civil and Army officers have been deputed to take part in UN Peace Keeping Operations, and the number of officials sent to each country during 1998.

Information relating to army personnel :

Details of participation by Indian troops in all ranks in UN Peacekeeping Missions in the current year, are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of Country	UN Mission	No. of Personnel	
(i)	Angola	MONUA	192*	Currently 159 deployed. Rest have repatriated.
(ii)	Kuwait/Iraq	UNIKOM	05	
(iii)	Bosnia/Herzegovina	UNMAC	01	
(iv)	Sierra Leone	MIL LIAISON UNIT	01	
(v)	USA	UN HQ, New York	01	

Information relating to police personnel :

In addition, the number of Indian Civil Police Officers on deployment under UN Peace Keeping Operation during the current year is as under:

	Name of Country	No. of Police officer in the Mission as on 1.1.1998	No. sent during the year
1.	Bosnia/Herzegovina	142 (20 returned in May 98 & 122 to return in July 98.	20 sent in May 98. 87 to be sent in July 98.
2.	Haiti	5 (Two have come back in 98).	Nil.
3.	Angola	22 (One returned)	1 (One)
4.	Western Sahara	10	Nil.

[English]

Reduction of Duty on Foreign Monitor

3040. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign monitors are available in the country at a much lower price than their international price;

(b) if so, whether increasing import and availability in the country is causing much damage to the domestic industry;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to reduce that import duty on data/graphics display tube for colour monitor in order to boost domestic industry; and

(d) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Domestic monitor industry is competitive. Import duty on monitors is @ 20% (basic) whereas the parts of monitors are @ 10% basic customs duty which provides the necessary impetus. Further Monitors of CIF value not exceeding Rs. 7500/- can only be imported under Special Import Licence (SIL).

(c) In the Budget 1998-99, the import duty on Data/ Graphic display tube (color) has already been reduced from 10% to 5% (basic) to boost domestic production.

(d) Does not arise.

Badanalla Irrigation Project

3041. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether main components of Badanalla Medium Irrigation Project in Orissa has been completed;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in completion of main canals an other related works of the project; and

(c) the details of time overrun and cost overrun of the project, year-wise?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The work of main components of the project like dam, dykes, spillway, head race of main canal and fabrication and erection of 8 No so of radial gates have been completed 80% of excavation work of main canal and 50% of distributaries and minors have also been completed. The project was approved in 1980 for an estimated cost of Rs. 11.39 crores and was scheduled to be completed by 1989-90. The cost of the balance work of project as on January, 97 is R. 25.85 crores against the latest estimated cost of the project *i.e.*, Rs. 105.88 crores. The project is now scheduled for completion by March, 1999.

Passport Collection Centre

3042. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by the Regional Passport Office at Calicut, Kerala for issue of fresh passports and for renewals during each of the last three financial years;

(b) the number of applications disposed off, passport issued and renewed and the number of applications that remained pending during each of these years;

(c) whether the Government is aware that there is a heavy load of work at Calicut Regional Passport Office from the Malappuram district of Kerala;

(d) if so, whether the Government would consider opening a passport collection centre in the said district, particularly at Tirur; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government has no such proposal under its consideration at present.

(e) Despite the heavy load of applications from the Malappuram district, the Passport Office at Kozhikode is able to satisfactorily areas the requirements of applicants from this region.

Statement

Passport Applications Received and Passports Issued by Passport Office, Kozhikode

Year	No. of applications received for fresh passports	No. of applications for renewal	No. of applications disposed off including passports issued and renewed	No. of applications that remaine pending
1995-96	1,23,210	11,733	1,27,455	7,498
1996-97	1,18,878	23,365	1,35,344	5,899
1997-98	1,22,155	26,862	1,42,109	5,908

[Translation]

Water Logging

3043. SHRI PUNNULAL MOHALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any appropriate technique has been developed by the Government to deal with the water logging problem in the areas being irrigated through canals;

(b) if so, the extent to which this technique is being utilized; and

(c) the details of the States which are being badly affected by water logging in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. To tackle problem of waterlogging in canal irrigated areas both preventive and reclamatic techniques have been developed.

(b) Different techniques are being used in different States according to the type and magnitude of the problems.

(c) The Working Group constituted by Ministry of Water Resources assessed (1991) that an area of 24.56 lakh ha. is suffering from waterlogging in the country. The Statewise detail is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Statewise details of waterlogged areas in the country

(unit : 000 ha)

Sl. No.	State	Waterlogged Area
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	266.40
2.	Assam	—
3.	Bihar	619.70
4.	Gujarat	172.59
5.	Haryana	249.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.20
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.50
8.	Karnataka	24.54
9.	Kerala	11.61
10.	Madhya Pradesh	73.12
11.	Maharashtra	15.35

1	2	3
12.	Orissa	196.26
13.	Punjab	200.00
14.	Rajasthan	179.50
15.	Tamil Nadu	16.19
16.	Uttar Pradesh	430.00
	Total	2455.96 (24.56 lakh ha)

Additional Financial Assistance to Bihar

3044. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total additional financial assistance sought by the Government of Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the allocation made by the Union Government to the State, year-wise and scheme-wise;

(c) the reasons for not providing full financial assistance sought by the State Government;

(d) whether the financial assistance sought in the current year has been released;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The Additional Central Assistance is provided to the States in accordance with the criteria under Gadgil Formula. Additional Central Assistance was provided to Bihar during 1995-96 only. The scheme-wise details are as under:

	Name of the Scheme	Amount released (Rs. crore)
(1)	For Building a Library Complex at Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribagh, Bihar	1.00
(2)	Tenughat Electric Project	15.00
(3)	Construction of Bridge over River Niranjana at Ganga (Bihar)	4.15
(4)	Construction of Keshorpur Bridge to connect North-East portion of Bhojpur District	0.6784
(5)	Flood Protection of Begusarai Industrial Complex under Begusarai District of Bihar	1.2767
	Total	22.7051

(d) No. Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

[English]

Production of Cashewnut

3045. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the domestic consumption and export of cashewnut during 1997-98;

(b) the production of cashewnut during the above period, State-wise; and

(c) the additional area likely to be brought under cashewnut plantation during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) During the year 1997-98, the domestic consumption of cashewnut was 68000 tonnes and 76323 tonnes was exported.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) About 37300 hectares of additional area is likely to be brought under cashewnut during the current year.

Statement

Details of Production of Cahewnut During 1997-98

Sl. No.	State	Production (tonnes)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50,000
2.	Goa	25,000
3.	Karnataka	35,000
4.	Kerala	1,000
5.	Maharashtra	60,000
6.	Orissa	45,000
7.	Tamil Nadu	30,000
8.	West Bengal	6,000
9.	Others	1,000
	Total	3,60,000

Prawn Farms

3046. SHRI BIKRAM DEO KESHARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of existing prawn farms in Orissa;

(b) whether the prawn yields have been declining in Orissa;

(c) if so, the details for the years 1996, 1997 and 1998 and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the prawn production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The total number of existing prawn farms in the State of Orissa is 6526 conversing an area of about 11694 ha.

(b) and (c) According to the State Government, the production of prawn in the State during the last three years is as given below:—

Year	Prawn Production (MT)
1995-96	6957.33
1996-97	6626.79
1997-98	4872.70

The decline in prawn production is attributed to the Supreme Court judgement on shrimp aquaculture in coastal areas.

(d) The steps taken by the Government for increasing the production of prawn inter alia include:—

(i) development of scientific shrimp farming through Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies/Fish Farmers Development Agencies and providing package of Technical, financial and extension support to prawn farmers;

(ii) encouraging establishment of integrated shrimp farms and support facilities such as seed hatcheries, feed mill, etc. in the Government/public/private sectors;

(iii) human resource development by establishing demonstration-cum-training centres; and

(iv) issue of guidelines outlining measures for development and management of sustainable brackishwater aquaculture practices, etc.

Minimum Support Price for Copra

3047. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received request from the Government of Kerala to enhance the Minimum Support Price of copra declared by his Ministry and also to entrust the NAFED the procurement of copra; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Government of India announced the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Milling Copra of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) at R. 2900 per quintal and for Ball Copra (FAQ)

at R. 3125 per quintal for 1998 season on 10th June, 1998. The MSPs for 1998 season mark a substantial increase of Rs. 200 per quintal each for Milling copra and Ball Copera over their respective MSPs last year. This also marks an increase of Rs. 40 per quintal in the MSP of Milling copra and Rs. 25 per quintal for Ball copra over the MSPs recommended by the CACP for 1998 season.

The Government of India has not received any proposal from the Government of Kerala to enhance MSP declared on 10th June, 1998. The Government has directed the National Agricultural Coop. Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) to start procurement under MSP. Upto 30th June, 1998 the NAFED has procured 199 tonnes of Milling copra in the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The procurement of Ball copra is not necessitated as its market prices are ruling above the MSP.

[Translation]

Immunisation of Cattle

3048. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provide some grant to the State Governments to immunise cattle against the 'Muhkhuri' disease;

(b) if so, the extent of grant provided by the Union Government to Madhya Pradesh during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(c) the vaccination cost collected from the animal breeders to immunise the animals against the 'Mukhuri' disease per animal;

(d) whether many poor farmers find it difficult to pay the price of the injection despite the grant being given by the Centre and the State Government; and

(e) if so, whether the Government would contemplate to pay the full price of the injection?

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

(b) A sum of Rs. 57.27 lakhs was provided to the State during 1997-98. No releases were made to the State During 1996-97.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[English]

Indian Council For Veterinary Research

3049. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 100 MPs have recommended for setting up of Indian Council for Veterinary Research (ICVR) by bifurcating Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR);

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up ICVR and National Cattle Research Institute;

(c) whether productivity of indigenous breeds is much less in comparison to USA; and

(d) if so, the comparative figures thereof and the steps being taken to improve the indigenous breeds?

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

(b) The Government is examining the proposal for setting up of ICVR. There is no proposal to set up National Cattle Research Institute.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The estimated average annual production from indigenous cattle during 1992-93 was about 672 kg, whereas the figure for USA during the same period was 6999 kg.

The important measures undertaken to improve the indigenous breeds are as follows;

(i) Establishment of Central Cattle Breeding Farms and implementation of Central Herd Registration Scheme.

(ii) Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes on Extension of Frozen Semen Technology, Progeny Testing Programme and the National Bull Production Programme

(iii) Implementation of Research Programmes at National Dairy Research Institute, National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Project Directorate on Cattle and other institutions of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Pitamahal and Kansbahal Dams

3050. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any complaint regarding irregularities in Pitamahal and Kansbahal Dam Projects in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No complaint has been received in the Ministry of Water Resources.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Brahmaputra Board

3051. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Brahamaputra Board has conducted any survey regarding potentialities of the river and its tributaries an exploit the energy source;

(b) if so, the findings thereof an the action taken by the board thereon; an

(c) the budgetary allocation made for the board since its inception, year-wise?

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

(b) Brahamaputra Board has conducted survey and investigation for preparation of Master Plans aimed at integrated development of the Water Resources of all major rivers and its tributaries in the Brahmaputra and Braak Valleys for flood moderation, removal of drainage congesion, prevention of erosion, hydropower generation and navigation. For exploiting energy sources, Brahamaputra Board has undertaken investigation toward preparation of the Detailed Project Report of thirteen multi-purpose projects identified in the Master Plans. The Detailed Project Reports for two major schemes namely Pagladiya and Tipaimukh project have been completed by the Board.

(c) The total grant-in-aid provided yearwise to the Brahmaputra Board since its inception in 1981-82 till the end of financial year 1997-98 in Crore of Rupees are: 0.10, 2.00, 10.20, 6.50, 8.00, 7.00, 5.75, 5.00 6.65, 4.82, 9.02, 8.08, 8.15, 6.20, 9.26, 9.15, 12.65, respectively.

Regional Passport Offices

3052. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total regional passport offices at present in the country, State-wise and locationwise;

(b) whether people of Andhra Pradesh are not getting their passport from the regional passport offices for a long time;

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

(d) the total number of applications pending at present in regional passport offices at Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to clear the applications quickly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE) : (a) A statement in enclosed.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Passport Offices at Hyderabad and Vishakhapatnam are issuing passport on an average of 35 days after application.

(d) The number of applications pending as on 30.6.98 at the Passport Office at Hyderabad is 21,307 and at Passport Office at Vishakhapatnam is 4745.

(e) Government is constantly endeavouring to keep the number of such pending applications to the minimum so as to provide an efficient service to the general public. Among the measures taken to expedite processing of passport applications are: computerisation of processing procedures, issue of short validity passports on basis of verification certificates in situations of emergency, fixing of time limits for completion of police verification procedure, opening of new Passport Offices and Collection Centres, enhancing validity of passports to 20 years, provision for dispatch of passport by speed post wherever practical, etc.

Statement

Regional Passport Offices

S. No.	State	Location
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad Vishakhapatnam
2.	Assam	Guwahati

1	2	3
3.	Bihar	Patna
4.	Goa	Panaji
5.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu Srinagar
7.	Karnataka	Bangalore
8.	Kerala	Cochin Kozhikode Trivandrum
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
10.	Maharashtra	Mumbai Nagpur Thane
11.	Orissa	Bhubaneshwar
12.	Punjab	Jalandhar
13.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
14.	Tamil Nadu	Madras Trichy
15.	Union Territory of Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana & Himachal Pradesh	Chandigarh
16.	Union Territory of Delhi, District of Gurgaon, Faridabac Rohtak and Sonepat in Haryana	New Delhi
17.	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly Ghaziabad Lucknow
18.	West Bengal	Calcutta

Kanpur Hydel Project/Dam in Orissa

3053. SHRI UPENDRA NATH NAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to undertake the Kanpur Hydel Project/dam over the river Baitarani near Basudevpur in the district Keonjhar, Orissa;

(b) if so, the amount required to complete the job; and

(c) the time by which the project/dam is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Government of Orissa have taken up work of Kanpur Irrigation project/Dam over the river Baitarani in Keonjhar district. The latest estimated cost of the project is Rs. 318.91 crorees. The Headworks are likely to be completed during IXth Plan and the balance work will spill over the Xth Plan.

Reservation Policy

3054. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT BACHDA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Personnel and Training has issued directions to Ministries/Departments of Government of India for not following the orders issued by National Commission for SC/STs even though the orders are just for implementation of reservation policy as per the orders of DOPT:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Department of Telecom is not following the orders issued by the commission for proper implementation of reservation policy in ITS Group 'A' and Civil Wing as per the orders of Department of Personnel and Training; and

(d) if so, the details of these orders and the time by which these orders are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Ministries/Departments of India have been apprised of the Supreme Court judgement holding that the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has no power of granting injunction, whether temporary

or permanent, under Article 338 of the Constitution and consequently, the commission has no powers to direct withholding of operation of any order issued by the Government.

(c) and (d) According to the information furnished by the Department of Telecommunication, the reservation policy of the Government is being followed by that Department.

Crop Insurance Scheme

3055. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Crop Insurance scheme implemented by the Union Government presently;

(b) whether the Government is aware that Palghat district in Kerala State is one of the important paddy production region of the country; and

(c) the reasons for exclusion of the paddy farmers of Kerala from the Crop Insurance Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) A Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) has been in operation in the country since 1985. It covers all farmers growing wheat, paddy, millet, (including maize), plusses and oilseeds crops and availing crop loan from Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Credit Institutions. The sum insured is equal to crop loan disbursed, subject to maximum of Rs. 10,000/- per farmer. Insurance charges are 2% (for wheat, paddy and millets) and 1% (for oilseeds and pulses crops) of the sum insured. 50% of the insurance charges payable by the small and marginal farmers are subsidized equally by the Central and State Governments. The premium and claims are shared between the Central and the State Governments in the ratio of 2 : 1.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) CCIS is being implemented in Kerala (including Palghat district) with paddy as the only notified crop. CCIS being voluntary in nature, areas and crops for the purpose of implementation of the Scheme are notified by the State Governments concerned from season to season.

Technical Officers

3056. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Pay Commission recommended Central Agricultural Services for creation of promotional avenues for the technical officers of the Agriculture department;

(b) whether his department has favoured implementation of this recommendation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir, The Fifth Pay Commission has recommended constitution of a Central Agriculture Service comprising all Group 'A' posts in the Department and its attached and subordinate offices.

(b) to (d) View of the Department are yet to be finalised.

Sea Erosion

3057. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :
SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN :
SHRI N. DENNIS :
SHRI S.S. OWAISI :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken by the Government to prevent sea erosion in the country;

(b) the funds provided by the Union Government to the State Governments of coastal areas to check sea erosion during the last three years, year-wise and state-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to implement a National Coastal Protection Project during the Ninth Five Year Plan period covering all maritime States with external assistance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the project is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : Planning investigation, execution and maintenance of anti sea erosion works is the responsibility of concerned State Government. Central Government has constituted Coastal Protection and Development Advisory Committee (CPDAC) for advising the Coastal States on effective and economical solution

to the Coastal problems including anti sea erosion measures.

(b) Statement howling funds allocated to Flood Control Sector, which includes anti sea erosion works also, in respect of Coastal States for the years 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 is enclosed.

(c) to (e) As decided by the CPDAC, all Coastal States have been asked by the Central Government to send proposals for protection of vulnerable stretches of coast in their respective States for inclusion in the National Coastal Protection Project being prepared by the Central Water Commission. Proposals with requisite information have been received from Kerala, Karnataka and Gujarat. Government of India has not identified any agency for funding the project. Time schedule for completion would be decided after finalisation of the consolidated project incorporation proposals from all Coastal States and identifying source of funding.

Statement

Approved outlays in respect of Flood Control Sub Sector (including Sea Erosion) for the years 1995-96 to 1997-98.

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of States & UT's	Approved outlays for the years		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30.00	22.00	17.00
2.	Goa	0.30	0.80	0.84
3.	Gujarat	1.60	1.60	5.00
4.	Karnataka	9.72	10.00	7.47
5.	Kerala	21.00	35.50	25.50
6.	Maharashtra	0.55	1.27	6.37
7.	Orissa	8.80	10.00	5.00
8.	Tamil Nadu	3.49	1.59	2.03
9.	West Bengal	43.00	66.35	70.23
10.	Pondicherry	3.50	3.50	3.00

Nuclear Test

3058. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the site of nuclear test "Pokharan" is a prohibited area;

(b) if so, whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Memorial Planned at Pokharan" appearing in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated May 18, 1998 and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government have seen media reports on the subject which have been attributed to sources outside the Government.

Development of Cryogenic Engine

3059. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of cryogenic engine being developed by Indian Space Research Organisation;

(b) the details of recent review made in this regard;

(c) the details of international cooperation finalised in development of the technology and the success achieved so far; and

(d) the work plan for the current year and the funds allocated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Following the deletion of technology transfer from the contract entered into by ISRO with the M/s GLAVKOSMOS, Russia in December, 1993, the Government approved the indigenous Cryogenic Upper State (CUS) Project in April 1994.

Significant progress has been made by the project in the last four years by way of design of the engine, stage and test facilities, fabrication of engine elements, initiation of stage fabrication and establishment of facilities. Detailed design reviews for engine and stage, development efforts and software modelling of critical subsystems and processes are progressing. A One-tonne class pressure fed cryo engine has been successfully developed which gives confidence for the realisation of the

larger engine. It is expected that the first indigenous stage will be available by the year 2000 based on a success based schedule.

(c) The development of the cryogenic engine under the CUS Project is entirely an indigenous effort and no foreign co-operation is involved.

(d) The budget outlay proposed by the Department for the CUS Project during the financial year 1998-99 is Rs. 45.35 crores. During the financial year, establishment of fabrication, processing, assembly and test facilities and realisation of hardware for Engine and state components are planned.

[Translation]

Cotton Monopoly Scheme

3060. SHRI JAISINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra have demanded from the Union Government for the regularisation of "Cotton monopoly scheme" being run in the interest of farmers;

(b) if so, the whether Government are contemplating to provide permanent recognition to this welfare scheme; and

(c) if so, time by which the recognisation is likely to be provided to this welfare scheme by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Textiles received a proposal from the State Government of Maharashtra for grant of extension in the validity period of the Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme of Maharashtra. The proposal is being examined in consultation with the concerned authorities.

Special Recruitment Drive

3061. PROF . JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Personnel and Training had issued an Office Memorandum on August 29, 1997 to clear the back-long and to fill-up the present posts reserved for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes by a special recruitment drive; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken so far in this regard by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Pak Propaganda Against India

3062. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakitsan Government have been issuing several statements against India after Pokhran nuclear tests;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to counters these statements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Government have seen numerous anti-India satements issued by the Government of Pakistan, as well as by senior Pakistani leaders after the Pokhran nuclear tests.

(b) and (c) Government deeply regret that such hostile statements were made by Pakistan. They are of the view that such statements are against the understanding that both countries will refrain from hostile propaganda against each other. While adhering to this understanding, Government have effectively exposed the propaganda contained in these statements, and made the correct position publicly known.

[English]

Titanium Products

3063. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for financial assistance for modernisation of Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited and Travancore Titanium Products Ltd. has been pending with the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) A proposal was received from the Kerala

Minerals & Metals Limited (KMML), a public sector enterprise of the Government of Kerala, for setting up a mineral separation plant, a captive power generation plant and enhancing the capacity of the existing titanium dioxide plant of KMML at an estimated total cost of Rs. 425 crore and requesting the Central Government for participation in the investment for this purpose, through Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), a public sector undertaking of the Government of India, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). The proposal thus involve a large investment. The resources available with IREL as well as the IX Plan outlay indicated to the DAE are limited. Hence, it has not been possible to consider provision of Central financial assistance for the said project of KMML.

[Translation]

Construction of Dam

3064. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh to construct a dam over Anas river for water supply scheme for Meghnagar industrial area in Jhabua Distt.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the contribution of Union Government and the Government of Madhya Pradesh thereto; and

(d) the time by which the dam is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No such proposal is received in the Ministry of Water Resources.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Southern Water Grid

3065. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish southern water grid in Goa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal to establish southern water grid in Goa.

However, the Government have formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development which envisages inter-linkages between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from water surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilisation of Water Resources in the country.

Upper Krishna Project

3066. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds earmarked for Upper Krishana Project in Karnataka under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, during 1997-98; and

(b) the actual funds spent thereon by the Government of Karnataka during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 100 crores was sanctioned for Upper Krihna project Stage-I as Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme during 1997-98 against which Rs. 50 crores (50%) was released as Ist instalment in advance which has been fully utilised by the State Government.

Kaiga Power Plant

3067. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on Kaiga Atomic Power Plant in Karnataka is in progress;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the KAPP is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The overall progress of the construction activities of the Kaiga Project so far is about 88%. Prestressing work is in progress for the dome of reactor building-2, the casting of which was completed in March 1998. Other works including piping and reinforcement are in progress.

(c) While Kaiga-2 is planned to go critical during April 1999, Kaiga-1 is likely to go critical sometime later.

Production of Kinnu

3068. ER. SHANKAR PANNU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the production of Kinnu; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Central Sector Scheme of Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone Fruits, being implemented by the Government, assistance is being provided for increasing the productivity and production of fruit including kinnu through various measures such as supply of quality planting material, rejuvenation of senile orchards, training of farmers besides area expansion.

Projects Under MPLAD Scheme

3069. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects recommended out of the MPLADS Fund in the Union Territory of Chandigarh during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) the number of approved, ongoing and completed projects and the amount spent on each project separately;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints regarding delay in implementation of these projects; and

(d) if so, the action being taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) As per information received from the District Administration, 118 projects have been recommended out of MPLADS funds in the Union Territory of Chandigarh during 1996–97, 1997–98 and 1998–99 out of which 56 projects have been approved for execution, 14 projects have been completed and 6 projects are under execution. Scheme-wise details of amount spent are available with the District Administration.

(c) and (d) District administration have also informed that there is some delay in execution of works due to delay in submission of estimates by the executing agencies. They have been advised by the Chandigarh, administration to provide estimates at the earliest.

[Translation]

Pashulok Barrage

3070. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether gate No. 4 of Barrage dam at Pashulok in Rishikesh, Uttar Pradesh has recently stopped functioning;

(b) if so, the extent of loss caused by stoppage;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indian Foreign Service

3071. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA
SHRI ADITYANATH

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total hours of training fixed for providing knowledge of the main aspects of Indian culture to the probationers of Indian Foreign Service;

(b) whether the said time fixed for the training is inadquate;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to increase the time for such training keeping in view the need of it;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :

(a) Probationers of the Indian Foreign Service are exposed to approximately an eight-day programme on the manin aspects of Indian culture for, on an average, five-hours each day, of demonstration and discussion. Apart from this they are told about various facets of cultural, scientific, etc. achievements of ancient India in course of extensive field trips that they undertake.

(b) The said time fixed for training is adequate.

(c) to (e) Does not arise

[English]

Irrigation Projects in Goa

3072. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several irrigation projects which had been started over a decade ago in Goa have not been completed so far due to lack of funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) the stage at which these projects stand at present; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government for their expeditious clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The details are a under.

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Plan of Start	Latest estimated cost	Cum. exp. upto 3/97 (ant.)
Major				
1.	Salauli	IV	153.00	108.49
2.	Tilari	V	525.59	150.16
Medium				
1.	Mandovi	V	40.00	2.40

(d) All the above projects have already been accorded investment clearance by the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

Betel Grower

3073. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scheme for improving the conditions of betel growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken for covering betel growers under crop insurance scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Government of India Implemented a Central Sector Scheme on Development of Betelvine in the country during 8th Five Year Plan. This Scheme has now been discontinued.

(c) Betelvine is not covered under the existing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme on account of non-availability of requisite past yield date and also because of multi-picking nature of the crop.

Soil Erosion in Bihar

3074. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the rivers causing excessive soil erosion in Bihar;

(b) the total land affected as a result thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to solve the problem?

THE MINITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Rivers causing excessive soil erosion in Bihar are the Northern tributaries of Ganga, namely Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Bagmati, Kamla-Balam, Adhwara Group of rivers, Koshi and Mahananda. The reach of main Ganga from Buxar to Karagola (Manihar ghat) is also subject to servere erosion.

(b) Records of area effected by soil erosion are not maintained by the Central Government.

(c) Planning and implementation of Flood management works including anti erosion measures is the responsibility of the State Government. Ganga Flood Control Commission under Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India has prepared comprehensive plans for flood management of all 23 sub-basins of Ganga basin incluing those traversing Bihar and sent to the State Government for preparing detailed schemes and implementation. These comprehensive plans contain suggestions for various measures towards controlling river

bank erosion. The state Government have been carrying out various measures in the form of spurs, studs, bed bars, rivetments, bank pitching and screen piles.

Unirrigated Land

3075. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 70 per cent of agricultural land in the country is still unirrigated; and

(b) the extent to which the irrigation capacity is lying unutilized due to inland river water disputes?

THE MINITER OF STATE IN THE MINITRY OF AGRIULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir. As per Land Use Statistics brough out by Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1994-95 (latest), 52.9 million hectares of Net Irrigated Area (NIA) in the country out of 142.7 million hectares of Net sown Area (NSA) constitutes about 37%.

(b) Assessment of irrigation capacity lying unutilised due to inland river water disputes has not been made.

Irregularities in Relief Works

3076. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the office of the Accountant-General, Gwalior observed certain irregularities committed in rescue and relief work after the devastating earthquake in Jabalpur on May 22, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) : No report on irregularities committed in rescue and relief work after Jabalpur earthquake of May, 1997 has so been received from Accountant General, Gwalior. However, the Accountant General, Gwalior has been requested to supply the requisite information.

[English]

Kashmir Issue

3077. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries who have offered to mediate on Kashmir problem after the nuclear tests;

(b) whether Government has responded to such offers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) Government are committed to the establishment of friendly and cooperative relations with Pakistan, and the resolution of all outstanding issues through direct bilateral discussions and negotiations. There is no place for any third party involvement of any kind whatsoever in this process. This view has been made known to the international Community through official statements and interaction at the diplomatic and political levels.

[Translation]

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

3078. SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUJ BISEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of per head aid given by the Government to pilgrims going to Kailash Mansarovar;

(d) whether Government propose to enhance the aid; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The pilgrimage to Kailash and Mansarovar resumed in 1982, under a bilateral agreement with China and takes place between June and September every year. The Yatra is conducted through the Lipulekh Pass (Uttar Pradesh).

Ministry of External Affairs organises the Yatra with the assistance of the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Government of India/State Government agencies such as the Ministries of Railways and Home Affairs, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN), and Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Advertisement in newspapers, television and radio are released every year, inviting applications from Indian nationals for participation in the Yatra. Applications are registered on a 'first-come-first-served' basis. Applicants are required to be physically and medically fit and have to undergo a medical check-up in New Delhi and Gunji, UP, before being permitted to undertake the Yatra.

Facilities provided by the Government to the pilgrims include medical assistance, security and escort cover

through Indo-Tibetan Boarder Police and the Uttar Pradesh State Police, communication links between Delhi and places enroute on Indian side and with China, cost of publicity of the Yatra and partial cost of creation of infrastructure, logistics an facilities on the Indian side. Government also bears expenses for aerial evacuation of pilgrims in case of emergencies. A Liaison Officer is attached by Government with each batch of yatris.

(c) Since 1996, Government has been paying Rupees three thousand two hundred and fifty (3,250/-) per pilgrim to Kumaon Mandal Vikash Nigam for arrangements made by them for the Yatra.

(d) There is no proposal under consideration by the Government to enhance the amount.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

World Bank Loan

3079. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has provided any loan to the Government of Orissa for irrigation projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total area of the State likely to be benefited after completion of these projects;

(d) the time by which the projects are likely to be completed; and

(e) the details of agreement signed between the Government of Orissa and the World Bank?

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

(b) The 'Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project' is being implemented with IDA Credit assistance of US $ 270.587 Million under the Agreement dated 05.01 1995. The project was launched w.e.f. 30.01.1996 and an amount of US $ 74.993 Million has been utilised upto May, 1998.

(c) On completion of the project an area of 3,29,000 ha. is likely to be benefited.

(d) The project is scheduled for completion by September, 2002.

(e) An Agreement has been signed on 54 January, 1995 between the Government of India and the International Development Association for SDR. 194,800,000 (equipment to US $ 270.587 Million).

[Translation]

Remunerative Prices/Support Prices

3080. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy to ensure that farmers get remunerative prices for their crops in time; and

(b) if so, the time by which the policy is likely to be implemented and the criteria proposed to be adopted for determining the support prices of different crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The main objective of the Government's price policy for agricultural produce already being followed aims at ensuring remunerative prices to the grower for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production. The Government announces each season minimum support prices for major agricultural commodities and organises purchase operation through public and cooperative agencies. The Government decides on the minimum support prices for various agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of State Governments and Central Ministries as also other relevant factors. While formulating its recommendations on price policy, the CACP considers the following important factors;

(1) Cost of Production.
(2) Changes in input prices.
(3) Input/Output price parity.
(4) Trends in market prices.
(5) Demand and Supply situation.
(6) Inter-crop price parity.
(7) Effect on industrial cost structure.
(8) Effect on general price level.
(9) Effect on cost of living.
(10) International market price situation.
(11) Parity between price paid and prices received by farmers (Terms of Trade).

[English]

Agricultural Input Cost

3081. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any programme to asses various agricultural input cost;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the selling price of seeds and pesticides are realistic to their actual cost of production;

(d) if so, whether the Government have any programme to control and regulate the prices of seeds and pesticides to realistic level; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) As a part of the exercise for estimating the cost of production of various crops for fixing the minimum support price, there is a scheme for studying the cost of cultivation of principal crops. The cost of input such as seed, fertilizer and insecticide is estimate for the following crops:

Paddy, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, barley, arhar, moong, urad, gram, groundnut, soyabean, sunflowerseed, rapeseed/mustard, toria, safflower, copra, sesamum, nigerseed, cotton, jute, tobacco and sugarcane

(c) to (e) There is no policy of relating the selling price of seeds and pesticides to the cost of production and exercising statutory control on the selling price.

Co-operatives

3082. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Involve weaker sections in co-operative sector" appearing in the 'The Hindu' dated June 5, 1998;

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

(c) the steps being taken for providing Constitutional protection to co-operatives on the line of Panchayati Raj;

(d) whether public and private sectors have been recognised for Plan and non-Plan funds; and

(e) if so, the reasons for neglecting the co-operative sector?

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

(b) Government are in agreement with the view that cooperative sector should play its due role in eliminating rural as well as urban poverty. The weaker sections have been participating in the cooperative movement. However, their involvement need to be strengthened and made more active. There is also a need for greater transparency and accountability in cooperatives for ensuring their healthy growth. Government has been giving due encouragement to the cooperatives through various policies and programmes so that they an function in an effective manner for achieving various socio-economic objectives.

(c) Cooperatives are voluntary institutions and, therefore, constitutional protection to them on the lines of Panchayati Raj institutions is not considered necessary.

(d) and (e) The existing classification of Government expenditure into Plan and non-Plan expenditure is based on certain criteria and such a classification perse does not result in any neglect of the financial requirements of the cooperatives

Industry for Utilisation of Maize in Bihar

3083. SHRI RAJ BANSHI MAHTO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the production of maize in Bihar;

(b) whether there is no industry for the utilisation of maize in the State resulting thereby that the farmers of the State have to sell their production of maize below the administered price fixed by the Government from time to time;

(c) whether the Government have any plan/ programme to set any industry based on maize either in public or in private sector in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the place where it is propped to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Foreign Commercial Service Office

3084. SHRI CHANDULAL AJMEERA :
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to accord clearance for the establishment of a US and Foreign Commercial Service Office at Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, the action taken to accord early clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The US government had requested opening Foreign Commercial Service Offices in some Indian cities including Hyderabad. Decisions in respect of opening such offices in Bangalore, Pune and Ahmedabad have already been conveyed.

[Translation]

Agricultural Commission for Costs and Prices

3085. SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices in determining the prices of the foodgrains;

(b) whether the recommendations of the Commission are being strictly followed by the Government;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor: and

(d) steps being taken by the Government to ensure payment of remunerative prices to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The role of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is to advise the Government on the price policy of agricultural commodities with a view to evolving a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy and with due regard to the interests of the producer and consumer.

(b) and (c) The Government, by and large, accepts the recommendations of the CACP. However, the Government at times improves upon the recommendation made by the CACP keeping in view the development subsequent to submission off the report.

(d) The main objective of the Government's price policy for agricultural produce is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production, and to safeguard the interests of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices. Government announces each season the minimum support price for major agricultural commodities and organises purchase operation through public and cooperative agencies such as Food Corporation of India, Jute Corporation of India, Cotton Corporation of India, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NFED) and Tabacco Board, besides other agencies designated by the State Governments.

Mango Research Centre

[English]

3086. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set-up a full fledged Mango Research Centre at Nuzvid in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh and a Mango Board for marketing and export of mangoes; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Weed Parthenium

3087. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ever increasing problem of the weed parthenium hysterophoms (also known as Chatak in Hindi and Gajar Ganat in Marathi) is causing a threat to residents of various localities and is also hampering the agricultural growth;

(b) if so, whether the agro-scientists propose to look into the threatening menance to help the local authorities to deal with the problem effectively; and

(c) the details of the steps likely to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) The Government have taken following steps in consultation with the Scientists of Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural

Universities to control Parthenium hysterophoms weed:—

(i) A list of measures have been recommended to control the weeds. These include:—

— Physical removal of weed soon after the on-set of monsoon.

— Foliar spray of 15% common salt solution, spray of 2, 4-D on young plants and Paraquat on matured plants.

— Blanket spray of Parquat and diuron/Atrazine to check the emergence of weed.

— Mobilisation of community efforts.

(ii) Publicity through Akahvani and Doorarhan for weed control measures and distribution of literature on control of weeds.

(iii) Intensification of research efforts for evolving better weed management practices.

[Translation]

Horticulture Schemes

3088. SHRI BALI RAM KASHYAP : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes being run by the Agriculture Department in the Scheduled tribe areas of Madhya Pradesh for advanced agriculture;

(b) whether several horticulture schemes are facing closure due to paucity of funds;

(c) if so, the step being taken to revive these schemes; and

(d) the time by which the funds are likely to be made available for revival schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation are implementing the schemes for integrated development of fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, floriculture, mushroom, use of plastics in agriculture, medicinal and aromatic plants, cahewnut and spices is Madhya Pradesh. Allocation under schemes is provided to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. District-wise allocations are decided by the State Government based on needs and priorities.

(b) to (d) The Government of India released a sum of Rs. 297.66 lakhs during 1997-98 under various horticulture schemes to the Government of Madhya Pradesh. The State Government is reported to have an unspent balance of Rs. 204.19 lakhs as on 1.4.1998. However, fresh allocation of Rs. 665.18 lakhs has been made for the current year. Releases will be based on the utilisation of the funds by the State Government.

NCDC

3089. SHRI KALLAPPA AWADE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Co-operative Development Corporation has made any financial provision for share contribution and working capital of spinning mills and co-operative sugar factories;

(b) if so, the amount provided therefor and the names of mills already provided funds under this provision;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra is yet to release the amount sanctioned by the NCDC; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Union Government for early release of sanctioned amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (c) The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) provides investment loan assistance to the State Governments for participation in the equity of cooperative spinning and sugar mills. A provision of Rs. 32.00 crores and Rs. 98.94 crores has been made for assisting cooperative pinning and sugar mills respectively during the current financial year for providing investment loan for new mills and term loan for modernisation/expansion/ diversification for the existing mills. No funds have been provided for any cooperative spinning mill so far in 1998-99. The NCDC is not providing working capital assistance. The NCDC has cleared on 19.6.1998 investment loan assistance to the State Government of Karnataka for establishment of one new sugar mill and the State Government of Maharashtra for three existing sugar mills. The details in this regard are given below:

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Mill	Amount sanctioned
1.	Ryatar (Karnataka)	8.92
2.	Jai Ambika (Maharashtra)	1.17
3.	Hutatma (Maharashtra)	1.17
4.	Shivajirao (Maharashtra)	0.90
		12.16

(c) In respect of sugar mill, the Government of Maharastra is yet to release Rs. 20.18 crores sanctioned during the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 for 4 mills.

(d) The NCDC has been pursuing the matter with the State Government of Maharashtra.

[English]

Heat Wave

3090. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether heat wave has taken the highest ever toll of human life in India this year;

(b) if so, the comparative figures of heat-stroke deaths since 1995, State-wise;

(c) the number of persons survived severe heat stroke by way of timely and adequate treatment;

(d) the relief and rehabilitation measures undertaken in those States; and

(e) the Central assistance sought and provided therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) As per reported by the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa and Rajasthan, the heat wave/sun stroke this year has claimed 1714 lives.

(b) Figures regarding heat wave deaths during earlier years are not readily available.

(c) The Government of Orissa has reported that 1224 persons were hospitalised. No such report has been received from any other State.

(d) The Government of Orissa reportedly sanctioned Rs. 50.00 lakhs for payment of ex-gratia assistance to the bereaved families and a sum of R. 3.50 lakhs for supply of drinking water in the critically scarcity affected pockets. The Government of Rajasthan has reportedly sanctioned Rs. 6.00 lakhs for assisting the families of the victims.

(e) No request for Central assistance has been received from any State so far.

[Translation]

Solar Energy

3091. SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR ROY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the various schemes being run by the Government to popularise non-conventional energy sources in view the shortage of power in the country; and

(b) the names of the schemes being run to use the solar energy at small scale alongwith the details of the cost and subsidy paid on these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources in implementing a wide range of programmes to promote the use of non-conventional energy sources to augment power supply in the country. These programmes include:—

(i) generation of power from wind energy for supply to grid and for battery charging

(ii) small hydro power

(iii) bagasse based cogeneration

(iv) power from biomass gasification and combustion

(v) solar photovolatic systems for lighting, pumping, village level power supply and supply to the grid

(vi) solar water heating system as a substitute for electric geysers

(vii) energy from urban and industrial waste

(b) Names of various schemes and approximate cost and subsidy on various devices and systems for small scale use of solar energy are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Cost and Subsidy on Various Solar Energy Devices and Systems

Devices/ systems	Cost (Rs./Unit)	Subsidy (Rs./Unit)	Remarks
Solar Photovoltaic Programme			
Solar lantern	4,200	1,500	
Home lighting system	12,000	6,000*	
Street lighting systems	20,000	12,000*	Subsidy only for community use not for individual or commercial use
Power Plants	4,00,000	2,00,000*	Subsidy only for community use not for individual or commercial use
SPV Water Pumping Programme			
Solar pumping system	About Rs. 300 peak Watt	125-per peak Watt	Subsidy is subject to a limit of Rs. 2,00,000 per system
Solar Thermal Extension Programme			
Solar water heating systems	120-150 per litre	Nil	Interest subsidy is being provided on the loans through Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency and a few commercial banks
Solar Cooker Programme			
Solar Cooker	850-2,000	Nil	Interest subsidy is being provided on the loans through Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency and a few commercial banks

* — or 50% of the cost of the system, whichever is less.

Antarctic Research Programme

3092. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the countries in collaboration with which our Antarctica Research programme is going on at present;

(b) whether India have set up any study centre in Antarcrtica recently; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE)

(SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The countries with which India is collaborating in Antarctic Research Programme at present are:

Germany, Italy, Argentina, and Peru

(b) and (c) India has not set up any Study Centre in Antartica. However, an Antarctic Study Centre has been recently set up by the Department in Goa. This Centre will be the nodal agency for coordinating Polar Science & logistics of the Indian Antractic Programme. It will also have specialised laboratories in the field of Antarctic Science and research.

Category-wise Representation in Services

3093. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
SHRI T.R. BAALU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of the Government employees belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes working in various departments of the Government category-wise;

(b) the number of officers belonging to these categories at Joint Secretary and above positions in the Union Government as on date, separately;

(c) the details of vacant posts in various departments for the above said categories as on 31st December, 1996 and 1997, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to fill-up these vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The category-wise percentage of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees excluding Sweepers) as on 1.1.1995 was 17.43% and 5.78% respectively. Representation as on 1.1.1995 of employees of Other Backward classes recruited since 8.9.1993 was 0.2%.

(b) As on 1.7.1998, 25 officers belonging to the Scheduled Caste category and 22 officers belonging to the Scheduled Tribe category were holding posts of Joint Secretary and above at the Centre. There is no record of officers from other Backward Classes holding posts of Joint Secretary and above as these officers were recruited as general candidates much before introduction of reservation for the OBCs.

(c) The information is not centrally maintained.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Irrigation Projects in Orissa

3094. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implement some major and medium irrigation projects in Southern Orissa during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any fund has been provided by the Union Government to the State Government for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) Irrigation is a State subject and irrigation projects are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves according to their own priorities.

[Translation]

Food Processing Industries in Bihar

3095. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to boost food processing industries in the country particularly in Bihar and to create new opportunities for employment in this sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of food processing industries in the country, state-wise; and

(d) the existing laws to establish new food processing industries and to provide Government assistance to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Ministry has taken a number of steps to promote and develop food processing industries in the country including Bihar and to generate employment opportunities in this sector. From July 1991 to March, 1998, 33 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda (IEMs) involving an investment of Rs. 2630 crores and employment of 2870 persons, have been filed

for setting up food processing industries in Bihar. During the same period, 6 proposals for Joint Ventures/Setting up of 100% Export Oriented Units involving an investment of Rs. 33 crores, including foreign investment of Rs. 1 crore, and generating employment of 593 persons, have been approved by the Government of India for the State of Bihar.

(c) According to the Annual Survey of Industries for 1994-95 published by the Central Statistical Organisation (Department of Statistics), there were 29407 factories in the country as a whole in the various sectors of food processing. Statewise number of factories is shown in the enclosed Statement-I.

Food Processing Industries, specifically relating to the fruit and vegetables sector, are required to take a licence from the Ministry of Food Processing Industries under the Fruit Products Order (FPO) promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act. There are 4932 fruit and vegetables processing units which have been licensed under FPO upto January, 1998. Their Statewise detail is given in the enclosed Statement-II

(d) Food Processing Industries are licensed except for brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages and those items reserved for the Small Scale Sector. In the case of delicensed industries; only an Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda is required to be filed. For setting up of Joint Venture/Foreign Collaboration/100% Export Oriented Unit, approval is given by the Government.

Under the Plan Schemes of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, financial assistance in the form of loan and grant is extended to Non-Governmental Organisations, Cooperatives, Public Sector Undertakings, Private Sector Industry etc. for promotion of food proceeding industries.

Statement-I

State-wise Number of Food Processing Units in the Factory Sector as per Annual Survey of Industries (1994-95)

S.N.	Name of the State	No. of Factories
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10183
2.	Assam	734
3.	Bihar	433
4.	Goa	34
5.	Gujarat	1270
6.	Haryana	600
7.	Himachal Pradesh	46
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	69
9.	Karnataka	1221
10.	Kerala	1170
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1302
12.	Maharashtra	2420
13.	Manipur	9
14.	Meghalaya	3
15.	Nagaland	5
16.	Orissa	425
17.	Punjab	1196
18.	Rajasthan	515
19.	Tamil Nadu	3792
20.	Tripura	22
21.	Uttar Pradesh	2652
22.	West Bengal	1089
23.	Chandigarh	36
24.	Daman & Diu	5
25.	Delhi	125
26.	Pondicherry	42
27.	Others	9
	Total	29407

Statement-II

State-wise division of Fruits & Vegetable Units licensed under the Fruit Products Order 1955.

1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	300
2.	Assam	—	25
3.	Bihar	—	58
4.	Gujarat	—	260
5.	Haryana	—	151
6.	Himachal Pradesh	—	90
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	83
8.	Karnataka	—	253
9.	Kerala	—	387
10.	Madhya Pradesh	—	104
11.	Maharashtra	—	934
12.	Meghalaya	—	14
13.	Manipur	—	9
14.	Nagaland	—	5
15.	Orissa	—	43
16.	Punjab	—	309
17.	Rajasthan	—	110
18.	Sikkim	—	3
19.	Tamil Nadu	—	452
20.	Tripura	—	4
21.	Uttar Pradesh	—	494
22.	West Bengal	—	298
23.	Andamas & Nicobar	—	3
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	3
25.	Chandigarh	—	54
26.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—	7
27.	Delhi	—	302
28.	Goa Daman & Diu	—	160
29.	Mizoram	—	3
30.	Pondicherry	—	14
	Total		4932

[English]

Plant Protection

3096. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the Central Schemes being implemented for plant protection in different States; and

(b) the details of the pest control measures undertaken under the scheme in the country during the last three years State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The Government

is implementing the following central schemes for plant protection:

(i) Integrated Pest Management Centres;

(ii) Locust Control and Research;

(iii) Implementation of Insecticides Act, 1968;

(iv) Expansion of Plant Quarantine Facilities in India; and

(v) Training in Plant Protection.

All these schemes are Central Sector schemes. Funds are released to the State Governments only for setting up of biocontrol laboratories under the scheme of Integrated Pest Management centres. Other schemes relating to Plant Quarantine. Training and Locust Control are implemented by the Central Government at the national level.

(b) Statewise physical and financial achievements for plant protection measures in respect of relevant schemes for the last three years are given in the enclosed statements a mentioned below:

(i) Amount released to the States for setting up of biocontrol laboratories under the scheme of Integrated Pest Management Centres in shown is Statement-I

(ii) Area covered under sample roving surveys under the scheme of Integrated Pest Management Centres is shown ir Statement-II

(iii) Field releases of biocontrol agents under the scheme of Integrated Pest Management Centres is given in Statement-III

(iv) A list of Farmers' Field Schools under the scheme of Integrated Pest Management Centres is given in Statement-IV

(v) No. of pesticide samples tested under the scheme of Implementation of Insecticides Act have been shown in Statement-V.

Statement-I

Amount Released to the States for setting up of Biocontrol Laboratories Under the Scheme of Integrated Pest Management Centers During 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98

Sr. No.	State/UT	1995-96	1996-97 (Rs. in lakhs)	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	A&N Island	20.00	20.00	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	—	17.50	17.50
3.	Assam	—	37.50	—
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	20.00	20.00	—
5.	Bihar	—	—	30.00
6.	Goa	—	—	20.00
7.	Gujarat	—	10.00	—
8.	Haryana	15.00	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10.00	—	17.50
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	5.00	—	—
11.	Karnataka	10.00	20.00	—
12.	Kerala	10.00	—	17.50
13.	Lakshadweep	25.00	20.00	—
14.	Maharashtra	—	—	12.50
15.	Madhya Pradesh	10.00	—	—
16.	Manipur	20.00	20.00	—
17.	Meghalaya	20.00	20.00	—
18.	Mizoram	20.00	20.00	—
19.	Nagaland	20.00	20.00	—
20.	Orissa	10.00	—	20.00
21.	Pondicherry	25.00	25.00	—
22.	Punjab	5.00	25.00	—
23.	Rajasthan	5.00	25.00	—
24.	Sikkim	20.00	20.00	—
25.	Tamil Nadu	7.50	—	—
26.	Tripura	—	40.00	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh (Two)	—	—	30
28.	West Bengal	—	10.00	—
	Total	287.50	370.00	165.00

Statement-II

Area Covered Under Sample Roving Surveys under the Scheme of Integrated Pest Management Centres During 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98

Sr. No.	State/UT	Sample Roving Surveys		
		1995-96	1996-97 (in lakh ha.)	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	A&N Island	0.039	0.038	0.251
2.	Andhra Prdesh	0.845	0.705	0.629
3.	Assam	0.260	0.200	0.253
4.	Bihar	0.505	0.465	0.347
5.	Goa	0.072	0.51	0.056
6.	Gujarat	0.520	0.444	0.473
7.	Haryana	0.555	0.505	0.534
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.083	0.083	0.492
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.110	0.097	0.134
10.	Karnataka	0.335	0.275	0.312
11.	Kerala	0.220	0.200	0.025
12.	Maharashtra	0.265	0.210	0.273
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0.552	0.466	0.587
14.	Mizoram	0.058	0.036	0.042
15.	Nagaland	0.052	0.036	0.042
16.	Orissa	0.235	0.236	0.287
17.	Punjab	0.259	0.227	0.322
18.	Rajasthan	0.347	0.264	0.345

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Sikkim	0.054	0.033	0.027
20.	Tamil Nadu	0.220	0.213	0.255
21.	Uttar Pradesh	0.779	0.699	0.851
22.	West Bengal	0.301	0.285	0.309
	Total	6.653	5.770	7.150

Statement-III

Releas of Biocontrol Agents Under the Scheme of Integrated Pest Management Centres During 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98

Sr. No.	State/UT	Biocontrol Agents Releases		
		1995-96	1996-97 (in millions)	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	A&N Island	—	—	8.40
2.	Andhra Prdesh	156.45	159.75	173.20
3.	Assam	4.15	5.25	47.50
4.	Bihar	28.75	28.85	47.70
5.	Goa	5.60	4.98	8.50
6.	Gujarat	178.60	128.00	60.95
7.	Haryana	149.85	151.80	134.05
8.	Himachal Pradesh	53.44	52.59	94.65
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	50.05	49.25	56.10
10.	Karnataka	173.50	173.95	154.10
11.	Kerala	3.55	4.05	18.80

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Maharashtra	63.90	62.05	150.45
13.	Madhya Pradesh	183.55	185.15	153.50
14.	Mizoram	—	—	8.40
15.	Nagaland	5.44	4.99	14.40
16.	Orissa	157.55	136.55	151.50
17.	Punjab	38.15	40.30	80.75
18.	Rajasthan	117.63	117.95	84.50
19.	Sikkim	4.64	4.59	13.85
20.	Tamil Nadu	4.00	4.65	46.90
21.	Uttar Pradesh	154.54	148.15	231.40
22.	West Bengal	134.65	132.70	72.10
	Total	1629.20	1603.50	1803.00

Statement-IV

Farmers' Field Schools (FFSs) Organised Under the Scheme of Integrated Pest Management Centres during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98

Sr. No.	State/UT	Number of Farmers' Field Schools		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	A&N Island	4	10	4
2.	Andhra Pradesh	152	100	48
3.	Assam	104	100	22
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	8	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Bihar	68	100	24
6.	Goa	8	6	4
7.	Gujarat	80	100	20
8.	Haryana	72	84	24
9.	Himachal Pradesh	20	24	24
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	32	24	16
11.	Karnataka	100	128	32
12.	Kerala	20	32	8
13.	Maharashtra	288	260	32
14.	Madhya Pradesh	112	32	44
15.	Manipur	16	—	—
16.	Mizoram	16	14	12
17.	Nagaland	16	16	4
18.	Orissa	32	14	24
19.	Pondicherry	12	—	—
20.	Punjab	108	100	32
21.	Rajasthan	96	100	24
22.	Sikkim	—	—	8
23.	Tamil Nadu	36	100	21
24.	Uttar Pradesh	144	64	64
25.	West Bengal	72	28	13
	Total	1616	1436	504

Statement-V

Number of Pesticides Samples Tested Under the Scheme of Implementation of Insecticides Act, 1968 during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98

Sr. No.	State/UT	Samples analysyed at Central Insecticide Lab.		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Prdesh	166	191	121
2.	Assam	4	—	—
3.	Bihar	12	25	3
4.	Delhi	26	51	12
5.	Gujarat	22	16	—
6.	Haryana	108	142	149
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2	—	—
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	6	—	79
9.	Karnataka	1	—	5
10.	Kerala	2	—	—
11.	Maharashtra	22	21	36
12.	Madhya Pradesh	180	300	19
13.	Nagaland	1	—	—
14.	Orissa	22	10	1
15.	Pondicherry	2	—	3
16.	Punjab	199	178	277
17.	Rajasthan	32	36	36
18.	Tamil Nadu	1	—	6
19.	Uttar Pradesh	99	87	98
20.	West Bengal	81	21	—
	Total	978	1078	845

Number of Pesticide Samples Analysed Under the Scheme of Implementation of Insecticides Act, 1968 at Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories (RPTLs) during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98

Sr. No.	State/UT	Samples analysed by RPTLs		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	19	113
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	3	15
3.	Assam	—	2	—
4.	Bihar	28	10	25
5.	Chandigarh	—	—	3
6.	Delhi	75	166	29
7.	Haryana	—	53	108
8.	Himachal Pradesh	25	17	51
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	1	25
10.	Madhya Pradesh	—	425	596
11.	Manipur	1	2	16
12.	Meghalaya	7	15	8
13.	Nagaland	—	—	1
14.	Punjab	46	101	82
15.	Rajasthan	1	3	50
16.	Sikkim	—	4	7
17.	Tripura	51	79	82
18.	Uttar Pradesh	14	—	—
19.	West Bengal	65	183	146
	Total	613	1063	1362

Support Price for Paddy

3097. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
SHRI MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total production of paddy during the year 1997-98 as compared to the year 1996-97;

(b) whether there is any special scheme for increasing the per hectare production of paddy in India equal to that of Japan or China;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any scheme for processing and improving the quality of seeds for the paddy yield in water logged areas;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to increase the support price of paddy;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The production of rice during 1997-98 is estimated to be about 83.52 million tonnes as compared to 81.31 million tonnes during 1996-97.

(b) and (c) In order to increase the production and productivity of cereal crops including rice in the country, Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Cereals Development Programmes in Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice, ICDP-Wheat and ICDP-Coarse Cereal)" are being implemented. Besides, another Central Sector "Rice Seed Minikit" programme is also being implemented for the introduction/popularisation of new rice varieties. However, there is no special scheme, as such, for increasing the per hectare production of paddy in India equal to that of Japan or China.

(d) and (e) For the development of improved varieties/seeds of paddy for water logged conditions research work is being done at Central Rice Research Institute, ICAR, Cuttack and State Agricultural Universities/ Research Centres in West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Coordinated trials are also being conducted by the All India Co-ordinated Rice Improvement Project under the Directorate of Rice Research, ICAR, Hyerabad.

(f) to (h) There is no proposal to increase the Minimum Support Price of Paddy already announced for the 1997-98 season in view of its record procurement during the current year.

Talks with Bangladesh

3098. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to keep the Government of West Bengal involved in various stages of its negotiations with Bangladesh, on irrigation, economic, border management and other issues; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Government of India have involved the Government of West Bengal at various stages in the negotiation of several matters with the Government of Bangladesh. Representative of the Government of West Bengal have participated in the negotiations with Bangladesh regarding Ganga water sharing, in the meetings of the Joint Rivers Commission, in the talks regarding the Teesta as well as in the discussions on a Motor Vehicles Agreement.

[Translation]

3099. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Water Commission has given an arbitration award in regard to Shah Canal between Himachal Pradesh and Punjab in the year 1995;

(b) if so, the dues to be paid to Himachal Pradesh by Punjab as per this award; and

(c) the details of the dues paid by the Punjab to Himachal Pradesh during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) As per the award, the combined capacity of the lined canal of the 1 project shall be of 10.30 Cumecs (364 Cusecs) and the cost for 7.08 Cumecs (250 Cusecs) canal capacity will be shared by Punjab and Himachal Pradesh in terms of the agreement dated 4th August, 1983. The balance cost of difference of capacity of channel between 10.30 Cumecs (364 Cusecs) and 7.08 Cumecs (250 Cusecs), that is, 3.22 Cumecs (114 Cusecs)

shall be borne by Himachal Pradesh. However, the share cost to be paid by Punjab and Himachal Pradesh has not been quantified in terms of Rupees in the Award.

(c) Punjab has not paid its dues so far.

Use of Hindi in Electronic

3100. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindi is being used in Electronic Mail (E Mail) as the method has been evolved to use Hindi in various jobs being done by computer ; and

(b) if not, the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Recognising the increasing popularity of Internet web browsing and the need for enabling Electronic mail in Hindi, the Department of Electronics (DOE) has initiated a project jointly at Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune (an autonomous Society under the DOE) to develop a server software which would allow sending/ receiving Electronic mail in Hindi. The project also envisages development of Software for creating, editing and accessing web pages in Indian Languages interactively.

[English]

Cultural Department

3101. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian embassies in foreign countries which have separate cultural department;

(b) the basic qualification of the staff working in these departments;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate cultural programme so as to ensure the children of Indian origin have cultural affinity towards India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) One of the important responsibilities assigned to Indian Missions and Posts abroad is promoting understanding of Indian culture in the countries concerned and strengthening cultural relations. This is an integral part of the functioning of the Missions and Posts and an important element in India's foreign policy. In many Missions and Posts, this is implemented by officers assigned exclusively to cultural work and in others by officials who are handling cultural work as an important aspect of their overall duties. Officers of the Indian Foreign Service are trained right from the time of their probation to develop the skill needed for cultural work. Exposure to cultural activities and cultural diplomacy are an integral part of the training of Foreign Service Officer. Apart from this, the Indian Council of Cultural Relations, has 14 Indian Cultural Centres in various parts of the world, as indicated at in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The Indian Council for Cultural Relations, in close cooperation with our Missions abroad, impart instruction in various aspects of the Indian heritage such as dance, music and Indian languages for children of Indian origin and other interested students. The Council also organizes cultural programmes, seminars & workshops for people of Indian origin abroad and maintains libraries where books & audio-visual materials on arts and culture are available for use by the Indian community.

Statement

Indian Council for Cultural Relations has 14 Indian Cultural Centres located in the following countries:

1. Almaty, Kazkhstan
2. Berlin, Germany
3. Cairo, Egypt
4. Colombo, Sri Lanka
5. Durban, South Africa
6. Georgetown, Guyana
7. Jakarta, Indonesia
8. Johannesburg, South Africa
9. London, United Kingdom
10. Moscow, Russia
11. Paramaribo, Surinam
12. Port Loius, Mauritius
13. Port of Spain, Trinidan & Tobago
14. Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Kashmir Issue

3102. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the recent nuclear tests in the sub-continent, Kashmir problem has been internationalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several developed countries have said that Kashmir is disputed area; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) References to Jammu & Kashmir have been made in the joint communique following the conference of the five permanent members of the Security Council in Geneva on 4th June, 1998, in UN Security Council Resolution S/1172/1998 of the 6th June, 1998, and in the joint statement of the G-8 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in London on 12th June, 1998.

In response to the reference to J&K in the UN Security Council Resolution, the Prime Minister informed this august House on 8th June, 1998 that "Hon'ble Members have expressed strong reservations against attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue. There is simply no question of India ever agreeing to such internationalisation. UN Security Council has chosen to mention Kashmir in its Resolution. This is unacceptable and does not change the reality that the state of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Members to the term in which Kashmir finds mention in the Resolution. The UN Security Council has recognised that bilateral dialogue has to be the basis of India-Pakistan relations and mutually acceptable solutions have to be found for outstanding issues including Kashmir. This is in keeping with our position".

Indo-Pak Relations

3103. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-Pak and Sino-Indian relations have worsened recently;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof separately; and

(c) the steps taken to put the relations back on an even keel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) *Indo-Pak relations* : India desires to establish peaceful and friendly ties and a stable structure of cooperation with Pakistan. We have not undertaken any action or made any statement which is not in keeping with this objective. Pakistan has, however, sought to harm India through the promotion and support of terrorism in J&K and elsewhere, and by mounting a high level of propaganda, which has greatly increased since our test. We will continue to pursue our sincere endeavour to engage in dialogue with Pakistan to resolve all outstanding issues.

Indo-China relations: China has expressed strong condemnation of our nuclear tests of May 11 and May 13. The Chinese Foreign Ministry, in Press Statement by MFA Spokesman on May 12 and May 14, expressed deep shock; strong condemnation of our action; accused India of seeking hegemony; triggering a nuclear arms race in South Asia; denied that China poses a nuclear threat to India and said that this is an excuse to develop nuclear weapons; and called on the international community to pressure India to halt its nuclear weapons programme.

Our Press Statement on May 16 said that China's accusation that India is seeking hegemony is baseless, unwarranted and will only hinder the process of relaxation of tensions and promotion of peace and stability through regional co-operation.

We seek good relation with all our neighbours, including China, our largest neighbour We believe that the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence jointly enunciated by India and China, are on continuing relevance to the development of our relations.

On our part, we do not seek a confrontation with China. We seek a relationship in which both sides are responsive to each other's concerns. We remain committed to the process of dialogue to resolve outstanding differences and to the development of a friendly, co-operative, good neighbourly and mutually beneficial relationship with China.

[Translation]

Pension Cases

3104. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending cases for payment of pension lying with the Government during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to fix a time limit for disposal of pension cases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) : (SHRI KADUMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) The system of sanction and payment of pension operates on the decentralised basis. The data in the manner desired is not, therefore, available. With a view to minimising delay in sanction of pensions, instructions were issued in January, 1987 making Heads of Departments/ Offices accountable for strict compliance of the Government orders for ensuring authorisation of pension and gratuity—provisional or final—by the date of retirement on superannuation. The instructions of the Government for ensuring sanction of pension provisional or final on the date of retirement on superannuation are brought to the notice of concerned Ministries/Departments from time to time.

[English]

Under Ground Water in Rajasthan

3105. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ground water level in some draught prone districts of Western Rajasthan is going down rapidly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have identified major water supply schemes which have become defunct in the State;

(d) if so, the efforts are being made by the Central Ground Water Board to check the declining under ground water level in these districts; and

(e) the funds provided by the Union Government to be the State Government of Rajasthan for the purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board has shown a decline of more than 4 metres in the level of ground water in drought prone districts of Nagore, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Jodhpur and Udaipur of Western Rajasthan.

(c) Water supply being a state subject, it is the responsibility of the state government to plan, execute, operate and maintain water supply schemes. Union Government have not identified any major water supply schemes having become defunct in the state.

(d) The steps taken by the Central Ground Water Board to check the decline in the level of the ground water in the country, including the drought prone districts of western Rajasthan, includes:

(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, including Rajathan, 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.

(e) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of accelerated urban water supply programme applicable to towns having population of less than 20 thousand (as per 1991 census) and funded by Central and State Governments in the ratio of 1:1, 20 water supply schemes have been approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 1792.64 lakh in the state of Rajasthan. The Central Government has released Rs. 975.21 lakh as its share towards these schemes.

Yield Per Hectare

3106. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per hectare yields of rice and use of fertilisers are quite low in the Eastern Region of the country in comparison to the Northern States; and

(b) if so, the specific steps taken by the Government to remove the imbalances to make the agriculture remunerative and attractive for sustenance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) A comparative statement of per hectare yield of rice and fertiliser use per hectare of total cropped area for the States of Eastern region including North Eastern region with those of the States of Northern region is attached.

(b) For increasing the production and productivity of rice in eastern region of the country, a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice), is being implemented. Through this scheme, incentives are being provided to the farmers on certified seeds of rice, improved farm implements, sprinklers irrigation sets and power tillers so as to motivate them to adopt the improved cereals/rice production technologies. Besides, for effective transfer of technology, field demonstrations and farmers' trainings are also being organised. To make the agriculture remunerative and attractive, Government is providing price and market support to the farmers.

The Government of India is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz. Balanced & Integrated Use of Fertiliser with a view to improve soil test based application of fertilisers in conjunction with organic manure and bio-fertilisers. A new Centrally Sponsored Scheme entitled "Improving Fertilisers Use in Low Consumption Areas with a special reference to eastern India" is being proposed to be implemented during 9th plan in order to improve fertiliser consumption which would translate into increased crop yields.

The State Governments are impressed regularly in Zonal Conference for inputs to promote fertiliser use by opening up retail fertiliser outlets in areas where fertiliser availability is difficult. The Govt. of India is also making available subsidies on indigenious DAP (Rs. 3500), imported DAP (Rs. 2000), MOP (Rs. 2000) and SSP (Rs. 600) per tonne.

In order to alleviate the problems of movement of decontrolled fertilisers and with a view to ensure their timely and adequate supply which could spurt consumption and consequently boost agricultural production, the Govt. of India provide additional freight support for movement of these fertilisers in north eastern States, Assam (Rs. 172/MT), Arunachal Pradesh (Rs. 250/MT), Manipur (Rs. 450/MT), Meghalaya (Rs. 250/MT), Mizoram (Rs. 450/MT), Nagaland (Rs. 150/MT), Sikkim (Rs. 400/MT) and Tripura (Rs. 460/MT) from designated rail heads.

Statement

Yield Per Hectare of Rice and Fertiliser Consumption per Hectare in Eastern and Northern Regions 1996-97

Region/State	Yield of Rice (KG per Hectare)	Fertiliser Consumption (KG per Hectare of Cropped Area)
1	2	3
Eastern		
Assam	1336	14.62
Arunachal Pradesh	1146	2.11
Bihar	1427	80.61
Manipur	2211	66.24
Mizoram	1719	3.62
Meghalaya	1137	14.41
Orissa	981	25.73
Sikkim	1381	5.99
Tripura	2104	18.76
West Bengal	2179	103.24

1	2	3
Northern		
Jammu & Kashmir	1567	40.12
Himachal Pradesh	1329	35.33
Haryana	2968	130.95
Punjab	3397	158.43
Uttar Pradesh	2121	108.39

Share Capital of Kendriya Bhandar

3107. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the original scheme of Kendriya Bhandar, the Government's share capital was not to exceed fifty per cent of the subscribed capital;

(b) if so, the details of share capital of the Kendriya Bhandar;

(c) whether the Government propose to resume the excess share capital so as to bring down its share to 50 per cent of the subscribed capital; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the details of the share capital of Kendriya Bhandar upto the year 1996-97 are given below:

Share Capital		
Government	—	Rs. 68.18 lakhs
Others (including members)	—	Rs. 9.60 lakhs

(c) and (d) Kendriya Bhandar was set up by the Government of India as a welfare measure for the benefit of the Central Government Employees. Considering the Government interest in Kendriya Bhandar, there is no proposal to reduce the excess share capital so as to bring down the Government share capital to 50% of the subscribed capital of the Kendriya Bhandar.

Passport Offices

3108. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications disposed off by the Calicut, Cochin and Trivandrum Passport Offices in Kerala during 1997-98;

(b) the number of applications pending as on May 31, 1998;

(c) whether there is shortage of staff at these Passport Offices; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for expeditious disposal of applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The number of passport applications processed by the Passport Offices at Kozhikode, Cochin and Trivandrum during the period April, 1997 to March 1998 is given below:

Kozhikode	1,42,109
Cochin	1,08,240
Trivandurm	82,879

(b) The number of applications pending in these offices as on 31.5.1998 is:

Kozhikode	22,574
Cochin	10,617
Trivandurm	10,528

(c) The shortfall in the sanctioned strength of staff has been partially compensated for through recruitment of casual labour.

(d) Government is constantly endeavouring to keep the number of such pending applications to the minimum so as to provide an efficient service to the general public. Among the measures taken to expedite processing of passport applications are; computerisation of processing procedures, issue of short validity passports on basis of verification certificates in situation of emergency, fixing of time limits for completion of police verification procedure, opening of new Passport Offices and Collection Centres, enhancing validity of passports to 20 years, provision for despatch of passport by speed post wherever practical, additional staff to clear the backlog of pending cases etc.

[Translation]

Scarcity of Food in Tanzania

3109. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the former Prime Minister Shri Inder Kumar Gujral during his visit to Tanzania last year had announced to provide 1,000 tons rice keeping in view great scarcity of rice there;

(b) if so, the reasons for not sending rice in time;

(c) whether the rice supplied in April 1998 was not accepted by Government of Tanzania because it was rotten and their health department did not find this rice even fit for animals;

(d) whether this irresponsible behaviour of India was highly criticised by newspapers of Tanzania and if so, the impact on the relations between the two countries; and

(e) whether the Government propose to conduct an inquiry into it and punish the persons found guitly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Announcment was made in September 1997. After following the prescribed procedure, firm order was placed with MMTC on 20th November, 1997. MMTC was able to procure the rice in first week of February, 1998 and the consignment was sent on 4th March, 1998.

(c) Rice supplied in April, 1998 was not accepted by Government of Tanzania because the supplies did not meet the required standards for human consumption in Tanzania.

(d) No, Sir. It did not have any long term adverse impact on the relations between the two countries as newspapers carrying the reports of damaged rice also carried reports that Government of India will send replacements for the rice. A message of thanks dated April 22, 1998 from the Tanzanian Minister of Agriculture and Cooperation to Acting High Commissioner of India reads as follows:

> "This decision is a proof of your Government and the people of India's commitment in honouring the promise of your former Prime Minister Dr. Inder Kumar Gujral to our President Benjamin William Mkapa's appeal for food assistance when he visited our country late last year".

(e) Inquiry is being conducted by MMTC for investigating the matter.

[English]

Upper Bhadra Project

3110. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have cleared the Upper Bhadra Irrigation Project in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The Detailed Project Report of the Upper Bhadra Irrigation Project has not been received in Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Fund for Development of Command Areas

3111. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds released by the Union Government to Government of Assam for the development of Command Areas in the State under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme during the last three years; and

(b) the details of the target fixed and the achievement made in this regard during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The details of Central Assistance to Development of Assam under the Command Area Development Programme during the last three years:

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Year	Amount released as Central Assistance
1.	1995-96	62.00
2.	1996-97	—
3.	1997-98	124.00
	Total	186.00

(b) Details of targets and achievements as reported by the State Government of Assam in respect of On-Farm Development Works for the last three years are as follows:

(Unit ha.)

Item of Work	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.
Field Channels	4563	598	3050	162	1700	428
Field Drains	3767	175	2050	178	2858	520
Warabandi	2500	70	800	0	1850	815

Lokayukta

3112. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR . Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the States alongwith the dates on which the institution of Lokayukta has been functioning; and

(b) the number and nature of cases handled by the said institutions during the last three years, separately, alongwith the number of cases pending with them as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) According to the information available with the Department of Personnel & Training there are 13 States where the institution of Lokayukta is functioning. Their names are indicated in the Statement attached.

(b) This information is not centrally maintained as this is the concern of the concerned State Government.

Statement

Names of the States where the institution of 'Lokayukta' is functioning

S. No.	Name of the State
1.	Assam
2.	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Bihar
4.	Gujarat
5.	Himachal Pradesh
6.	Karnataka
7.	Madhya Pradesh
8.	Maharashtra
9.	Orissa
10.	Punjab (with nomenclature as 'Lokpal'
11.	Rajasthan.
12.	Uttar Pradesh
13.	National Capital Territory of Delhi.

NDDB

3113. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that accounts of the National Dairy Development Board are not being audited by the CAG for long time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The accounts of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) are being audited as per provisions made under section 28 of the National Dairy Development Board Act, 1987 (37 of 1987) by auditors duly qualified to act as auditors of Companies under the Companies Act and the appointment of auditors and remuneration payable to them is subject to approval of the Central Government.

(c) On a request from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), the Central Government by an order dated 6.6.97 conveyed to the CAG approval of the President to audit the accounts of NDDB under section 14(2) of the CAG's (DPC) Act, 1971 for the years 1988-89 to 1995-96. However, pending examination of certain legal issues raised by the NDDB subsequent to the issuance of the above order, Government requested the CAG not to take up the audit until after these issues are examined and settled. The matter has not been finally decided. In the meantime the NDDB has obtained stay from the High Court of Delhi against the implementation of the order dated 6.6.97.

Ithai Barrage

3114. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the construction of Ithai Barrage for Loktak Hydro Electric Power Project, thousands hectares of paddy fields around the Loktak Lake have been submerged;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any compenssation has been paid to the farmers whose land has been submerged;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Loktak Lake being a natural lake, no submergence of paddy fields has taken place around Loktak lake on account of construction of Ithai Barrage of Loktak Hyro-electric Project.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

N.P.C.C

3115. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sick units of National Projects Construction Corporation Limited in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government taking some steps to revive the said sick units, particularly of Jammu and Kashmir;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC) is a sick Public Sector Enterprise comprising 142 Units. No individual unit is classified as sick.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Centre-States Farms

3116. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Centre-States farms functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether these farms are running in profit;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total quantity of various foodgrains produced in these farms during 1995-96;

(e) whether the Government propose to bring improvement in the working of these farms; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) It is presumed that Centre-States Farms refers to Central State Farms. There are 12 Central State Farms under the State Farms Corporation of India, located in different States as shown in the enclosed Statement-I

(b) and (c) The position is given in the enclosed Statement-II

(d) A statement showing the total production of the farms during the year 1995-96 is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(e) and (f) Attempts have been made and continue to be made to improve the working of the farms. Under National Seeds Project-III, a World Bank aided project, the Corporation was provided assistance to carry out structural reform with a view to improve the viability of the farm. As a result, the net loss has come down from Rs. 603.88 lakhs in 1992-93 to Rs. 297.62 lakhs in 1996-97.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of Farm	Distt.	State
1.	CSF, Suratgarh	Sriganganagar	Rajasthan
2.	CSF, Sardargarh	—do—	—do—
3.	CSF, Jetsar	—do—	—do—
4.	CSF, Hissar	Hissar	Haryana
5.	CSF, Ladhowal	Ludhiana	Punjab
6.	CSF, Bahraich	Bahraich	U.P.
7.	CSF, Raebareli	Raebareli	U.P.
8.	CSF, Kokilabari	Barpeta	Assam
9.	CSF, Barpeta	—do—	—do—
10.	CSF, Raichur	Raichur	Karnataka
11.	CSF, Chengam	TVM Sambuvarayar	Tamil Nadu
12.	CSF, Aralam	Kannur	Kerala

CSF—Central State Farm

Statement-II

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the farm	Net profit (+)/Loss (–) for the year 1996-97
1	2	3
1.	CSF, Suratgarh	(+) 13.15
2.	CSF, Sardargarh	(–) 164.11
3.	CSF, Jetsar	(–) 39.35
4.	CSF, Hissar	(+) 34.34
5.	CSF, Ladhowal	(–) 73.90
6.	CSF, Bahraich	(+) 42.59
7.	CSF, Raebareli	(–) 22.26
8.	CSF, Raichur	(–) 123.86
9.	CSF, Chengam	(+) 77.59
10.	CSF, Aralam	(+) 154.10
11.	CSF, Kokilabari (including Barpeta)	(+) 16.19

CSF—Central State Farm

Statement-III

Sl. No.	Name of the farm	(Production in quintals) (all crops) 1995-96
1.	CSF, Suratgarh	1,14,248
2.	CSF, Sardargarh	39,035
3.	CSF, Jetsar	24,263
4.	CSF, Hissar	1,50,890
5.	CSF, Ladhowal	49,173
6.	CSF, Bahraich	1,68,154
7.	CSF, Raebareli	2,434
8.	CSF, Kokilabari	21,684
9.	CSF, Barpeta	803
10.	CSF, Raichhur	4,473
11.	CSF, Chengam	2,848
		5,78,005

CSF-Central State Farm

12. Aralam:—In so far as the Aralam farm is concerned, the production is mainly of plantation crops and details are as under:—

Sl. No.	Crops	1995-96
(a)	Coconut	20.93 Lakhs No. Qtls.
(b)	Cashew	4046 ,,
(c)	Rubber	1280 ,,
(d)	Cocoa	2000 ,,
(e)	Pepper	165 ,,
(f)	Arecanut	761 ,,
(g)	Mango	51 ,,
(h)	Coffee	9 ,,
(i)	Other Misc.	—- ,,

Projects in Delhi

3117. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects being run in the National Capital Territory of Delhi with assistance from the Union Government;

(b) the number out of these projects which have been completed in time; and

(c) the number out of these projects which could not be completed in time and the cost escalation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the Government of NCT of Delhi.

Foreign Secretary Level Talks

3118. DR. SANJAY SINH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's offer to resume the suspended Foreign Secretary level talks in New Delhi on June 22,1998 has been rejected by the Government of Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details of the reasons advanced by them in this regard; and

(c) the Governments' reaction in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) In response to our invitation to the Pakistan Foreign Secretary to visit New Delhi on June 22, 1998 to resume the Foreign Secretary level dialogue, Pakistan invited our Foreign Secretary to visit Islamabad for talks on June 20, 1998. The content and tone of Pakistan's response indicated that it was not a serious offer but only a propaganda exercise.

[English]

Opening of Tetulia Corridor

3119. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any dialogue has been initiated with Bangladesh for opening of the Tetulia corridor so vital for the interest of both the countries;

(b) if so, the progress so far made in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Bangladesh has not agreed to provide India any road transit facility across its territory.

Uranium Ore

3120. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists from the Pune-based Agharkar Research Institute have tried out a successful process for extraction of pure Uranium from low and medium grade ores through leaching process;

(b) whether the scientists have suggested that given the size of India's nuclear programme, we require twice or thrice the known resources of Uranium ore;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the Meghalaya has some promising findings of Uranium Ore of 'good' grade; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to exploit the reserves in Meghalaya?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) It has come to the notice of the Government that reports have appeared in a section of the local press on the work of the type being carried out at the Institute, as mentioned in part (a) of the question. Similar research is also being carried out at some of the research & development units of the Department of Atomic Energy.

(b) The established resources of uranium in the country are sufficient for the existing and approved programme for generation of nuclear power

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL), a public sector undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy has initiated preliminary action to exploit the said reserves.

Kendriya Vidyalaya

3121. SHRI M. RAJAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain facilities extended to the Embassy staff are not extended to the staff of the Kendriya Vidyalaya at Moscow, who are also treated as the staff of the Embassy during their tenure of posting at Moscow;

(b) if so, the reasons for such difference of treatment of these employees in allotment of accommodation, repairs and arranging the fixtures;

(c) whether the Fifth Pay Commission recommendations have been implemented for Kendriya Vidyalaya of Moscow; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Kendriya Vadyalaya, Moscow, comes under the administrative jurisdiction of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathana, New Delhi, an autonomous boy under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The rules applicable for the Vidyalaya's administration are the IFS (PLCA) Rules which are also applicable to Embassy personnel. The Kendriya Vidyalaya teachers are provided all consular facilities as for non-diplomatic officials of the Embassy. They are provided official passports and their visas are secured through the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Like Embassy staff members, their residential accommodation is secured at concessional rates through the Russian Department for Servicing Foreign Diplomats (UPDK), and they get medical treatment at concessional rates from the "Diplomatic polyclinic".

However, the Kendriya Vidyalaya, Mocow, is a self-financial institution and meet its financial needs from the tuition fees charged from its students. The teachers of the Vidyalaya are not borne on the strength of the Embassy of India, Moscow. The facilities extended to them are perforce circumscribed by the availability of funds to the Kendriya Vidyalay, as it is self-financing.

(b) While allotment of accommodation to the Kendriya Vidyalaya teachers is secured from the UPDK, the maintenance, repairs, fixtures, etc. are provided for out of the Kendriya Vidyalaya budget. The Principal of the Kendriya Vidyalaya decides the priority to be assigned to repairs, maintenance, etc. on the basis of funds available.

(c) and (d) Relevant instructions for the implementation of the Fifth Pay Commission recommendations insofar as the Kendriya Vidyalaya is concerned have not been received by it from the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathana. However, steps have been taken by the Kendriya Vidyalay to have these instructions expedited. Meanwhile, pending receipt of these instructions, Embassy of India, Moscow, has taken a decision to pay salaries to the Kendriya Vidyalaya teachers as per the new scales, and this decision has been implemented.

[Translation]

Underground Water

3122. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for increasing underground water level in the State;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether such scheme is likely to be implemented in other States of the country;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have mobilised additional financial resources for the implementation of this scheme; and

(e) the time by which the scheme is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A project proposal for "Augmentation of Surface Water Recharge in Over Exploited Aquifers of Ahmedabad, Banaskantha, Gandhi Nagar, Mehsana, Patna and Sabarkantha Districts of Gujarat" has been received in February, 1998 from the Government of Gujarat for OECF (Japan) financial assistance. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 359.58 crores. Details of works to be carried out are as under:

1. Check Dams
2. Percolation Tanks
3. Underground Check Dams
4. Safe Stage Works
5. Filling of Village Ponds by Flood Water in Dharoi Command Area.
6. Spreading Channels.
7. Recharge Tubewells
8. Construction of Injection wells with source wells in Saraswati and Banas River.
9. Conjunctive use of surface and ground water in Dharoi Command Area—construction of augmentation wells.
10. Deepening of Existing Tanks.
11. Afforestation and water Conservation works.
12. Soil & Water Conservation works.

(c) Water being a state subject, implementation of such schemes depends on the State Governments.

(d) and (e) The scheme received from the Government of Gujarat is still at appraisal stage. Its clearance and mobilisation of additional financial resources for its implementation depend on approval of the scheme by the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan, on being posed to them.

[English]

World Bank Assistance for Development of Agriculture

3123. SHRI ADITYANATH :
SHRI RAMCHANDRA BAINDA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the amount of aid provided by the World Bank for the extensive development of agriculture in the country, State-wise during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : The State-wise/project-wise assistance received for development of agriculture from World Bank during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of World Bank Assistance to States for Agriculture Development

(Rs. In Crores)

S. No.	States	Projects	Year		
			1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Assam	Assam Rural Infra-structure and agricultural-tural Services Project (ARIASP)	6.95	7.33	6.23
2.	Bihar	Bihar Plateau Development Project	23.05	20.92	49.99

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Uttar pradesh	U.P. Sodic Land Reclamation Project	19.96	37.22	30.43
4.	Tamil Nadu	Agriculture Development Project-Tamil Nadu	68.73	56.68	36.56
5.	Rajasthan	Agriculture Development Project-Rajasthan	54.70	51.83	42.38
6.	Gujarat Orissa and Rajasthan	Integrated Watershed Development Project (Plains)*	26.42	51.60	28.57
7.	Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J&K and Punjab	Integrated Watershed Development Project (Hills)*	34.93	28.58	26.79
8.	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar Orissa, Uttar Pradesh & West Bengal	Shrimp & Fish Culture Project*	9.58	14.49	00.00
9.	Andhra Pradesh, Assam Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra Orissa, Rajasthan, Utter Pradesh & West Bengal	National Seed Project-III*	128.25	69.90	-**
10.	Andhra Pradesh, Assam Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu Uttar Pradesh & West Bengal	National Agricultural Research Project-II*	24.70	17.80	-**
11.	Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh	National Agricultural Extension Project-III*	15.88	-	-**
12.	Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Tamil Nadu	Agriculture Human Resource Development Prcject*	10.35	11.73	26.71

*These are Multi-State World Bank Assisted Projects

**Projects completed.

Fishing HarBours

3124. SHRI S.S. OWAISI :
SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the various States Governments for development of the fishing harbours in the coastal areas;

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

(c) the total amount sought and released, State-wise;

(d) whether any decision has been taken by the Government on the proposals;

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

(f) if not, the time-frame worked out therefor?

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

(b) to (f) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

A. Fishing Harbour Proposals Sanctioned by the Government of India

S. No.	Name of Fishing Harbour	Date of Sanction	Sanctioned Cost	Govt. of India's Share	Amount Released	Balance Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Andhra Pradesh					
1.	Machilipatnam	3/96	470.88	235.44	100.00	135.44
	Karnataka					
1.	Malpe Stage-II	2/96	1196.70	598.35	259.3	248.35
2.	Karwar Stage-II	3/98	130.00	65.00	9.305	55.69
3.	Mangalore Stage-II	9/97	75.00	37.50	—	37.50
	Orissa					
1.	Dhamra Stage-II	3/98	640.00	320.00	100.00	220.00
	Gujarat					
1.	Jakhau	5/93	1143.60	1143.60	440.00	703.60
2.	Mangrol Stage-II	3/94	701.00	350.50	309.50	40.40
	Maharashtra					
1.	Agrao	3/98	414.00	207.00	100.00	107.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Kerala					
1.	Vizhinjam Stage-III	2/87	704.00	352.00	690.50	—
2.	Thangassery	10/88	1980.00	990.25	987.00	3.25
3.	Chombal	1/92	556.00	278.00	370.00	-
4.	Kayamkulam	8/94	624.00	312.00	200.00	112.30
5.	Mopla Bay	1/92	564.00	282.00	282.00	-
	West Bengal					
1.	Digha Stage-II	11/95	492.52	246.26	346.26	-
	Pondicherry					
1.	Pondicherry	4/91	423.00	423.00	310.00	113.00
	Tamil Nadu					
1.	Chinnamuttom	1/98	684.00	342.00	342.00	-

B. Proposals Received From States/Union Territory for Sanction

Name of the Fishing Hrbour		Estimate Cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Present Status
	Kerala		
1.	Muthalapozhy	605.00	State Government have been requested to carryout model studies to assess the techno-economic feasibility and submit revised detailed project report, which is awaited from the State Government.
2.	Ponnani	860.00	
3.	Thottapally	25.27	
	Surat		
4.	Okha	2775.00	State Government is required to submit the proposal after making budget provision for state share.
	Tamil Nadu		
5.	Rameshwaram	3830.00	The Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery (CICEF), Bngalore have been instructed by the Ministry to examine the proposal for assessing the technical viability of the Project proposas.
	Pondicherry		
6.	Keraikal	1566.00	

Walnut Production

3125. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to increase the walnut production in the country;

(b) whether new technique is proposed to be introduced to improve walnut production; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Vegetative propagation has been recommended for improving the productivity of walnut. For this purpose, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have identified cultivars which are available indigenously. Exotic cultivars available from United States of America, Canada, Bulgaria, France, Italy, Japan, Former USSR and Manchuria also been introduced.

[Translation]

Biogas Plants

3126. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that required number of biogas plants have not been set up under the ongoing biogas programme since inception;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a number of biogas plants are non-functional;

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

(e) whether there is any proposal to launch certain modern technique in place of biogas plants to achieve the desired results in the field of non-conventional energy sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. A total of about 27.12 lakh family type and about 2360 community, institutional and night-soil based biogas plants have been set up in the country under the Central Sector Schemes, namely, National Project on Biogas Development and Community, Institutional and Night-soil based Biogas Plants Programme respectively, since inception. The main reasons determining the size of these programmes are availability of budgetary support and priority given by State Governments.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The study on "Evaluation Survey of Household Biogas Plants set up during 1992-93 to 1994-95" carried out by an independent agency, namely, National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi in 18 States in the year 1996 indicates that on an overall basis about 87.4 per cent of the plants surveyed were found functional. In case of community, institutional and night-soil based biogas plants set up during 1992-93 to 1997-98, the reports received in June 1998 from major States indicate that about 78 per cent plants were functioning satisfactorily. Information on percentage of non-functional plant for major States is given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) In addition to promoting traditional biogas technology and improved chulha devices, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is already implementing several programmes relating to modern techniques, such as biomass gasifires, solar water heating systems, solar cookers, solar photovoltaic domestic lights and lanterns, solar photovoltaic water pumps, wind mills, small hydro power, etc.

Statement

State-wise percentage of non-functional biogas plants

State	% age of non-functional plants	
	NCAER's evaluation study on family type plants set up during 1992-93 to 1994-95	State Governments' reports on community, institutional and night-soil based plants set up during 1992-93 to 1997-98
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	9.7	23.8
Assam	11.5	-
Bihar	33.2	-
Gujarat	5.9	51.8
Haryana	10.2	-
Himachal Pradesh	16.2	-

1	2	3
Karnataka	6.3	-
Kerala	2.1	-
Madhya Pradesh	6.8	56.9
Mharashtra	13.8	33.3
Meghalaya	10.0	-
Mizoram	5.3	-
Orissa	9.6	-
Punjab	-	28.1
Rajasthan	48.0	-
Sikkim	14.3	-
Tamilnadu	10.5	2.3
Uttar Pradesh	10.5	8.2
West Bengal	9.2	-
Overall National Average:	**12.6**	**22.0**

[English]

CBI

3127. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the date of the establishment of CBI alongwith their charter of duties;

(b) the steps taken to relieve the CBI of the excess workload and to restrict its charter of duties;

(c) the number of cases presently under investigation of CBI; and

(d) the date of their pendencey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The Central Bureau of Investigation was established and its charter of functions was laid down *vide* Government of India Resolution No. 4/31/61-T dated 1.4.1963 (as has been shown in the enclosed statement). CBI also has a role regarding Preventive Vigilance in terms of the Programme of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Work made by the Government in 1966.

(b) It is ensured that only those cases which require investigation by the CBI are taken up. For investigation into cases or very complicated nature or mega cases like Rajiv Gandhi Assassination Case, AHD Scam Cases etc., CBI has been provided with additional manpower and other infrastructural support. Recently, under re-organisation plan of CBI 354 and 221 posts were sanctioned in 1994 and 1997 respectively.

(c) and (d) As on May 31, 1998 a total of 1765 cases were under investigation of CBI with periods of pendency as mentioned below :

Upto one year	848
Between 1-2 years	547
Over two years	370
Total	1765

Statement

No. 4/31/61-T
Government of India
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
New Delhi-11, the 1st April, 1963

RESOLUTION

The Government of India have had under consideration the establishment of a Central Bureau of Investigation for the investigation of crimes at present handled by the Delhi Special Police Establishment including specially important cases under the Defence of India Act and Rules particularly of hoarding, blackmarketing and profiteering in essential commodities, which may have repercussions and ramifications in several State, the collection of intelligence relating to certain types of crimes, participation in the work of the National Central Bureau connection with the International Criminal Police Organization; the maintenance of crime statistics and dissemination of information relating to crime and criminals, the study of specialised crime of particular

interest to the Govt. of India or crimes having all India or interstate ramifications or of particular importance from the social point of view; the conduct of police research, and the coordination of laws relating to crime. As a first step in that direction, the Govt. of India have decided to set up with effect from Ist April, 1963 a Central Bureau of Investigation at Delhi with the following six Divisions, namely:—

(i) Investigation and Anti-corruption Division (Delhi Special Police Establishment).

(ii) Technical Division.

(iii) Crime Records and Statistics Division.

(iv) Research Division.

(v) Legal Division & General Division.

(vi) Administration Division.

2. The charter of functions of the above said Divisions will be as given in the Annexure. The Assistance of the Central Bureau of Investigation will also be available to the State Police Forces on request for investigating and assisting in the investigation of interstate crime and other difficult criminal cases.

Sd/-
(V. Viswanathan)
Secretary to the Government of India

No. 4/31/61/T New Delhi-11, the Ist April, 1963.

IMMEDIATE

ORDER

Ordered that a copy of the Resolution be communicated to all State Govts./Union Territories Admn, Director, Intelligence Bureau, Inspector General, Special Police Establishment, Delhi, all Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

Ordered also that the Resolution be published in the Gazette of India for general information.

Sd/-
(V. Viswanathan)
Secretary to the Government of India.

ANNEXURE

INVESTIGATION AND ANTI-CORRUPTION DIVISION (DELHI SPECIAL POLICE ESTABLISHMENT)

(1) Cases in which public servants under the control of the Central Government are involved either by themselves or alongwith State Government servants and/or other persons.

(2) Cases in which the interests of the Central Government or of any public sector project or undertaking, or any statutory corporation or body set up and financed by the Government of India are involved.

(3) Cases relating to breaches of Central Laws with the enforcement of which the Government of India is particularly concerned e.g. :

(a) Breaches of Import and Export Control Orders;

(b) Serious breaches of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act;

(c) Passport frauds;

(d) Cases under the official secrets Act pertaining to the affairs of the Central Government;

(e) Cases of certain specified categories under the Defence of India Act or Rules with which the Central Govt. is particularly concerned.

(4) Serious cases of cheating or fraud relating to the Railways, or Post & Telegraphs Deptt. particularly those involving professional criminals operating in several States.

(5) Crimes on the High Seas.

(6) Crimes on the Airlines.

(7) Important and serious cases in Union territories particularly those by professional criminals.

(8) Serious cases of fraud, cheating and embezzlement relating to public joint stock companies.

(9) Other cases of a serious nature, when committed by organised gangs or professional criminals, or cases having ramifications in several States including Union Territories, serious cases of

spurious drugs, important cases of kidnapping, cases will be taken up only at the request of or with the concurrence of the State Govts./Union Territories Admns. concerned.

(10) Collection of intelligence about corruption in the public services and the projects and undertakings in the public sector.

(11) Prosecution of cases investigated by this Division.

(12) Presentation of cases before Enquiry officers in which departmental proceedings are instituted on the recommendations of this Division.

II. TECHNICAL DIVISION

(1) Technical assistance in investigation of cases involving accounts.

(2) Specialised assistance in cases involving Railways and Postal Accounts.

(3) Assistance in cases involving assessment of Income Tax, Estate Duty etc.

(4) Examination of accounts and assets etc. in cases relating to allegations of disproportionate assets.

(5) Examination of cases investigated by the Bureau which have an income tax aspect, and communication of information with a view to enabling the income tax Department to recover the evaded tax.

III. CRIME RECORDS & STATISTICS DIVISION

(1) Maintenance of all India statistics of crime.

(2) Study of all India trends in thefts and losses and recoveries of fire arms and ammunition and note forgery and counterfeit coining.

(3) Collection and dissemination of information about important inter-state criminals.

(4) Preparation and circulation of reports and reviews relating to crime in India.

(5) Participation in the work of the ICPO, NCB, UNO Reporter for Crime.

IV. RESEARCH DIVISION

(1) Analysis and study of specialised crimes and of problems of a general nature affecting the Police e.g.

(i) Trends and causes of serious crimes in different areas;

(ii) Preventive measures, their effectiveness and relationship with crime;

(iii) Improvement in methods of investigation, utility and results of introducing scientific aids and equipment;

(iv) Inadequacy of laws, co-ordination of laws relating to crime in various States;

(v) Criminal gangs operating in more than one State wandering gangs ex-criminal tribes-habitual offenders.

(vi) Crime amongst the tribal people.

(vii) Inter-state note forgery and counterfeiting.

(viii) Social factors in crime.

(ix) Industrialisation and crime.

(x) Juvenile delinquency.

(xi) Kidnapping of women and children.

V. LEGAL AND GENERAL DIVISION

(a) Legal Section

(i) Legal Advice in cases investigated by the investigation and Anti-Corruption division.

(ii) Conducting prosecution in important cases.

(iii) Review of judicial decisions relating to criminal law and procedure for publication in the CBI gazette.

(iv) Compilation and circulation of Law Digest.

(v) Inadequacy of and amendments to laws.

(vi) Co-ordination of laws relating to crime in various States.

(b) General Section

(i) Matters relating to organisation, policy and procedure.

(ii) Inter-state conference relating to crime and anti-corruption work.

(iii) Appreciation reports regarding modes of corruption in various govt. deptts. and public undertakings.

(iv) Correspondence with Ministries and States on general questions relating to policy procedure etc.

(v) Training courses in anti-corruption work.

(vi) C.B.I. Gazette.

(vii) Photographic section.

VI. ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

All establishment and accounts matters.

Nuclear Reactors

3128. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Russia has signed a deal to help India to build two light water reactors of 1000 megawatt each at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the salient features of the agreement;

(c) the reaction of the US Government in this regard; and

(d) the response of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) An Inter Government Agreement (IGA) was signed between Government of India and the erstwhile USSR in November, 1998 for setting up of a 2 × 1000 MWe VVER type Nuclear Power Station at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu with Russian (Solviet) Co-operation. When the two sides were about to sign the contract for the preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR), activities came to a standstill owing to the political developments in the erstwhile USSR in August 1991. After protracted negotiations with the Russian Federation, formed subsequent to the breakup of the USSR, the two sides have now signed a supplement to the IGA on 21.6.1998.

(c) and (d) The US Government have not made any direct references to India on this issue. However Government have seen reports in the media that the issue has been raised by the US side with the Russian Federation. The latter has indicated its interest in continuing with this deal.

MFN Status to India by Pakistan

3129. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has given Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan relating to trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons that weighed the Government in favour of the aforesaid decision;

(c) whetner it was envisaged that on reciprocal basis, the Government of Pakistan would also accord similar status to the Indian goods;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Pakistan has recently ruled out giving MFN status to India;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) whether India would review its earlier decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (g) In accordance with its obligations under the WTO, and earlier as a signatory to GATT, India has extended MFN status to Pakistan. On the other hand Pakistan, inspite of its membership of the WTO, and earlier of GATT, has not accorded MFN status to India. Government have cfficially on several occasions urged Pakistan to fulfil its obligations under WTO and extend FMN status to India. It has regrettably not done so.

Ministers of the Pakistan government have from time to time linked the grant of MFN status to India to extraneous issues.

We will continue to urge Pakistan to fulfil its obligations.

[Translation]

Administrative Reforms

3130. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to change the entire administrative set-up to redress the grievances of the common man; and

(b) if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) The main purpose of Government at different levels is to assure efficient and responsive administration and ensure speedy redress of public grievances. The reorientation of the administrative machinery and the employees for prompt redress of public grievances is a continuous process.

[English]

Akalpara Medium Irrigation Project

3131. SHRI D.S. AHIRE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Mahashtra has sent any proposal of Akalpara medium irrigation project to the Union Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the stage at which the project stands; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The project report of Lower Panzara Medium Irrigation Project near Akalpara village in Dhule district of Maharashtra was received by Central Water Commission in 1990. The Central Water Commission has given its comments to State Government for modifying the report during 1990-94.

(c) Time of completion of this projects depends on the priority attached to it by the State Government.

Intervention of China

3132. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the suggestion made by the U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton that China could intervene in diplomatic parleys to resolve the disputes between India and Pakistan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. In his remarks to the National Geographical Society on June 11, 1998, US President, Bill Clinton said *inter alia* "because of its history, with both countries, China must be a part of any ultimate resolution of this matter". Subsequently, the US and China issued a Joint Statement on South Asia.

(b) Government conveyed its reaction to the Joint Statement in the statement of official spokesman issued on 27.06.1998, which categorically rejects this approach as completely unacceptable.

Electronics Industry

3133. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Govt. have invited any multinational company to set up industries in the country particularly electronics industry without any export commitment with 100% participation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the representatives of the consumer electronics and T.V. manufacturers association have submitted any request not to encourage foreign investment in electronics sector industry;

(d) if so, whether the Govt. propose to review the policies framed in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) The Statement on Industrial Policy laid on the Table of the House on 24th July, 1991 welcomes foreign investment which is in the interest of the country's industrial development and brings the attendant advantages of technology transfer, marketing expertise, introduction of modern managerial techniques and new possibilities for promotion of exports. Foreign equity investment is subject to the principles enunciated in the

policy and prior clearance of the Government. Accordingly, the Government of India have approved cases in the electronics sector.

(c) No such representation has been received by the Government.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Small Hydro Power Projects

3134. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the stage-wise details of formalities required for approval of the small hydel power projects;

(b) the time taken in completing these formalities;

(c) the time taken in final completion of a small hydel power project;

(d) the number of small hydel power projects launched during 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(e) the project-wise dates on which these projects were completed or are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Approval of small hydro power projects is the mandate of State Governments. Among the major formalities required for approval of the small hydro power projects are, approval of Detailed Project Report, clearance as per the provisions of Electricity Supply Act, environment and forest clearance, irrigation clearance, etc. There can be some variation from State to State.

(b) The time required to complete these formalities can vary from case to case.

(c) The time period to complete a small hydro project depends on its capacity, location and other parameters and is expected to be from 2 to 4 years.

(d) and (e) The Small hydro power projects are taken up in the States by Government Agencies/State Electricity Boards/Private Sector/Non-Governmental Organisations/ other Agencies. Ministry of non-conventional Energy Sources do not directly take up the implementation of the small hydro power projects. No new project with Ministry's support was started in 1996-97 and 1997-98 under the Ministry's subsidy scheme. However, under the United Nations Development Programme/Global Environment Facility-hilly hydro project, Ministry has sanctioned 25 demonstration projects. These projects are expected to take at least 2 years for their completion.

[English]

Ghataprabha Irrigation Project

3135. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds sanctioned and released by the Union Government for Ghataprabha Irrigation Project under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme to Karnataka during 1997-98;

(b) whether the funds released so far for the project have been fully utilised;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the remaining amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) An amount of Rs. 30 crores was sanctioned to Ghataprabha irrigation Project as Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during 1997-98 against which an amount of Rs. 15 crores (50%) was released as 1st instalment in advance.

(b) and (c) The Government of Karnataka incurred an expenditure of Rs. 21.65 crores only during 1997-98 on this project which is less by Rs. 8.35 crores than double the CLA released (*i.e.* Rs. 30 crores) as per AIBP criteria.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Ill Treatment to Sikh Pilgrims

3136. SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the ill-treatment meted out to the Sikh pilgrims who visited Pakistan recently;

(b) if so, whether the Government have sent a letter of protest to the Government of Pakistan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Government are aware of anti-Indian activities undertaken at the Gurudwaras during the visit of Indian Sikh pilgrims to Pakistan. These activities which are carried out by anti-Indian elements with the connivance of the Pakistani authorities violate the 1974 India-Pakistan Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines. They also constitute intimidation and harassment of our pilgrims. Government have repeatedly lodged strong protests with Pakistan against these actions and have urged Pakistan to fulfill its commitments under the provisions of the Protocol. Government have also sought from Pakistan that all necessary steps be taken to ensure the security and safety of our pilgrims.

[English]

Irrigated Land in Karnataka

3137. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total irrigated land in the country at present;

(b) whether percentage of irrigated land in Karnataka is far below than that of national level;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have any specific plan to increase the percentage of irrigated land in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) As per Land Use Statistics brought out by the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1994-95 (latest), the percentage of Net Irrigated Area (NIA) in the country with respect to Net Sown Area (NSA) is about 37%. The said percentage for the State of Karnataka is about 22.3%.

(c) and (d) No specific schemes for bringing more unirrigated area under irrigation is under formulation by the Union Government, as irrigation is a state subject. However, with view to increase irrigated land through expeditious completion of selected ongoing Major & Medium Irrigation and Multipurpose Projects, the Union Government has launched "Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme" (AIBP) since 1996-97. Under the Programme, Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the States is being provided on matching basis for projects costing Rs. 500 crores or more and are beyond the resource capability of the States and for completion of other projects which are in the advanced stage of construction and could yield irrigation benefits in next four agricultural seasons. During 1996-97 and 1997-98, CLA amounting to Rs. 61.25 crores and Rs. 90.50 crores respectively were released to the State of Karnataka under AIBP as per details given below:

(In Rs. crores)

S. No.	Name of Project	Amount of CLA released		Total
		1996-97	1997-98	
1.	Upper Krishan St. I	57.00	50.00	107.00
2.	Malaprabha	1.50	12.00	13.50
3.	Hirehalla	2.75	6.00	8.75
4.	Ghataprabha	—	15.00	15.00
5.	Karanja	—	7.50	7.50
	Total	61.25	90.50	151.75

Pending Projects of Rajasthan

3138. ER. SHANKAR PANNU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several project relating to the State of Rajasthan are pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, since when these projects are pending; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken on these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) No project pertaining to the State of Rajasthan is pending at present in the Planning Commission for approval.

Non-Proliferation Treaty

3139. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKARA REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has started talk towards achieving the goal of Universal and time bound disarmament and nuclear weapon free world in a non-discriminatory manner;

(b) if so, whether Government has agreed to sign NPT if India's view point is considered; and

(c) to what extent India has successful for opening the dialogue on disarmament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) India has been at the forefront for calls towards global nuclear disarmament, being the first to call for a complete halt to nuclear testing as a means of preparing the ground for negotiations for prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons more than forty years ago. In subsequent years, we have, individually and collectively with other like minded countries, put forward a number of initiatives intended to move the process forward including an Action Plan for creating a nuclear-weapon-free-word. More recently, India has welcomed the Joint Declaration, issued on June 9, 1998, by the Foreign Ministers of eight countries entitled "Towards a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World. The Need for a New Agenda". India has declared its readiness to cooperate closely with this initiative aimed at establishing a nuclear-weapon-free-world in the coming millennium and the establishment of an equitable, non-discriminatory, non-violent and lasting international security order. India has consistently maintained that the NPT is discriminatory and flawed treaty, dividing the world into nuclear 'haves' and 'have nots'. The indefinite and unconditional extension of the NPT, perpetuates the existence of nuclear weapon in the hands of the five countries. As such there is no change in our stand on the NPT.

Investment in Agricultural Sector

3140. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme to increase the investment in agricultural sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of the investment made during the last three years, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) There is no scheme exclusively meant for increasing investment in agricultural sector. However, various specific schemes are being implemented for development of horticulture, fisheries, rainfed farming, creation of infrastructure for minor irrigation and post-harvest management, etc. which lead to improvement in productivity and production and ultimately saving and capital formation. Further, in order to encourage investment in agriculture, a new Rural Infrastructure development Fund (RIDF) within the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has been established. In the Union Budget for 1998-99, an additional allocation of Rs. 500 crore has been made for RIDF. A new scheme stet Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) was initiated during 1996-97, with a provision of Rs. 900 crore for providing assistance to States by way of loans for timely completion of selected large and multipurpose irrigation projects. The 1998–99 Union Budget proposes 57% increased allocation for AIBP over the previous year. An enhanced allocation for watershed development in rainfed areas would also result in higher investment.

The details of gross fixed capital formation in agriculture (irrigation) by States and Centre at current prices for 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 (latest available) are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Estimate of Gross Fixed Capital Formation in Agriculture (Irrigation) by States and Centre (at current prices)

(Rs. Lacs)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Year		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	49212	59540	55086
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	365	365	1314
3.	Assam	7469	6866	7363

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bihar	24537	17665	20110
5.	Goa	1590	3168	3337
6.	Gujarat	15530	19976	25684
7.	Haryana	8111	31609	9233
8.	Himachal Pradesh	944	1231	1549
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1783	2197	1290
10.	Karnataka	68116	71201	70142
11.	Kerala	10773	13325	16589
12.	Madhya Pradesh	39746	41023	36162
13.	Maharashtra	91305	126074	156359
14.	Manipur	2998	3260	3673
15.	Meghalaya	583	422	731
16.	Mizoram	253	138	113
17.	Nagaland	488	424	312
18.	Orissa	18905	17458	23666
19.	Punjab	27001	34914	43307
20.	Rajasthan	27732	34578	39532
21.	Sikkim	120	134	161
22.	Tamilnadu	9770	11348	8816
23.	Tripura	737	492	470
24.	Uttar Pradesh	31179	30390	34324

1	2	3	4	5
25.	West Bengal	804	8872	11294
26.	Pondicherry	175	128	199
27.	Delhi	213	111	159
	Total	440439	536909	570995
28.	Centre	197	241	217
	Grand Total	440636	537150	571212

Setting up of a Secretariat

3141. SHRI FRANCICO SARDINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made on forming a common market for Indian Ocean Rim Countries;

(b) whether a Secretariat for this purpose is planned;

(c) whether India propose to house it; and

(d) whether the strategically situated Goa is likely to be considered for the Seretariat for the above trade block?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) There is not proposal to form a common market for Indian Ocean Rim Countries. However, 14 Indian Ocean Rim Countries have formed an Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) focussing on economic cooperation. Its sope of activities include trade and investment promotion, facilitation and liberalisation, tourism, science and technology, and human resource development.

(b) The IOR-ARC's "Pilot Coordination Mechanism", which serves as its Secretariat, is located in Mauritius.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Bore Wells

3142. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Goa has submitted to the Union Government 10,000 irrigation bore wells projects for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total land in the State likely to be irrigated from these projects;

(c) the details of the agencies which have agreed to finance the projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Hirakud Dam

3143. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cracks have developed in Hirakud Dam recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) To investigate the reasons of cracks, the Government of Orissa has referred the problem to Hirakud Dam Crack Review Panel and Dam Safety Review panel.

[Translation]

National Water Policy

3144. DR. PRABHA THAKUR :
SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to formulate an effective policy by taking over the subject of various rivers of State Governments to provide relief to the States facing water crisis;

(b) if so, the outline thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Fishing by Foreign Vessels

3145. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that foreign vessels in the name of joint venture with the Indian collaboration are sweeping the entire bottom of the sea thus adversely affecting the fish catches of the traditional and small mechanismed fishermen in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to protect the interests of traditional fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Under the New Deep Sea Fishing Policy of 1991, permissions were given to Indian companies for operation of deep sea fishing vessels in Indian waters under Joint Venture, Test Fishing and Leasing. However, the Deep Sea fishing Policy 1991 has now been rescinded. Presently none of the deep sea fishing vessels operating with valid permits under Joint Venture/Test Fishing/Leasing are operating from Kochin.

Prices of Banana

3146. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of banana vary from Rs. 125/- to Rs. 600/- per quintal in every season of banana;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to declare minimum support price for banana on the basis of inputs required;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up banana based food processing units in banana growing areas;

(e) if so, the details of the matter likely to be considered;

(f) whether the export of banana has been initiated through National Agriculture Co-operative Markets Federation (NAFED); and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The prices of banana vary from season to season, place to place and variety to variety. As per the available information, the wholesale prices of banana were ruling in the range of Rs. 232 in Patna to Rs. 738 per qtl. in Shimla in December, 1997.

(c) Under the existing price policy, major agricultural commodities are covered under the Minimum Support Prices (MSP). The horticultural products including banana which have localised production or are perishable in nature, are covered under another scheme called Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), which is implemented on the request of the concerned State Govt. willing to bear 50% of the losses, if any. There is no proposal to bring banana under MSP.

(d) and (e) Government of India generally does not set up any unit directly in any State for processing of various horticultural products including banana. However, financial assistance under the Plan schemes in the form of soft loan and grant is provided to cooperatives, non-governmental organisations, public sector undertakings, private industries and research institutions etc. for the development of processed food sector.

(f) and (g) National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) is undertaking marketing of fresh fruits and vegetables in the domestic as also export markets which include items such as apple, mango, kinnow, grapes, etc. among fruits; and onion, potato and garlic among vegetables. However, NAFED has not taken up marketing and export of banana as yet. The technology for maintaining its quality in fresh form has not yet been perfected in India for export to distant destinations through sea voyage for longer durations. The production of banana ,

of specific size and numbers of fingers in a bunch free from spots at the time of ripening which are in demand in overseas markets is also not adequately developed.

Food Processing Units in Rural Areas

3147. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether to encourage farmers to set up food processing units in rural areas, any incentives are given by the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken to protect the interest of farmers particularly in hilly areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Under the Plan Schemes of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, financial assistance in the form of very soft loan and grant is provided to Cooperatives, NGOs, PSUs and Private Sector industries etc. for setting up of food processing units anywhere in the country including rural areas. Enhanced financial assistance is provided in respect of projects to be set up in "difficult areas" which include, hilly states like J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and North Eastern States, as also the Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshdweep Islands an Integrated Tribal Development Project (IIDP) Areas. The advertisement put out recently by the Ministry indicates area of plan support by the Ministry. The range of projects and types of activities for which the Ministry is providing grant or very soft loan at 4% interest cover practically all aspects of food processing industries.

The above initiatives apart the Ministry has also been operating since 1992-93, a scheme for the setting up and supporting of Food Processing and Training Centres (FPTCs) with strong focus on the rural areas.

FPTCs aim at development of rural entrepreneurship and transfer of technology for processing of food products by utilising locally grown raw materials and providing "hands on' experience at such Centres. Grant is provided to the centres in the following manner:

(i)	For single product line (for any group of processing activities)	Upto Rs. 2 lakhs for capital cost and upto Rs. 1 lakh as revolving seed capital.
(ii)	Multiproduct line (for more than one group of processing activities)	Upto Rs. 7.50 lakhs for fixed capital cost and upto Rs. 2 lakhs as revolving seed capital.
(iii)	For training the trainers at recognised institutes such as CFTRI, Mysore.	Upto Rs. 0.50 lakh one time assistance, subject to actuals as TA/ DA etc.

In addition, the Ministry encourages the concept of backward linkages between farmers an food processors, which inter-alia ensure a secure market for the whole produce of the contracted farmers at pre-determined price on the one hand and assured quantity, quality, delivery & price of raw material for the food processing companies on the other. Such encouragement take the form of grants by way of reimbursement to the extent of 5% of the total purchases made by the processor in a given year, limited to Rs. 10.00 lakhs per year for a maximum period of three years.

Agro-processing Projects

3148. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes implemented by National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) and credit approved/released for various Agro-processing Projects in Co-operative sector during 1998-99, State-wise alongwith the projects financed during preceding two years for Gujarat; and

(b) the detail of funds approved for co-operative venture and also the proposals awaiting clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The details of schemes assistod by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) are given in the enclosed statement-I. The State-wise details of credit approved/released by NCDC for various Agro-processing projects in cooperative sector during 1998-99 (upto 30.6.1998) are given in enclosed statement-II. The details of the financial assistance provided by NCDC under various schemes during 1996-97 and 1997-98 for the State of Gujarat are given at the enclosed statement-III.

(b) The details of funds approved/released by NCDC during 1997-98 and cumulative upto 31.3.1998 for cooperative ventures are given in the enclosed statement-IV. The number of proposals duly recommended by the State Governments which are awaiting clearance by the NCDC is 104 as on 30th June, 1998. The details are given in the enclosed statement-V.

Statement-I

Details of Schemes Assisted by NCDC

A. Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes

1. Assistance to Cooperative Marketing, Processing and Storage Programmes in Cooperatively under-developed States/U.Ts.
2. Share Capital Participation in Cooperative Sugar Mills.
3. Share Capital Participation in Cooperative Spinning (Growers) Mills.
4. EEC assistance for development of Rural Growth Centres in Bihar.
5. EEC assistance for Coconut Development Projects in Kerala.
6. Assistance for strengthening of NAFED.
7. Integrated Cooperative Development Projects in selected Districts (Subsidy).
8. New Schemes:
   (i) Development or Reservoir Fisheries through Cooperatives in selected States.
   (ii) Integrated Development of Wool Processing and Industrial Cooperatives.
9. Sugar Development Fund.

B. Corporation Sponsored Schemes

1. Margin money to MARKFED's.
2. Strengthening of Share Capital Base of primary/district marketing societies.
3. Assistance to Processing Units:
   (i) Sugar
   (ii) Spinning Mills
   (iii) Powerloom Cooperatives
   (iv) Other Processing Units.
4. Assistance to Cooperative Storage/Cold Storage.
5. Assistance for distribution of consumer articles in Rural Areas and Student Consumer Stores.
6. Assistance for Agricultural Services.
7. Integrated Cooperative Development Project in selected districts (Loan).
8. Assistance for Weaker Sections:
   (i) Fisheries
   (ii) Dairy
   (iii) Poultry
   (iv) Tribal Cooperatives
   (v) SC Cooperatives
   (vi) Handloom
   (vii) Coir
   (viii) Sericulture
9. Assistance for Computers.
10. Equipment Financing Scheme.
11. Assistance for Promotional and Development Programme.

Statement-II

Statewise details of funds approved/released by NCDC for Agro-processing Units during the year 1998-99 (upto 30.6.1998)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	States	Corporation Sponsored Schemes	Sugar Development Fund	Total
1.	Karnataka	0.675	—	0.675
2.	Madhya Pradesh	96.320	—	96.320
3.	Maharashtra	11.110	619.000	630.110
	Total	108.105	619.000	727.105

Statement-III

Statement showing Scheme-wise position of releases made during 1996-97 and 1997-98 for the State of Gujarat

(1996-97)
(Rs. in lakhs)

Scheme Description	Loan	Subsidy	Total
1	2	3	4
Centraly Sponsored Schemes			
Share Capital participation to Cooperative Sugar Factories	1699.700	—	1699.700
Modernisation cum expansion of Sugar Mills	—	—	—
Integrated Cooperative Development Project for selected districts	—	1.520	1.520
Fruits & vegetables (New Scheme)	—	—	—
Total for centrally sponsored Scheme for Gujarat	1699.700	1.520	1701.200
Corporation Sponsored Schemes			
Strengthening of Agriculture Marketing Co-operative-Margin money to MARKFED.	492.300	—	492.300
Strengthening of Agriculture Marketing Cooperative-Share capital to primary cooperative marketing societies.	18.050	—	18.050
Marketing (fruits & vegetables)	9.620	—	9.620
Margin money assistance to cooperative spinning mills	—	—	—
Other processing units	—	—	—
Distribution of consumer articles in rural area.	—	—	—
Cooperative for Weaker Section	132.950	—	132.950
Fishery Cooperative			
Integrated Fishery Development Project in selected States	—	—	132.950

1	2	3	4
Assistance under mechanisation for Computers	—	—	—
Integrated cooperative Development Project in selected districts	68.825	—	68.825
Total for Corporation Sponsored Scheme of Gujarat	721.745	—	721.745
Sugar Development Fund	380.495	—	304.495
TOTAL	2801.940	1.520	2803.460
Centrally Sponsored Schemes			**(1997-98)**
Share capital participation to Cooperative Sugar Factories	—	—	—
Integrated Cooperative Development Project for selected districts.	—	12.615	12.615
Total for Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Gujarat	—	12.615	12.615
Corporation Sponsored Schemes			
Strengthening of Agriculture Marketing Cooperative–Margin money to MARKFEDs	300.000	—	300.00
Strengthening of Agriculture Marketing Cooperatives–Share capital to primary cooperative marketing societies	0.500	—	0.500
Marketing (fruits & vegetables)	11.000	—	11.000
Other processing units	133.050	—	133.050
Cooperative storage	—	—	—
Cooperative for Weaker Section Fishery Cooperative	310.597	—	310.597
Integrated Fishery Development Project in selected States	—	0.440	0.440

1	2	3	4
Equipment Finance Scheme	—	—	—
Integrated Cooperative Development Project In selected districts	216.311	—	216.311
Total for Corporation Sponsored Scheme of Gujarat	971.458	0.440	971.898
Sugar Development Fund	380.495	—	380.495
Total for Gujarat	1351.953	13.055	1365.008

Statement-IV

Scheme-wise details of funds approved/released by NCDC to Cooperative Ventures

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Activity	Amount released during 1997-98	Commulative releases made upto 31.3.1998
1	2	3	4
1.	Marketing & inputs	47.83	545.96
2.	Storage (including cold storage)	14.78	686.46
3.	Weaker Sections	58.79	504.18
4.	Processing	144.49	2056.74
5.	Integrated Cooperative Development Project	54.61	275.32
6.	Promotional & developmental Activities	1.31	78.27
7.	Rural Consumers	1.89	123.04
8.	Credit	—	17.62

Statement-V

Details of Proposals Pending with NCDC

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of State	No. of proposals received/pending for sanction	Activity	Estimated Block cost involved	Status of proposals
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Gujarat	1	Processing (Dal Mill)	90.64	Appraisal undertaken under consideration
2.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	Oilseeds Processing	124.74	Pending due to non payment of overdues by S/Govt. of Rs. 9 crores Appex.
3.	Karnataka	9	Fisheries-I	1500.00	Addl. information sought &
			Poultry-1	136.60	under examination.
			Textiles-2	683.22	Information awaited
			(1-new spng. mill & 1-G&P Unit)		from State Govt.
			Powerloom-1	122.92	Addl. information awaited.
			Sericulture-2	219.05	-do-
			Foograins-1	1820.00	-do-
			Sugar-1 (Modn./Expn.)	4500.00	-do-
4.	Kerala	20	Fisheries-1	1150.00	Addl. information awaited.
			Rural Con.-6	5430.00	Addl. information Awaited. in respect of 4 proposals. 2 proposals under examination.
			Storage-6	89.60	Under examination.
			Textiles-2 (modn. of spg. mills)	532.00	Appraisal completed, under consideration.
			Handlooms-1	92.25	Addl. information awaited.
			Marketing-I	2.50	Under examination.
			Coir-1	100.00	Addl. information awaited.
			Computer-1	152.51	Under examination.
			Sugar-1	43.00	Addl. information awaited.
5.	Madhya Pradesh	7	Inputs-1	13.20	Addl. information awaited.
			Computer-1	6.00	Under examination.
			Cold stg.-2	566.20	Under examination.
			Sugar-1	4800.00	Addl. information awaited.
			Oilseeds-2	5822.23	-do-
6.	Maharashtra	27	Fisheries-7	2618.00	Addl. information awaited in respect of 4 societies. Appraisal completed in respect of 3 societies and proposals under consideration.

1	2	3	4	5	6
			Powerlooms-11	953.74	6 proposals pending for discussions with S/Govt. 2 proposals under examination. 3 proposals add. information awaited.
			Handlooms-1	36.29	Under examination.
			Foodgrains-1	1500.00	Under examination.
			Sugar-7 (6-New, 1-Modn.)	22383.00	6 proposals pending for sanction of term loan by financial institutions/banks. 1 proposal under examination for modernisation.
7.	Manipur	2	Sericulture-2	18.80	Addl. information awaited.
8.	Nagaland	4	Marketing-1	101.25	Under consideration.
			Sericulture-1	2.50	-do-
			Fruit & Veg.-1	28.50	Addl. information awaited.
			Fisheries-1	600.00	-do-
9.	Orissa	1	Fruits & Veg-1	11.37	Under consideration.
10.	Rajasthan	4	ICDP-4	4244.77	Appraisal being under-taken in respect of 2 project and 2 projects are under sanction
11.	Tamil Nadu	7	Handloom-4	205.70	2 proposals are under examination & 2 proposals addl. information awaited.
			Inputs-2	319.10	Addl. information awaited.
			Computer-1	49.97	Feasibility study to be undertaken.
12.	Tripura	2	Foodgrains-2	14.90	Addl. information awaited.
13.	Uttar Pradesh	11	Rural Con.-11	45.00	Addl. information awaited.
14.	West Bengal	8	Fisheries-2	954.00	1 proposal under consideration. 1 proposal addl. inform. awaited.
			Rural Con.-2	20.00	Under consideration.
			Storage-1	2.50	-do-
			Marketing-1	30.00	-do-
			Cold stg.-2	363.75	1 proposal under examination & 1 proposal addl. information awaited.
	Total	104		62499.80	

Reduction of Nuclear Stockpiles

3149. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether US President Bill Clinton on the eve of P-5 meet in Security Council stated the steps taken to minimise nuclear stockpiles;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in reducing nuclear stockpiles; and

(c) the specific steps likely to be taken in Southern Asia to reduce tension of nuclear war?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) On June 3, 1998, President Clinton stated that the United States and Russia are in the process of reducing their strategic nuclear arsenals by two-thirds from the levels existing during the height of the Cold War, under START II. President Clinton also briefly highlighted the various non-proliferation steps, such as the indefinite extension of the NPT and the signing of the CTBT.

(b) At the global level, there is no evidence as yet on the part of the nuclear weapon states to take decisive and irreversible steps in reducing their reliance on nuclear weapons and moving towards a nuclear-weapon-free-world.

(c) With the objective of reducing tensions in the sub-continent, Government has announced a series of measures. These include: (i) India will observe a voluntary moratorium and refrain from conducting further tests. India is also willing to explore ways and means, in moving towards a *de jure* formalisation of this declaration, (ii) India is ready to discuss a no-first-use agreement bilaterally with Pakistan, as also with other countries, bilaterally or in a collective forum, (iii) India has made clear it readiness to engage in multilateral negotiations on a Fissile Materials Cut-Off Treaty in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, and (iv) India has no intention of engaging in a nuclear arms race.

Foreign Aid in Agriculture

3150. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries and the international organisation involved in the advancement of agriculture in the country;

(b) the details of their involvements in the areas, State-wise; and

(c) the foreign aid released by each of the country/ organisation during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Additional Staff to Indian Embassies

3151. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the staff strength in the Indian Missions, Embassies and consulates in the Gulf countries, country-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to provide additional staff to these Indian Missions, Embassies and consulates in view of heavy load of work;

(c) if so, the details as regards the strengthening of the said Missions, country-wise;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to consider the need for an additional consulate in Damman in view of heavy load of work in the Indian Embassy at Riyadh and consular office at Jeddah and also in view of geographical consideration;

(f) if so, the steps taken in the matter; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The details of the staff strength in the Indian Mission, Embassies & Consulates in the Gulf-countries, country-wise is as indicated in the enclosed Statement-I

(b) The Government has recently sanctioned 67 additional posts at various Missions in the region. The Ministry regularly sends teams of Foreign Service Inspectors to the region who supervise the working of the Missions and the work-load and make recommendations with regard to staff strength.

(c) Details regarding the posts recently sanctioned, country-wise may be seen at statement-II

(d) does not arise.

(e) and (f) The Government of Saudi Arabia does not permit the setting up of consulates in Damman. The only exception is the American Consulate which was set up in 1946 under a special agreement. Our Mission in Riyadh sends Consular Teams every week to Damman to provide passport and consular services to the Indian community in the area. The weekly visit is the most frequent visit of all Mission having large-size communities in the Kingdom.

(g) As explained above, no permission to open a Consulate in Damman has been given to any country with the exception of USA.

Statement-I

Details of Staff Strength in Indian Missions/Posts in the Gulf Region

Country	UAE		Bahrain	Qatar	Saudi Arabia		Kuwait	Oman	Yemen	Iraq
Post/Mission	Abu Dhabi	Dubai	Bahrain	Doha	Riyadh	Jeddah	Kuwait	Muscat	Sana'a	Baghdad
Minister/Counellor	2	1-CG	1	1	3	1-CG	1	—	—	1
FS/SS	1	6	1	2	6	4	6	4	1	2
Interpreter	1	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—
Attache	6	3	2	3	9	5	4	2	2	2
Asstt/PA	9	14	11	10	16	15	13	13	4	9
Stenos/Clerks	7	8	5	6	5	7	5	3	2	3
Chauffeur/SGs	3	4	1	2	4	4	4	3	2	6
Total India-based Staff	**29**	**36**	**22**	**25**	**44**	**40**	**34**	**25**	**11**	**23**
Local Staff										
Interpreter/ Clerk etc.	12	23	8	4	10	12	21	12	3	9
Chauffeur/ Messengers	4	3	4	3	12	12	8	4	3	9
Grand Total	**45**	**62**	**34**	**32**	**66**	**64**	**63**	**41**	**17**	**41**

Statement II

Details regarding recently sanctioned posts in the Gulf region

Country	Oman	Saudi Arabia		UAE	
Post/Mission	Muscat	Riyadh	Jeddah	Abu Dhabi	Dubai
Interpreter	1	1	1	1	1
Clerk	7	33	13	2	2
Farash	—	—	—	1	—
Office Boy	—	—	—	—	3
Driver	—	—	—	—	1
Total	**8**	**34**	**14**	**4**	**7**

Additional Plan Support

3152. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of additional plan support for the year 1998-99 and Annual Plan sought by the Andhra Pradesh Government;

(b) whether the additional plan support of Rs. 750/- crores for the State's Annual Plan for 1995-96 have been released;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the measures taken to release additional plan support for the 1998-99 Annual Plan as requested by the Andhra Pradesh Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The State Government has yet to submit Annual Plan 1998-99 proposals.

(b) and (c) The State Government's Annual Plan 1995-96 was finalised at Rs. 3157.00 crores. At the time of finalisation there was a resources gap of Rs. 1,000 crores. The State Government mobilised Rs. 250 crores as additional resource which left a gap of Rs. 750.00 crores. Planning Commission had visualised that this gap of Rs. 750.00 crores would be met from the Award of the Tenth Finance Commission. The State Government already received Rs. 846 crores as per the Award of the Tenth Finance Commission.

(d) The question does not arise.

Reservation in Promotion

3153. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the benefits of reservation in promotion to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are given to the employees drawing basic pay upto Rs. 5700/- (pre-revised);

(b) whether the fresh instructions/directives have been issued consequent upon the enhancement of Pay Scale of Government employees;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANANJ :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Varieties of Seeds

3154. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total requirement of improved seeds of different varieties and the quantum of such seeds being indigenously grown in the country;

(b) the details of the arrangements made to meet the shortage of such seeds;

(c) whether the seeds are also being imported by the country; and

(d) if so, the quantum and varieties thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The requirement and availability of seeds in the years from 1995-96 to 1997-98 as reported by the State Governments is as under:

Year	Quantity in lakh Qtls.	
	Requirement	Availability
1995-96	74.48	84.93
1996-97	75.44	90.72
1997-98	78.55	99.74

(b) While the issue of availability of seed comes within the sphere of the State Government, the overall availability was sufficient to meet the demand. However in case of variety miss-match, tie-up arrangements are made by deficit States with other States and Seeds Producing Organisations having surplus stock.

(c) and (d) A limited quantity of seeds is being imported in accordance with the established policy.

The crop-wise details of different seeds imported during 1995-96 and 1996-97 are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Import of Seed

(Qty. in Tons)

Sl. No.	Crops	1995-96 Quantity	1996-97 Quantity
1	2	3	4
1.	Sugar beet seeds	8.250	110.00
2.	Other beet seeds	2.516	—
3.	Seeds of herbaceous Plants cultivated for flowers	2.943	2.666
4.	Cabbage seed	13.981	11.017
5.	Cauliflower seed	2.252	2.621
6.	Radish seed	20.654	27.601
7.	Tomato seed	00.335	1.546
8.	Vegetable seeds for planting	258.632	148.451

1	2	3	4
9.	Onion seeds	0.986	2.308
10.	Fruits seeds for planting or sowing	13.647	0.620
11.	Other seeds etc. for planting	29.762	11.904
12.	Pea seeds	1.975	—
13.	Clover seed	110.00	528.000
14.	Lucerne seed	—	0.029
15.	Pomegranate seeds	—	4.020
16.	Other seeds of forage plants.	1.000	0.604
	Total	466.933	851.387

Source : Dte. General of Commerce, Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta.

[English]

Small Farmers Agriculture Business Consortium

3155. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Farmers Agricultural Business Consortium Scheme formulated by the Union Agricultural Ministry has started functioning;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not pursuing this lofty scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The central SFAC has the role of catalytic agency in promoting projects aimed at taking economic benefits of modern agri-business to the resource poor farmers. The Projects for 12 districts, viz., (1) BARPETA (ASSAM); (2) MAHABUBNAGAR (ANDHRA PRADESH); (3) VALSAD (GUJARAT); (4) DHARWAD (KARNATAKA); (5) ERNAKULAM (KERALA); (6) JABALPUR (M.P.); (7) GANJAM (ORISSA); (8) PONDICHERRY; (9) BIKANER (RAJASTHAN); (10) DHARMAPURI (TAMIL NADU); (11) PITHORAGARH (U.P.); (12) MIDNAPORE (WEST BENGAL) were got prepared and given to respective State Governments for implementation. SFAC Kerala has been given Rs. 50.00 lakhs for Research & Development in 1997-98.

(c) The question does not arise.

Production of Ragi

3156. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of Ragi produced in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether there is a steady decrease in the total quantity of ragi produced in the country;

(c) if o, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether his ministry has any measure to encourage the farmers to increase the yield of Ragi; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The production of

Ragi in the country during the last three years is as given below:—

Year	Production (Lakh tonnes)
1994-95	23.42
1995-96	25.01
1996-97	24.74

(b) and (c) The production of Ragi is declining mainly because of the shift in area from Ragi to other more remunerative crops.

(d) and (e) For increasing the production and productivity of cereals including the Ragi, Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice, ICDP-Wheat and ICDP-Coarse Cereals) are being implemented. Through these programmes incentives are being given to the farmers on the use of quality seeds, farm implements, sprinkler sets so as to encourage the adoption of improved cereals/Ragi production technology in respective areas. Besides, for the effective technology transfer, farmer's trainings and field demonstrations are also being organised. For popularising newly released varieties seed minikits of Ragi are being distributed under the Central Sector "Minikit Demonstration programme and popularisation of new technology".

Development of Electronic Technology

3157. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to promote and develop appropriate electronic technologies for the agricultural sector and rural development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Electronics through its sponsored projects have developed measurement techniques for various parameters such as soil moisture salinity & nutrient, grain moisture, plant physiology, seed testing and automatic drip irrigation system. These projects have led to the development of low cost, easy to use and rugged instruments for the agriculture sector. Information Technology through Geographical Information System (GIS), Data base Management System (DBMS) etc. is being used in the execution of watershed development projects for rural development.

(c) Does not arise.

Pending Projects of Assam

3158. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of projects submitted by Government of Assam for approval are pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, since when these projects are pending with the Union Government; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) Planning Commission have no projects submitted by Government of Assam pending for approval.

[Translation]

Bhander Inter-State Project

3159. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any agreement between the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh regarding sharing of water of the Bhander River Inter-State Irrigation Project;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh is violating the agreement and not supplying water to Madhya Pradesh as per the agreement;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government are likely to direct the Government of Uttar Pradesh to supply water to Madhya Pradesh as per the said agreement; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (e) No such matter has been reported to the Centre.

[English]

Public Grievances

3160. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the date from which the Directorate of Public Grievances has been functioning at the centre; and

(b) the number and nature of cases handled by the above office during the last three years indicating the number of cases disposed off and number of them pending as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The directorate of Public Grievances has been functioning in the Cabinet Secretariat since 1st April, 1996.

(b) The Directorate takes up cases of individuals in respect of 12 Ministries/Departments/Organisations which are under its jurisdiction. It does not deal with the policy matters, service matters (excluding terminal benefits like gratuity, GPF etc.), commercial contracts, cases which are sub-juice in Courts, Consumer Fora, Monopolies and Restrictive Trade practices Commission (MRTPC) and Railway Claim cases. The Ministries/departments/ Organisations under its purview are:

(1) Ministry of Railways and their undertakings;

(2) Department of Posts;

(3) Department of Telecom including Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) and Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.;

(4) Banking Division of the Department of Economic Affairs including Public Sector Banks;

(5) Insurance Division and National Savings Scheme Division of the Department of Economic Affairs including Public Sector Insurance Companies *viz.* LIC, GIC and their subsidiaries;

(6) Ministry of Urban Affairs including DDA, CPWD and Directorate of Estates;

(7) Ministry of Surface Transport and their undertakings;

(8) Ministry of Civil Aviation including Airports Authority, Indian Airlines and Air India;

(9) Regional Passport Authority under Ministry of External Affairs;

(10) Employees Provident Fund Organisations under Ministry of Labour;

(11) Central Government Health Scheme under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and

(12) Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) hospitals and dispensaries directly managed by ESIC under Ministry of Labour.

Grievances which do into fall under the purview of Directorate of Public Grievances are transferred to concerned Ministries/Departments/State Governments for taking appropriate action.

The number of cases received during the last 3 years, disposed of and pending are as follows:—

Year	No. received	Number taken up	Number transferred to other Min/ Depts./State Govts.	Number disposed of	Number pending
1995-96	4584	1185	3399	1185	0
1996-97	5544	1236	4308	1228	8
1997-98	5010	1683	3327	1292	391

Indian Council for Cultural Relations

3161. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Council for Cultural Relations propose to review the activities of cultural centres established in the foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The activities of the Indian Cultural Centres abroad are constantly examined and reviewed by Constituent Bodies of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, *viz.* Governing Body and General Assembly. On the basis of this process, the annual programme of the ICCR is drawn up.

(c) does not arise.

[Translation]

Use of Fertilizers

3162. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the chemical fertilizers being used in agriculture on large scale are proving dangerous to human health;

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

(c) the effective steps being taken by the Government to prevent the excess use of fertilizers in agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) There are studies on the subject of chemical residues and their impact on human health. It cannot be concluded that the use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture is proving dangerous to human health.

(c) In general it cannot be said that the use of fertilizers in India is excessive. The average consumption of fertilizer nutrients in India is 86 Kilograms per hectare during 1997-98 against 345 Kilograms in Egypt, 135 Kilograms in Bangladesh, 375 Kilograms in Japan and 113 Kilograms per hectare in Pakistan, as per latest available data. Moreover, Government has promoted the concept of integrated nutrient management with appropriate use of organic manures and bio-fertilizers to reduce the reliance on chemical fertiliser.

[English]

Rice Research Station

3163. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set-up a Rice Research Station under the auspices of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in the country, State-wise particularly Dhanbhanda in Barpeta district of Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Transfer of Ghauri

3164. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whetner Pakistan has procured Ghauri from North Korea in a secret deal;

(b) if so, whether Indian Government was aware of this secret deal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Government have seen reports in the media that Pakistan's Ghauri missile is based on a design clandestinely obtained from North Korea.

(b) to (d) Government closely monitors all developments in Pakistan's missile programme and are aware that Pakistan has covertly obtained missile related technologies and materials from other countries.

Bangladesh P.M. Visit to India

3165. DR. SANJAY SINHA :
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Bangladesh has recently visited our country and held discussions with various leaders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether she had offered to play mediatory role in the Indo-Pak negotiation during the course of her meeting; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, paid a working visit to New Delhi on 16 June 1998 and held discussions with the Prime Minister. The talks covered bilateral relations, regional and international matters.

Both sides agreed on the need to intensify the excellent relations that exist between the two neghbouring countries, to increase exchanges at various levels including Parliamentary delegations, students and cultural groups and to step up commercial and economic interaction.

Border and security-related issues were reviewed. Both sides reiterated their commitment to SAARC in view of the important role it could play in promoting regional cooperation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Qualifying Marks in Tests For SCs/STs

3166. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the relaxation in qualifying marks in written test and viva-voce has been withdrawn with immediate effect vide O.M. No. 36012/23/96-Estt. (Res.) dated July 22, 1997;

(b) whether the posts reserved for SCs/STs in Group A, B, C, and D after July 22, 1997 have been filled up by the candidates of these communities;

(c) the number of posts of Group A, B, C, and D could not be filled up due to the fact that reserved category candidates of SCs/STs failed to achieve the prescribed qualifying marks; and

(d) the number of posts in Group A, B, C and D reserved for SCs/STs remaining unfilled have been permanently/temporarily deserved and filled up by the general category candidates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN: (a) In implementation of the Supreme Court Judgement in the S. Vinod Kumar's case, instructions were issued vide the said O.M. Withdrawing relaxation in qualifying marks and standards of evaluation in favour of SCs and STs in matters of reservation in promotion.

(b) to (d) The information is not centrally maintained.

[Translation]

Sea Pollution

3167. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Arabian Sea near Mumbai has become polluted to a great extent; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The data collected under the programme, "Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System" of Department of Ocean Development have indicated that the creeks of Mumbai particularly Versova, Mahim and the Ulhas estuary are severely polluted; and Bassein, Dharamtar and Thane creeks are moderately polluted. However, it has been found that the levels of pollutants decrease towards offshore and the sea beyond 5 km is found to be clear.

(b) The Government of Maharashtra has taken the following steps for controlling pollution in the coastal waters of Mumbai:

(i) Implementation of a project by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Bombay for sewage collection, treatment and disposal with World Bank assistance.

(ii) Implementation of restrictive industrial location policy in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region for the last two decades for controlling discharge of untreated industrial effluents into the Arabian sea near Mumbai. Accordingly the polluting industries are not allowed to be set up in the zone-1 of Mumbai Metropolitan Region and the existing industries are also not allowed to expand, if the pollution load is likely to increase.

(iii) Encouraging the setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP) for small and medium scale industries.

(iv) Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has also issued necessary guidelines under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to the industries, prescribing suitable standards and conditions for effluent treatment and disposal.

Action Plan for Flood Control

3168. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have worked out any Action Plan for flood control for the sub-Himalayan Terai region of West Bengal with the consultation of the Government of Bhutan and the State Governments of West Bengal and Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the Action Plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) The Union Government has not prepared any Master Plan for flood control for Sub-Himalayan Terai Region of West Bengal in consultation with the Government of Bhutan and States of West Bengal and Sikkim. However; North Bengal Flood Control Commission, Government of West Bengal has prepared Master Plans for four major rivers of North Bengal namely; Testa, Torsa, Raidak and Jaldhaka. Implementation of the specific schemes included in these Master Plans are being carried out by the Government of West Bengal from the funds allocated under State Flood Control Sector by the Planning Commission.

[English]

Implementation of Reservation

3169. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether reservation for SCs/STs in promotions within Group 'A' are based on seniority-cum-fitness as per O.M.No. 27/2/71-Estt. (SCT) dated November 27, 1972;

(b) whether department of Personnel and Training has permitted the Department of Telecom for not implementing these orders in Civil Wing of Indian Telecom Service Group 'A';

(c) if not, the reasons for filing wrong affidavit by the Department of Telecom in CAT that "no reservation is applicable within Group 'A' even though the promotions are based on seniority-cum-fitness basis in case of JTS to STS, STS to Adhoc JAG and JAG to SG(JAG); and

(d) the steps taken to persuade the Department of Telecom for implementation of the Government policy and measures taken to avoid recurrence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Matter is under adjudication by a court of laws.

(d) In view of (b) and (c), question does not arise.

Deployment of M-11 Missiles

3170. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the deployment of M-11 missiles in Pakistan which are supplied by China;

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

(c) whether any sanction has been imposed by any country on China for the deployment of M-11 missiles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Government have seen reports in the media that M-11 missiles have been deployed by Pakistan.

(b) Government continues to closely monitor all developments in Pakistan's missile programme, including deployment configuration of all missiles in its arsenal. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard its security in accordance with its own assessment of developments relating to India's security environment.

(c) and (d) The United States imposed sanctions on certain Chinese entities in 1991 and again in 1993. Subsequently, a bilateral assurance was provided to the effect that China would not violate the threshold limits laid down under the Missile Technology Control Regime (300 km. range and 500 kg. pay load).

Manufacturing of Silicon Chips

3171. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that silicon chips are being imported in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any research has been conducted to manufacture silicon chips in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per Government policy, Silicon Chips i.e. Integrated Circuits (ICs) on a chip of silicon are freely importable. Silicon Chips cover a wide variety of highly complex products such as microprocessor (Pentium processors, Sparc processors), memories (Dynamic Random Access Memories, Static Random Access Memories), Digital Signal Processor etc. These are produced only by a few well established global companies such a Intel, NEC, Motorola, Hitachi, Texas Instruments, Toshiba, Samsung etc.

(c) and (d) Silicon chips based on bipolar as well as metal oxide semiconductor technology are manufactured in the country to a limited extent. M/s SCL, a public sector undertaking of the Department of Electronics, manufactures Silicon chips for telecom and time keeping applications a well as application specific silicon chips for strategic as well as civilian requirements.

(e) Does not anse.

Cross Boarder Meet on J&K

3172. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cross border meet of leaders from J&K proposed by the British Parliamentarian on May 28, 1998 has been postponed indefinitely;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the same;

(c) whether India has agreed to attend this meet; and

(d) to what extent it has impact on the situation in the J&K border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The reasons for the postponement have not been indicated by the organizers of the meeting.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) It has no impact on the situation in the J&K border.

[Translation]

Classification of Society

3173. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

(a) whether the Union Government have conducted any survey to classify the society into various categories according to their income;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) the percentage of each class to the total population;

(d) whether the Government have received any objection regarding these classifications;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reclassify them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (f) The Survey on Consumer Expenditure is conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation at regular intervals. These surveys classify people into various categories according to their Monthly Per Capita Consumption expenditure. The data on income is not collected. These classifications are widely accepted and used in the Governments. The percentage of people in each expenditure class as per the survey conducted in 1993-94 is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Distribution of Person by Different Expenditure Groups as per the Survey Conducted in 1993-94

Rural		Urban	
Expenditure Limits (Rs. monthly per capita)	% of Person	Expenditure Limit (Rs. monthly per capita)	% of Person
0-120	4.8	0-160	5.0
120-140	5.2	160-190	5.0
140-165	9.2	190-230	9.4
165-190	11.1	230-265	9.0
190-210	8.8	265-310	10.9
210-235	10.1	310.355	10.0
235-265	10.6	355-410	10.3
265-300	9.9	410-490	10.6
300-355	10.7	490-605	10.0
355-455	9.8	605-825	10.2
455-560	4.8	825-1055	4.7
560 +	5.0	1055 +	4.9
All Classes	100.00	All Classes	100.00

Source : Estimated from NSS Consumption Expenditure: 50th Round.

[English]

Cultivable Land

3174. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cultivable land in the country is about 18.45 crore hectare whereas at present farming is being done only on 15 crore hectares of land;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have formulated a time bound scheme to increase the area under farming; and

(d) the annual expenditure proposed to be spent by the Government during the Ninth Five Year Plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) As per the land use statistics for the year 1994-95 (latest available), the cultivable area which includes net areas sown, fallow (current & old) lands, miscellaneous tree crops & groves etc. and culturable waste land, was 18.40 crore hectares as against the total cultivated area (net area sown and current follows) of 15.64 crore hectares for the country as a whole.

(b) The land under the categories of fallow lands other than current fallow and culturable waste land can be brought under cultivation only with a very high investment, the yield may be low in the initial stages of the land development and the risk and uncertainties involved.

(c) and (d) A centrally sponsored scheme for Reclamation of Alkali Soils is being implemented in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh with a proposed outlay of Rs. 64.55 crores during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

Training to Tribal Youths in Food Processing Industry

3175. SHRI D.S. AHIRE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special scheme exists to provide training to the tribal youths in food processing industry in the country particularly in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) One of the Plan Schemes being operated by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for development of the processed food sector, is the Scheme for Person Power Development in the food processing industries. The components of this schemes are:

(i) Person power development in rural areas (Food Processing & Training Centres or FITCs).

(ii) Person power development in grain processing industries.

(iii) Training of person power in meat processing.

(iv) Training of traditional fisher persons.

Financial assistance in the form of grant is provided to the cooperatives, No-Governmental Organisation, Public Sector Undertakings, Research Institutions etc. Under this scheme.

The training imparted under this scheme covers people belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other Backward classes (OBCs) and Women.

This Plan Scheme is being implemented all over the country including in the State of Maharashtra, during the Ninth Plan period.

[English]

Registration of Criminal Cases

3176. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether as per a judgement of Supreme Court, there is no need of Government's sanction required by the CBI to register a criminal case against any official of the Government of India;

(b) if so, whether the same judgement applies against the judges also;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have appealed to the Supreme Court that the same directive should also be applied in the case of judges; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) :

(a) In accordance with the Supreme Court judgement dated the December 18, 1997, in Writ Petition (Criminal) Nos. 340-343 of the 1993 in the matter of Vineet Narain & other *Vs.* Union of India & another, the CBI is not required to obtain prior sanction of the concerned Secretary of the Ministry/Department before taking up any enquiry (PE or RC), including search in respect of the officers of level of Joint Secretary and above of the Government of India, PSUs etc.

(b) and (c) While adjudicating the above case, the Supreme Court, endorsed its earlier view in K. Veeraswami's case that in order to protect independence of the judiciary, it was essential that no criminal case be registered under Sector 154 Cr. P.C. against a Judge of the High Court or of the Supreme Court unless the Chief Justice of India was consulted and he assented to such an action being taken. In K. Veeraswami (1991 3 SC 655) the Supreme Court also held that there should be similar consultation at the stage of examining the question of granting sanction for prosecution and it should be necessary and appropriate that the question of sanction be guided by and be in accordance with the advice of the Chief Justice of India.

(d) The Government have not moved the Supreme Court for review of the Judgement dated December 18, 1997.

(e) Doe not arise.

Digging of Canals

3177. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra have submitted any proposal to the Union Government for digging of canals in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance for Non-Conventional Energy Sources

3178. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign assistance received by the Ministry for the implementation of the non-conventional energy programmes during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the sources along with the scheme for which assistance was received;

(c) the amount of assistance out of that received in technical and other forms, schemes-wise;

(d) whether the foreign assistance had been fully utilised during both the financial years;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (f) The details of foreign assistance received by the Ministry for implementation of various projects including for Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency from different sources, durging 1996-97 and 1997-98, in the form of loans, grants for project financing and technical and also the status of fund utilisation, are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Name of the Project	Implementation by	Source of Fund	Sector (s)	Assistance				Status of Funds utilisation
				1996-97		1997-98		
				Rs. million	US$ million	Rs. million	US$ million	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Indian Renewable Resource Development Project	Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)	International Development Agency Loan	Wind Small hydro	340.34 181.52	9.53 5.09	0 259.46	0 6.65	The funds have been received on reimbursement basis after utilisation by way of financing projects in wind & small hydro sectors.
		Global Environment Facility (GEF) Grant	Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) (Technical Assistance	99.63 3.87	2.81 0.09	22.67 21.44	0.63 0.60	Utilised for financing SPV projects in public and private sector and also for capacity building.
		Swiss Development Corporation Grant	Technical Assistance	4.70	0.15	9.29	0.37	Utilised for capacity building in IREDA.
Renewable Energy Project	India Renewable Energy Development Agency	Asian Development Bank Loan	Wind Co-generation Imprest	0 0 0	0 0 0	101.89 86.12 580.10	2.59 2.24 15.00	The imprest amount has not been utilised. It was received in December, 1997 and is being utilised on the basis of actual expenditure incurred by the project promoters.
High Rate Biomethanation Project	Ministry of Non Conventional Energy Sources	UNDP/GEF Technical Assistance	Bio-methanation	0	0.42	0	0.77	Funds received during 1996-97 were fully utilised, however, the funds received during 1997-98 were not fully utilised and un-spent balance was carried forward to the year 1998-99.
Hilly Hydro Project*	Ministry of Non Conventional Energy Sources	UNDP/GEF Technical Assistance	Hilly hydro	24.17	0.34	0	1.66	The funds were utilised for carrying out identified activities such as training, strengthening of institutions etc.
(*the assistance received in calendar year-wise i.e. 1996 & 1997)								
Indo-US Project for Sustainable Rural Economic Development	Ministry of Non Conventional Energy Sources	United States Deptt. of Energy contribution in kind	SPV	6.00	0	0	0	The US contribution to the project of Rs. 6.0 million was in the form of hardware i.e. photovoltaic modules, Charge Controllers etc. and training.
Carbon Emission Reduction through Biomass for Rural India.	Indian Institute of Science Bangalore	UNDP/GEF project preparation Grant.	Biomass	0	0	0	0.03	The funds have been sanctioned on 5th Jan., 1998 directly to I.I.Sc., Bangalore

NCDC

3179. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought clearance from National Co-operative Development Corporation for modernisation of spinning mills in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the assistance sought;

(c) whether NCDC has given its clearance; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken for the modernisation of spinning mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The Government of Karnataka, during the year 1996-97, recommended only one proposal for modernisation of a Cooperative Spinning Mill, i.e. the Gadag Cooperative Textile Mill Ltd. Hulkoti. The amount of assistance sought from NCDC was Rs. 805 lakhs.

(c) and (d) NCDC cleared the above proposal and has sanctioned loan assistance of Rs. 805.00 lakhs to the Government of Karnataka for the modernisation of the Textile Mill referred to above. As per information available with NCDC, no progress in regard to modernisation of the mill seems to have been made as the State Government of Karnataka is yet to provide funds to this Society.

Murari Committee on Deep Sea Fishing

3180. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state·

(a) whether the Murari Committee has given its report on deep sea fishing;

(b) if so, the recommendations contained therein;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of the Committee;

(d) whether any time limit has also been suggested for implementing the recommendations; and

(e) if so, the details of the relevant observations?

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

(b) The recommendations of the committee to Review Deep Sea Fishing Policy are shown in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The Government's decisions on various recommendations of the Committee are being implemented.

(d) No. Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Recommendations of the Review Committee on Deep Sea Fishing Policy

1. All permits issued for fishing by joint venture/ charter/lease/test fishing should immediately be cancelled subject to legal processes as may be required.

2. No renewal, extension or new licenses/permits be issued in future for fishing to joint venture/charter/lease/ test fishing vessels.

3. All licences/permits for fishing may be made public documents and copy thereof made available for inspections in the office of the registered authority.

4. The areas already being exploited or which may be exploited in the medium term by fishermen operating traditional craft or mechanised vessels below 20 m size should not be permitted for exploitation by any vessels above 20 m. length except currently operated Indian vessels which may operate in the current areas for only three years subject to the recommendations 1 & 7.

5. Since the Indian mechanised boats below 20 m size have the capacity to fish in depths upto about 70-90 m on the west coast, the distance from the shore represented by 150 m depth line should be out of bounds for all vessels of more than 20 m length except vessels mentioned at para 4. Where the 150 m depth zone is less than 100 nautical miles from the shore, the distance upto 100 nautical miles should be reserved for Indian vessels less than 20 m length. On the east coast, starting from Kanyakumari, Indian vessels below 20 m size would have exclusive access upto 100 m depth or 50 nautical miles from the shore whichever is farther except relaxation in para 4. The depth zone would also be defined by coordinates indicating distance from the shore. Distance will be determined by National Hydrographic Office/Coast Guard/Fishery Survey of India.

6. In regard to Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshaweep groups of islands, a distance of 50 nautical miles from the shore would be reserved exclusively for Indian vessels below 20 m length with proviso at para 4. Further, if so, required, the limit would be defined taking into account the need to keep waters between islands reserved exclusively for Indian vessels, even if some portions fall beyond the limit of 50 nautical miles.

7. In the area open to the vessels above 20 m length, resource specific vessels for tuna and tuna like fishes, squids and scuttle fish, deep sea fin-fishes in mid-water or pelagic regions and oceanic tuna may be allowed for exploitation by tuna long lining, tuna pure seining, squid jigging and mid-water trawling, provided these are *de facto* Indian owned registered vessels. The Indian owners should account for at least 51% debt as well as equity.

8. The fleet size for different fishing grounds may be fixed taking into account the maximum sustainable yield and the need for conservation of resources.

9. In order to conserve fishery resources in our waters, to protect fishermen and to reduce conflicts in the sea, deep sea fishing regulations should be enacted by the Parliament after consulting the fishing community.

10. For preventing conflicts between the traditional, small mechanised, larger deep sea vessels strict vigilance to be exercised by the Coast Guard. To attain this objective the Coast Guard should be strengthened, expanded, upgraded technically with the state-of-the-art system of navigation, surveillance and weaponary and properly tasked to prevent poaching by foreign vessels and observance of zone restriction by indigenous vessels. In case Coast Guard is not able to perform the task then by some other agency, State or Central, would be identified to ensure that these vessels excluded from specific areas do not violate prohibitions.

11. The Government should take active steps as well as make finances available for upgradation of technological skills and equipment used by the traditional fishermen, for mechanised boats and the Indian deep sea fishing fleet so that each can effectively fish in the areas reserved for it by law or in practice. Duty concessions and concessional finance should be made available for both navigational as well as fishing equipment aimed at competence upgradation to the state-of-the-art level to all the three categories with priority to the traditional sector.

12. Traditional and small mechanised sector should be assisted by adequate regular supply of fuel and by providing HSD and kerosene and by providing subsidy taking into account the benefits given to deep sea fishing vessels.

13. All types of marine fisheries should come under one Ministry. The Government should also consider setting up a Fishery Authority of India to function in the manner in which such authorities set up in other countries function and to be responsible for formulation of policies as well as their implementation.

14. The Fishery Survey of India also be technically upgraded by induction of the modern technology and equipment so that it can identify and map the location of all types of fish, study impact of different technologies and ecological changes. There should be proper coordination and cooperation between the National Remote Sensing Agencies and the Fishery Survey of India for this purpose.

15. The Government should give priority to the creation of the infrastructure needed for preventing wastage of fishery resources which is occurring through throwing away by-catch. This may be achieved by providing a chain of cold storages, ice factories, fish processing facilities, fish meal and feed manufacturing units for value addition to the products of fishermen and their cooperatives.

16. Infrastructure facilities such as fishing harbours for the existing and modern upgraded craft along east and west coasts as well as in island groups of Lakshdweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands may be created on priority basis.

17. Fishermen/fisherwomen and their cooperatives may be provided with financial assistance for upgradation and acquisition of larger vessels for marketing and other related activities.

18. The Government should give priority to training fishermen/fisherwomen in handling new equipment, larger vessels and new fishing techniques besides fish handling and processing aspects.

19. Government should take effective steps to tackle the menance of pollutants/effluents/sewage let out by industries which affects marine life adversely.

20. Government should take a decision on the recommendations of the committee within a period of six months.

21. The deep sea fishing policy should be revised periodically say every 3-5 years.

[English]

Decline in Area under Wheat

3181. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether area under wheat cultivation is declining repidly in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to prevent further decline in area under wheat cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The area under cultivation of wheat during the years 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 was 25.7, 25.0, 25.9 and 25.8 million hectares respectively.

(c) To further increase the productivity, production and area under cultivation of wheat, the Government of India is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme of Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) in wheat based cropping system areas. Under this scheme,

incentives are given to farmers for use of improved seeds, farm implements, transfer of technology, field demonstrations etc. The farmers are all assured Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their produce.

Chinese Missiles to Pakistan

3182. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI VAIKO :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chinese Government propose to start fresh supplies of M-11 Missiles to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Indian Government to counter this threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Government are aware of the longstanding defence cooperation between China and Pakistan, including in transfer of missiles, missile technology and nuclear weapons related technology. There are credible reports that supply of M-11 missiles along with the related equipment has been ongoing since early 1990s and more recent reports relate to cooperation in setting up of a missile production facility.

(c) Government continues to closely monitor all developments with regard to Pakistan's missile programme. Government maintains that the continued transfer of sophisticated military technology into our neighbourhood is a destabilising development. These concerns have also been made known to the Chinese side, including at the highest level. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the country's security in accordance with its assessment of developments relating to India's security environment.

Fishing Vessels

3183. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of fishing vessels registered in Goa;

(b) whether the trawlers at Betul are facing difficulties because of the narrow mouth of the river Sal;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal for dredging the mouth of the river Sal to facilitate the movement of the trawlers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) There are 3709 fishing vessels registered in Goa as on 1996.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The dredging of the mouth of the river Sal will be based on the recommendations of the study assigned to the National Institute of Oceanography, Goa by the Government of Goa.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Budget Allocation for Agriculture

3184. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the total budget outlay proposed to be spent for agricultural development in view of the priority accorded to the agriculture in the budget;

(b) the percentage of farmers in the country; and

(c) the details of the budget allocation, criteria fixed for agricultural development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The allocation for agriculture and allied activities during 1998-99 will be 3.67 per cent of total Central Plan Budget.

(b) As per 1991 Population Census, the percentage of cultivators to total workforce was 35.2 per cent.

(c) Allocation for agriculture and allied activities is determined by the Planning Commission on the basis of national priorities, availability of resources and competing requirement from different sectors.

[English]

Deep Sea Fishing

3185. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received requests from the Government of Kerala to cancel all the permits/licences for deep sea fishing issued to the foreign vessels/joint ventures; and

(b) if so, the action taken there on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) On the requests of the various State Governments including

Kerala and Fishermen Groups for cancellation of licences/ permits issued to chartered, leased and joint venture vessels, the Government had constituted a Committee to Review Deep Sea Fishing Policy. Based on the decisions taken on the recommendations of the Committee, the New Deep Sea Fishing Policy of 1991 involving Joint Venture Lease and Test Fishing has been rescinded. Operation of foreign fishing vessels under the Charter Policies has also been phased out. Regarding cancellation of permits, it has been decided that it can be done only on violation of provisions of the MZI Act, 1981, Rules/ Orders thereunder and terms and conditions of the approval in individual cases in consultation with the Ministry of Law & Justice.

Relations with Japan

3186. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which efforts to improve relations with Japan stand at present after sanction imposed;

(b) whether any discussion is in progress on outstanding issues; and

(c) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) India's relations with Japan have traditionally been friendly and cordial. Japan is the second largest trade partner with annual two-way trade turnover of US $ 5 billion. It is the fourth largest investor in India (approximately US $ 1.6 billion during 1991-97). Japan's role in the economic development of India is appreciated by the Government and Japanese investments into India are welcome. Our effort is to strengthen economic an commercial interaction at various levels which we believe is in mutual interest.

Japan's reaction to India's nuclear test has been adverse. Apart from the freeze, on Yen-loans and grant-in-aid for India, a series of initiatives have been taken/ are proposed to be taken including with reference to Jammu & Kashmir.

(b) and (c) For our part, we are willing to have a constructive dialogue with Japan in order to further our relations to mutual benefit. We await an indication from the Government of Japan that they are willing to resume our bilateral dialogue.

Encouragement to Food Processing Industries

3187. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to encourage Food Processing Industries for exports in coastal areas of Gujarat and Maharashtra.

(b) whether any assistance is provided to make packaging and Bottling attractive and competitive to this industry;

(c) whether any provision for facilities has been made to process mango, cashew, jack fruit, Jamun, coconut, pineapple etc. for the youth of the region;

(d) whether any concession and facilities have been provided for the cooperative sector engaged to the food processing industries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Government is encouraging setting up/expansion/ modernisation of Food processing industries all over the country, including in the States of Gujarat and Maharashtra, by providing financial assistance under various Plan schemes. The Government also provides assistance for development of infrastructure facilities for cold chain, processing as well as packaging, research and development, and creating training facilities for hands-on experience for setting up of food processing industries in rural areas.

Although the Ministry does not operate any specific Plan scheme for promotion of exports by processed food industries, several of its existing schemes provide support for infrastructure, packaging research and development, specialised training, market development, exhibitions etc. These, all are expected to have a favourable impact on export promotion.

Under the Plan schemes for Research and Development, the Ministry provides financial assistance in the form of grant for making the packaging of processed food products safe, attractive and competitive.

(c) The Ministry provides financial assistance in the form of loan/grant to growers, co-operative societies, Non-Governmental Organisations and food processing units, for processing of fruits and vegetables.

To encourage fruit and vegetable processing in rural areas, the Ministry also operates a scheme for the establishment of Food Processing and Training Centres (P&TCs) which provide the rural youth with the facilities and training (know-how and show-how) for gaining hands-on experience on the processing of simpler products like

jams, jellies, pickles etc. mostly for local consumption in the areas around FP&TCs. Two such FP&TCs are already operational in Nasik and Wardha Districts of Maharashtra and one more has been sanctioned in 1993-94 in the District of Wardha.

As for Gujarat, three FP&TCs have been sanctioned-one in 1993-94 at Bordoli and two in 1994-95 in Junagarh and Gandevi.

(d) & (e) Cooperatives are provided grant in aid under various plan schemes of the Ministry for setting up infrastructure facilities as well as processing units. The level of assistance varies according to the scheme, and also the area, in which those are located.

P-5 Meet

3188. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

SHRI MADAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a P-5 meeting was held at Geneva recently to discuss the nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details of matters discussed at the meet;

(c) whether Kashmir issue was considered pivotal in resolving the tension in Southern Asia; and

(d) the measures taken to see Southern Asia remains a Zone of Peace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) In the Joint Communique, the Foreign Ministers of the Five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council, P-5, in a meeting in Geneva, June 4, 1998, "condemned" the tests carried out by India and Pakistan, expressed their "deep concern about the dandger to peace and stability in the region", and "pledged to cooperate closely" in order to prevent an arms race in the sub-continent, "bolster the non-proliferation regime and to encourage reconciliation and peaceful resolution of differences between India and Pakistan". They called upon India and Pakistan to adhere to the CTBT immediately and unconditionally and said that their goal continues to be adherence by all countries to the NPT as it stands, without any modification. They said that they would "actively encourage" India and Pakistan "to find mutually acceptable solutions, through direct dialogue that address the root causes of tension, including Kashmir and to try to build confidence rather than seek confrontation".

(d) India enjoys a consistent record as a responsible member of the international community and a pioneer and leading participant in the movement towards global nuclear disarmament. India has made consistent efforts aimed towards building confidence and promoting peace and stability in our region. In the wake of the nuclear tests, Government have also taken various initiatives with a view to concerns expressed subsequent to the tests. These are: (i) India will observe a voluntary moratorium and refrain from conducting further tests. India is also willing to explore ways and means, in moving towards a *de jure* formalisation of this declaration, (ii) India is ready to discuss a no-first-use agreement bilaterally with Pakistan, as also with other countries, bilaterally or in a collective forum, and (iii) India has no intention of engaging in a nuclear arms race. India expects a positive response to the various initiatives it has announced so that peace and stability are maintained in the sub-continent.

G-15 Countries

3189. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the G-15 developing countries endorsed India's proposal of co-ordinated action to resist unilateral trade actions including the extra territorial applications of national legislation by developing countries;

(b) if so, whether it has also been agreed that trade differences should be settled within the framework of the World Trade Organisation;

(c) if so, the other proposals put forward by India in G-15 nations;

(d) the number of Indian proposals that have been accepted; and

(e) the other decisions taken at the G-15 meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The G-15 leaders at their Eighth Summit in Cairo in May 1998 reiterated their belief that unilateral measures with extraterritorial effects are incompatible with the multilateral trading system. They have urged developed countries to resist calls for protectionism and reiterated their rejection of the use of trade measures or instruments, including anti-dumping and countervailing duty provisions, and standards and regulations for projectionist purposes, or to promote or enforce non-trading objectives, principles or disciplines, including those related to labour standards and the environment. The leaders have reaffirmed the primacy of

a transparent, fair and equitable rule-based multilateral trading system under the World Trade orgnisation (WTO).

(c) and (d) India emphasised that the pursuit of liberalisation which has become WTO's reason to exist, was not an end in itself and must meet the core objectives of rapid development, welfare gains and best returns for the extant and potential resources of developing countries. Towards this end, India submitted proposals outlining developing countries' concerns and possible ways of ensuring special and differential treatment to developing countries in all aspects of the WTO agenda and its implementation. India has offered to host a G-15 inter-governmental meeting on this later this year. India also took up the issue of fair reward for the bio-genetic resources of developing countries. India has also called upon-G 15 to work together to mobilise international cooperation and practical global action to defeat the designs of international terrorism.

(e) The G-15 Summit focussed on two major themes, viz., financial cirisis in East and South East Asia and Multilateral Trading System including the WTO Ministerial Conference at Geneva. The Summit examined the different perspectives and called for comprehensive and urgent action in preventing the spread of the financial turmoil in East and South East Asia. On the issue of multilateral trading system, the Summit focussed on developing country positions on various matters that were likely to be taken up at the Geneva meeting as well as on a positive agenda for developing countries. The Summit called upon developed country partners to take appropriate measures for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of the bio-genetic resources of developing countries and to develop measures to implement their rights. The Summit Strongly condemned all kinds of terrorism, their perpetrators and all those who support them under whatever guise and called for enhanced international cooperation to prevent and combat this menance.

National Land Use and Conservation Boards

3190. SHRI BIKRAM DEO KESHARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) details of the activities of the National Land Use and Conservation Boards, State-wise particularly for the State of Orissa;

(b) whether the district of Kalahandi has been included in the activities of National Land Use and Conservation Board; and

(c) if so, the quantum of funds has been allocated for the same during the year 1998-99, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The National Land Use and Conservation Board (NLCB) is an apex body for policy planning and scientific management of land resources at the national level and details of its activities are given in the enclosed Statement-I. State-wise activities are not carried out by the NLCB. All the activities are undertaken by the State Land Use Boards of the concerned States/UTs including the State of Orissa.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Quantum of funds allocated Statewise to the State Land Use Boards is shown in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

Activities of National Land Use & Conservation Board

(i) Formulation of National Policy and Perspective Plan for conservation, management and development of land resources of the country, taking into account appropriate land use, soil capability and other factors;

(ii) Make an overall review of the progress of implementation of ongoing schemes and programmes connected with conservation and development of land resources, soils and allied matters;

(iii) Consider the review proposals concerning soil-surveys and general assessment of land resources.

(iv) Sponsore studies, to organise regional and national deliberations/seminars/workshops through various agencies in collaboration with State Land Use Boards, Universities, Research Institutes, etc.

(v) Take measures for creating a general awareness about the importance and problems of proper soil management;

(vi) Consider measures for ensuring that good agricultural land is not indiscriminately diverted to non-agricultural purpose;

(vii) Coordinate the work of State Land Use Boards.

(viii) Act in full collaboration with the National Wastelands Development Board in regard to matters of common interest.

(ix) Consider and undertake all other measures necessary for promoting the scientific management of land Resources and conservation.

Statement-II

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of State/U.T	Allocation for 1998-99
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.00
3.	Assam	6.00
4.	Bihar	6.00
5.	Goa	5.00
6.	Gujarat	3.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	8.00
8.	Haryana	7.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	7.00
10.	Karnataka	8.00
11.	Kerala	10.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6.00
13.	Maharashtra	6.00
14.	Manipur	5.00
15.	Meghalaya	5.00
16.	Mizoram	7.00
17.	Nagaland	7.00
18.	Orissa	6.00
19.	Punjab	6.00
20.	Rajasthan	7.00
21.	Sikkim	—
22.	Tamilnadu	8.00
23.	Tripura	6.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	12.00
25.	West Bengal	9.00
26.	Pondicherry	4.00
27.	Andaman & Nicobar	2.00
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4.00
29.	Lakshadweep	4.00
	Total	180.00

G-8 Countries Meet

3191. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of the recent resolution of G-8 countries;

(b) if so, the main points of concern to India; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The main points of concern to India relate to the unrealistic prescriptions sought to be imposed on India with regard to nuclear disarmament, non proliferation and the situation in South Asia. The G-8 communique also refers to the fact that member countries will work for a postponement in consideration of loans to India, other than those directed towards

meeting basic human needs, in the World Bank and other financial institutions. The communique disregards the several positive gestures made by India, subsequent to the nuclear tests of May, 1998, which offer a reasonable framework for dialogue.

(c) The Government have categorically stated that it cannot consider any prescriptions which have the effect of undermining it's independent decision making. Decisions taken by the Government will be made on the basis of it's own assessment and national security requirements. Member countries of the G-8 have been asked to reflect on the proposals made by India in recent weeks which offer a reasonable framework for dialogue.

Agricultural Scientific Institutions

3192. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any arrangements have been made by the Government for the dissemination of information to the farmers from different Agricultural Scientific Institutions:

(b) whether the communication gap is due to the fact that all the literature related to the Agriculture is published in English; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken or propose to be taken to improve the situation including the printing of literature in Hindi and other regional languages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) disseminates the information related to improved agricultural technology generated by the research system to the farmers through publication of various literatures.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The ICAR publishes monthly popular magazine 'Kheti' and quarterly popular magazines like 'Phalphool' and 'Krishi Chayanika' in Hindi.

Special technical books, bulletins, pocket books and low-priced books are also published in Hindi for dissemination of agricultural information related to various technologies generated in the research systems. In Hindi and Kannada, feature services are also given to press, radio and television. During 1997-98, 100 features were released in Kannada. The list of the publications during 1997-98 is indicated in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

List of Literatures Published in Hindi During 1997-98

(1) Popular Magazines

(i) Kheti (Monthly)

(ii) Phalphool (Quarterly)

(iii) Krishi Chayanika (Quarterly)

2. Technical Books, Bulletins, Pocket Books and Low-Priced Books

(i) Sustainable Agriculture in 21st Century

(ii) New Vistas in Agricultural Economics

(iii) Mentha Farming

(iv) Millet Farming

Agro Based Industries

3193. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to set up Agro-based Industries in Karnataka particularly in Chitradurga and Banglore Districts during the current year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up any food processing units directly in any State. However, under the plan Schemes being operated by the Ministry, financial assistance in the form of soft loan and grant is provided to Cooperatives, Non-Government Organisations, Public Sector Undertakings, Private sector companies etc. for development of food processing industries. While no proposal has been received for setting up such units in Chitradurga district, action has already been initiated in respect of proposals for setting up cold storages, mobile fruit processing unit, and extraction of spice oil in the district of Bangalore in Karnatak.

Marine Pollutants

3194. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether threat of pollution to the marine environment is growing due to increase in use of sea for commercial activities;

(b) If so, whether the Government have undertaken any programme to check the levels of various marine pollutants in the coastal and offshore water; and

(c) the details of the data collected and the parameters followed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department of Ocean Development is implementing a marine pollution monitoring programme viz. Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System (COMAPS) to assess the health of the seas. The details of the data collected and the parameters followed are furnished below:

PARAMETERS

(i) Water

Temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, pH, suspended solids, Biological Oxygen Demand, inorganic phosphate, nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, total phosphorous, total nitrogen, petroleum hydrocarbons and different species of pathogenic bacteria.

(ii) Sediment

Texture of the sediment, Total Organic Carbon, heavy metals such as Cadmium, Lead and Mercury and Bacteria.

(iii) Biological aspects

Chlorophyll-a, Primary productivity (phytoplankton) and secondary productivity (zooplankton) including their standing crop, diversity etc. and fish population at selected locations, through experimental trawl catches and diversity.

DATA COLLECTED AND SUMMARY OF RESULTS:

The data collected upto December, 1997 reveal the following about the status of marine pollution in our seas:

(I) Areas of Clean seawater quality

The sea approx. beyond 2 km except off Mumbai is clean. In case of Mumbai the sea approx. beyond 5 Km is clean.

(II) Coastal locations of no concern at present

At the stations listed below, the levels of several chemical and biological parameters are close to the levels of clean seawater (areas of no pollution) and therefore, they have been designated as areas of non concern at present.

Gujarat: Kandla, Vadinar, Dwarka, Hazira

Diu, Daman

Maharashtra: Murud, Thal, Ratnagiri, Reddy

Goa: Mandovi, Zuati

Karnataka: Honnavar

Kerala: Kasargod, Cannanore, Calicut, Ponnani, Alippey, Kayamkulam, Paravur

Tamilnadu: Kanyakumari, Koodankulam, Vaiparu Estuary, Gundaru Estuary, Mandapam (Palk Strait), Mandapam (Gulf of Mannar), Uchipulli, Thondi

Pondicherry: Karaikal, Yanam (Gautami-Godavari Point)

Andhra Pradesh: Krishnapatnam, Nizampatnam, Machilipatnam Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Kalingapatnam

Orissa: Dhamra, Konark, Chandipur.

West Bengal: Saptamukhi, Digha, Diamond Harbour, Haliday island, Dalhousie Point, Sunderbans

Andaman & Nicobar: Port Blair

Lakshadweep: Kavaratti

(III) Potential areas of pollution needing continued intensive monitoring:

In the following areas definite sources of pollution exist. The pollution levels may increase in a few areas in future if adequate control measures are not exercised.

Gujarat: Tapi Estuary, Okha (Mitapur), Porbander

Maharashtra: Trombay, Bassein

Goa: Marmagao

Karnataka: Karwar, Mangalore

Kerala: Cochin, Quilon

Tamil Ndue: Tuticorin, Arumuganeri, Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, sea Off Cooum, Ennore, Chennai harbour

Pondicherry: Pondicherry

Orissa: Gopalpur, Paradip

West Bengal: Sandheads

(iv) Areas of concern needing confined intensive monitoring:

The following locations have been found to be areas of concern due to existence of certain abnormal concentrations of pollutants. The main source of pollution is discharge of untreated effluents from domestic and industrial sources. The data collected revealed the following about the status of pollution:

MAHARASHTRA

Versova creek (approximately 15 sq. km area)

- Dissolved oxygen Zero in inner creek
- Dissolved oxygen between 0 and 4 mg/l in outer creek
- Denitrification active in inner creek
- High primary productivity but secondary production not proportionate
- High phosphate and ammonia
- Moderate enhancement of levels of chromium and copper in sediments
- Abnormal levels of human pathogens

Mahim creek (approximately 25 sq. km area)

- Dissolved oxygen Zero in inner creek
- Dissolved oxygen between 0 and 4 mg/l in outer creek
- Denitrification active in inner creek
- High primary productivity but secondary production not proportionate
- High phosphate and ammonia
- High enhancement of levels of chromium, nickel, zinc, lead and copper with moderate enhancement of mercury in sediments
- Abnormal levels of human pathogens

Ulhas creek (approximately 15 sq. km area)

- Dissolved oxygen between 0 and 2 mg/l in inner creek
- Tide variable dissolved oxygen in outer creek
- High concentration of nitrate, nitrite and ammonia
- Abnormal levels of mercury in sediment of the inner creek and markedly high levels of chromium, nickel and copper
- High primary productivity but secondary productivity not proportionate
- High levels of human pathogens in inner creek

Thane creek (approximately 5 sq. km)

- Dissolved oxygen between 0 and 4 mg/l in inner creek
- Tide variable dissolved oxygen in outer creek
- High concentrations of nitrate, nitrite ammonia & phosphate
- High levels of mercury, chromium, nickel and copper in sediments
- Abnormally high primary productivity but relatively low secondary productivity
- High levels of human pathogens in inner creek

GUJARAT

Varaval Port (approximately 5 sq.km)

- Dissolved oxygen Zero in inner creek
- Dissolved oxygen between 0 and 2 mg/l in the bay
- Denitrification active
- Low primary and secondary productions
- High phosphate and ammonia
- Moderate enhancement of levels of chromium and copper in sediments
- Abnormal levels of human pathogens

KERALA

Veli (approximately 4 sq.km)

— Low pH

— Low dissolved oxygen

— High particulate matter

— Low primary and secondary productivities

ANDHRA PRADESH

Kakinada Bay

— Low levels of dissolved oxygen

Visakhapatnam Harbour

— Low levels of dissolved oxygen

— High concentration of nutrients

ORISSA

Sea off Puri (approximately 1-2 sq.km.)

— Low levels of dissolved oxygen

— High levels of ammonia

The data and information relating to the rising trends of pollution at the observed locations were periodically brought to the notice of the concerned State Pollution Control Boards who are empowered under the Water Act (1974) and Environment Protection Act (1976) to take preventive and control action for the mitigation of pollution.

Eco-friendly Industry

3195 SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up Eco-friendly Electronics Industries in the North-Eastern States particularly in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) The Government has only a promotional role. Since electronics and information technology has a tremendous potential for generation of employment, incomes and export earnings, the Government would like to encourage the industry through out India. The Government does not plan to set up new Public Sector Undertakings in electronics anywhere in the country.

[Translation]

3196. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tubewell based lift irrigation scheme is being implemented in the paddy productivity areas of some States;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) As all the Minor Irrigation Schemes which include tubewells based lift irrigation schemes are planned, funded and executed by the State Government at their own level, details of each of the scheme are not maintained at central level.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Multinational Companies Involved in Food Processing Units

3197. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some multinational companies have started food processing units in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of food processing units set up by multinational companies during the last three years along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) During the postliberalisation period from July 1991 to March 1998, 115 foreign companies have set up food Processing units in the country. State-wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise Details of Foreign Companies who have set up Food Processing Units (Since July 1991 to March 1998)

Sl. No.	State	Number
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17
2.	Gujarat	3
3.	Haryana	7
4.	Himachal Pradesh	3
5.	Karnataka	11
6.	Kerala	12
7.	Madhya Pradesh	1
8.	Maharashtra	19
9.	Orissa	1
10.	Punjab	5
11.	Rajasthan	2
12.	Tamil Nadu	12
13.	Uttar Pradesh	8
14.	West Bengal	3
15.	Daman	1
16.	Goa	7
17.	Companies with units located in more than one State	3
	Total	115

Support to Agricultural Research

3198. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether public investment in the agriculture research is only between 0.3/0.4 per cent of gross domestic product of agriculture as against 2/3 per cent in the developed countries;

(b) whether the Government have provided adequate support to agricultural research in the recent years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is a great need to increase this support up to one per cent to cope with the global competition in agricultural products and meet food security objectives;

(e) if so, whether farm investment is likely to yield greater dividends; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to encourage public investment in this sector and help agricultural research by providing additional funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (f) The total investment in agricultural research, through ICAR, including both plan and non-Plan funds, is estimated to be about 0.66% of agricultural GDP. The gross budgetary support from the Government of India to ICAR, for the last three years, has been as follows:

1996-97	Rs. 243.76 crore
1997-98	Rs. 295.00 crore
1998-99	Rs. 531.17 crore

The Government fully appreciates the crucial role agricultural research has in meeting country's food security objectives, and in raising productivity and thereby building up competitiveness of Indian agriculture. The figures given above would clearly indicate the increasing support the Government of India is extending to agricultural research.

Ram Vilas Paswan Committee's Report

3199. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in taking action on the Ram Vilas Paswan Committee's Report in connection with

the lower qualifying marks/lesser standard of evaluation for SC/ST candidates in promotion;

(b) the action proposed to be taken against those who are responsible for the delay in taking action on Committee's Report; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to safeguard the interests of SC/ST candidates who may not be in a position to achieve the prescribed general standard and thereby are likely to be declared unsuitable to fill up the posts reserved for them till the action taken on the said Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) No Committee by the name of Ram Vilas Paswan Committee was set up on the question of lower qualifying marks/ lesser levels of evaluation for SC/ST candidates in promotion.

(b) and (c) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Cultivation of Land

3200. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) tne total area of land in which cultivation takes place in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether present production is sufficient for our population; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to cultivate on more land (barren or wasteland) by making it fertile?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) A statement giving State-wise cultivated area i.e. net area sown and current fallow for 1994-95 (latest available) is encloscd.

(b) The present level of foodgrain production is sufficient to meet the requirement of our population.

(c) In order to improve the soil fertility, the Government is implementing a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz., (i) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects, (ii) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers, (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils and (iv) Scheme of Watershed Management for shifting cultivation areas in the North Eastern India. The Department of Wasteland Development is also implementing various schemes in this regard.

Statement

State-wise Cultivated Area, 1994-95
(Provisional)

(Thousand hectares)

State/Union Territory	Net Sown area	Current Fallows	Total Cultivated area
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	10365	2726	13091
Arunachal Pradesh	150	25	175
Assam	2777	72	2849
Bihar	7380	1922	9302

1	2	3	4
Goa	138	—	138
Gujarat	9609	737	10346
Haryana	3559	156	3715
Himachal Pradesh	572	50	622
Jammu & Kashmir	733	96	829
Karnataka	10419	1284	11703
Kerala	2239	48	2287
Madhya Pradesh	19662	825	20487
Maharashtra	17897	1023	18920
Manipur	226	—	226
Meghalaya	201	66	267
Mizoram	65	183	248
Nagaland	206	117	323
Orissa	6303	149	6452
Punjab	4210	36	4246
Rajasthan	17021	1669	18690
Sikkim	95	4	99
Tamilnadu	5790	1001	6791
Tripura	277	4	281
Uttar Pradesh	17315	1126	18441
West Bengal	5464	210	5674
A & N Islands	38	1	39

1	2	3	4
Chandigarh	3	—	3
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	24	—	24
Daman & Diu	4	—	4
Delhi	47	1	48
Lakshadweep	3	—	3
Pondicherry	27	2	29
All India	142819	13533	156352

3201. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the "Kala Pani Koonch" march organised by the Nepalese Communist Party 'Male' in May-June, 1998;

(b) if so, whether the Government of India have taken any measures to stop the said "Kala Pani Koonch" march from entering Indian territory and to foil the call given by the Nepalese Communist Party; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes Sir. Government are aware of a march undertake by approximately sixty members of the All Nepal National Free Students Union (ANNFSU), student wing of the Communist Party of Nepal (ML), from Kathmandu to the India-Nepal border facing Kalapani in Pithoragrh district. The Nepalese 'marchers' reached the area on June 13, 1998. They remained approximately 100 meteres behind the India-Nepal border on the Nepalese side.

(b) Government of India took up the issue of the proposed 'march' with His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMGN), and received assurances that the 'marchers' would not enter Indian territory. Indian Ambassador to Nepal received the ANNFSU delegation on June 3, 1998, prior to their 'march', and informed them that their proposed march was totally unjustified since the two Governments were engaged in an ongoing dialogue at the level of experts to examine the historical facts regarding the boundary in this sector. The Ambassador also informed the students that according to all records available with the Government of India, Kalapani has been on the Indian side of the border since the 19th century and acknowledged as such by successive British Indian and Nepalese Governments. The Embassy issued a press release conveying a gist of Ambassedor's meeting with the ANNFSU on June 3, 1998. At Kalapani The Indo-Tibetan Border Police which mans the post there, laid 200 metres of single row barbed wire, as a purely temporary and precautionary measures, within Indian territory and along the border, to prevent Nepalese 'marchers' from crossing over into Indian territory.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Export of Space Technology And Expertise

3202. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have achieved the space technology system exclusively designed by the Indian Scientists to meet the future requirements;

(b) if so, whether the country has made sufficient head-way in the field of space research;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to export its space technology and expertise;

(d) if so, the name of the countries who have sought space technology from India; and

(e) the terms and conditions therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI BASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The export activities are handled by Antrix Corporation, the commercial wing of the Department of Space. Basically, the export is aimed at products and services that are available from Indian Space Research Organisation and the Indian Industry. Technology transfer is not pursued at this stage due to the strategic nature of the space technology. Countries looking for space technology from India includes South Korea, Iran and Malaysia. Antrix has offered various products and consultancy services to these countries and at this stage no technology transfer has been offered. The Terms and conditions for sale of products and services are in accordance with the standard commercial terms in this field of business.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Amount

3203. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds allocated during eighth Five year Plan to various State Government Projects have been fully utilized;

(b) if so, the percentage of total amount utilized by each State during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if not, the details of the States who have not utilized the amount with reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) The Central assistance for State Plans is provided in the form of block loans and grants and it is not linked to specific projects. The Plan outlay of the States is decided taking into account the Central Assistance and the States' own resources and sector/sub sector/scheme-wise allocation of Plan outlay is finalized by the States in consultation with the Planning Commission. The details of the utilisation of Plan outlays (including percentage utilization) by the States during the Eighth Five Year Plan are given in the enclosed statement. The main reason for expenditure falling short of the approved outlay, as reported by States is their inability to mobilize States own resources as per the projections.

Statement

Approved Outlay/Anticipated Expenditure During the Eighth Plan

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	States	Approved Outlay (at 1991-92 prices)	Anticipated Expenditure	% age Utilisation
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10500.00	12931.00 (10,006.50)	123.15 (95.30)
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1155.00	1739.20 (1,306.92)	150.58 (113.15)
3.	Assam	4662.00	4980.68 (3,761.45)	106.84 (80.68)

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bihar	13000.00	5507.92 (4,201.83)	42.37 (32.32)
5.	Goa	761.00	840.64 (641.14)	110.47 (84.25)
6.	Gujarat	11500.00	11848.60 (8,962.21)	103.03 (77.93)
7.	Haryana	5700.00	5024.62 (3,793.51)	88.15 (66.55)
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2502.00	3494.73 (2,634.51)	139.68 (105.30)
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4000.00	4397.14 (3,301.95)	109.93 (82.55)
10.	Karnataka	12300.00	14863.36 (11,250.15)	120.48 (91.46)
11.	Kerala	5460.00	7052.57 (5,249.79)	129.17 (96.16)
12.	Madhya Pradesh	11100.00	12328.69 (9,414.14)	111.07 (84.81)
13.	Maharashtra	18520.00	26129.38 (19537.24)	141.09 (105.49)
14.	Manipur	979.00	1207.75 (905.19)	123.37 (92.46)
15.	Meghalaya	1029.00	1087.30 (831.00)	105.67 (80.76)
16.	Mizoram	763.00	1051.06 (796.46)	137.75 (104.38)
17.	Nagaland	844.00	801.41 (603.11)	94.95 (71.46)
18.	Orissa	10000.00	7150.30 (5,363.71)	71.50 (53.64)

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Punjab	6570.00	6286.44 (4,786.30)	95.68 (72.85)
20.	Rajasthan	11500.00	12038.65 (8,983.79)	104.68 (78.12)
21.	Sikkim	550.00	708.86 (534.87)	128.88 (97.25)
22.	Tamil Nadu	10200.00	14015.91 (10,558.47)	137.41 (103.51)
23.	Tripura	1130.00	1353.77 (1,027.12)	119.80 (90.90)
24.	Uttar Pradesh	21000.00	20001.05 (15,208.93)	95.24 (72.42)
25.	West Bengal	9760.00	8241.98 (6,137.84)	84.45 (62.89)
	Total (States)	175485.00	185083.01 (139,818.11)	105.47 (79.68)

Figures in brackets are on the basis of 1991-92 prices.

*Actual Expenditure for 1992-93 to 1995-96 and Revised Estimates for 1996-97.

[English]

Linking of Canals with Irrigation Projects

3204. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI MADAV RAO PATIL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Medium Irrigation Projects in the country, particularly in Maharashtra have not been linked with canals and several canals remain incomplete;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a great demand from the people of Command Area for early completion of the canals and link them with irrigation projects; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to link these canals with irrigation projects expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) Generally it is observed that head works i.e. dam/barrage of irrigation projects in the country are completed while the construction of canal system get delayed. People living in the Command Area of irrigation projects always demand the early completion of the canal system. However, irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects including canal works are being executed by the State Governments out of their resources as per their own priority.

Water Logging in Orissa

3205. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidence of water logging has increased in Orissa;

(b) if so, the effective steps taken by the Government to remedy the water logging problem;

(c) whether the Union government propose to provide more funds to the State Government for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds allocated to the State for this purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The State Government of Orissa have reported that the incidence of waterlogging has increased with the development of irrigation potential in the State.

(b) The following steps have been taken by the Government to remedy the waterlogging problem;

A part of the command of Mahanadi has been covered under Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project which has been sanctioned during the VIII Plan. The activities under the project include rehabilitation and modernisation of existing projects, improving system deficiencies by on farm development works, lining of canals, repairs of off take points, cross regulators, etc. These activities result in improved water management and thus check the problem of waterlogging.

Under Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme which is in operation in Orissa covering 10 projects, activities like construction of field channels and field drains, land leveling and shaping, enforcement of warabandi, promotion of conjunctive use of surface and ground water, introduction of suitable cropping pattern, controlled irrigation at the farm level help in checking waterlogging. The propagate scientific techniques of irrigation among farmers to check waterlogging, adaptive trails, demonstrations and training have also been taken up under the Programme. Further, reclamation of waterlogged areas under irrigation commands has been included under the Programme with effect from 1.4.1996 for which Central assistance to the extent of 50% is admissible.

(c) to (e) Funds to the States are provided by the Central Government as per the financing pattern under the programme on the basis of the extent of work done by the State Government. Orissa Government has sent six schemes with a total area of 409.54 ha to the Ministry of Water Resources for reclamation of waterlogged areas which have already been cleared in principle. However, the State Government have reported to have made the following allocation under the State Sector for tackling such problems areas during the last three years.

1995-96	Rs. 175.62 lakh
1996-97	Rs. 606.00 lakh
1997-98	Rs. 460.00 lakh
Total	Rs. 1241.62 lakh

Indian Food Market

3206. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the German agricultural sector and agri-tool makers are eyeing on the large Indian food market in which they see great potential for increasing bilateral trade;

(b) if so, whether agricultural delegation from Germany visited India during March, 1998;

(c) if so, the details of the main discussions held;

(d) whether any concrete agreement has been signed between India and Germany; and

(e) if so, the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) A delegation from Germany led by Dr. Franz-Josef Feiter, State Secretary in German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry visited India from 23rd to 28th March, 1998. The emphasis of the visit was on the possibilities of collaboration in the areas of agriculture and agro-industries. During the visit, the delegation held meetings with the Ministry of Agriculture and other organisations including the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

During the meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture, both the sides underlined the positive developments in bilateral economic relations between the two countries and their interest in further intensification of cooperation. It was also proposed to develop a general Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation between the two countries in the field of agriculture namely, export of grapes, pomegranates, cut flowers, reduction of post-harvest losses, fisheries, agricultural engineering, animal sciences, cooperatives etc. It was also agreed to explore the possibility of creating a separate Indo-German Working Group for cooperation in the field of agriculture within the

framework of the Indo-German Joint Commission on Industrial and Economic Cooperation. During the meeting with APEDA, India's capabilities in the Agro Sector, items already exported from India to Germany and the future prospects for export of Agricultural and Food Products from India to Germany were highlighted.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The question does not arise.

Western Ghat Development Scheme

3207. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) whether Quepem taluka is also included in the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Three talukas viz. Satari of North Goa district and Sanguem and Canacona of South Goa district are included in the Western Ghats Development Programme of the State.

(c) No, Sir.

Wastage due to Storage of Food Processing Industries

3208. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the horticultural production get wasted due to inadequate food processing storage and infrastructural facilities; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries under its Plan Schemes provides financial assistance in the form of soft loan and grant to Cooperatives, Non-Governmental Organisations, Public Sector Undertakings, Private industries, Research Institutions etc. for creation of infrastructural facilities, cold storages, setting up of food parks, setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing industries, and Research and Development projects etc. Such activities would *inter alia* result in reduction of post harvest losses of horticultural production.

Pakistan's Nuclear Weapon Programme

3209. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US intelligence agencies have tracked a Chinese ship carrying weapons materials and electronic items destined for Pakistan's major nuclear weapons laboratory; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Reports in the media regarding the tracking of a Chinese ship carrying weapons, missile systems and their components and electronic systems to Pakistan are based on news item appearing in the Washington Times (USA) in its issue dated June 4, 1998. The materials are believed to include special metals and electronic equipment used in the production of Pakistan's antitank missile, "Bakhtar Shikan"

(b) The acquisition of missiles and related technologies as well as weapons systems by Pakistan is being continuously monitored and assessed by Government. These latest reports regarding supplies by China of weapons and missile components to Pakistan come as no surprise. Government have frequently made known its concern in various fora over such transfers which contribute adversely to the regional security environment. Our concerns regarding China's assistance to Pakistan's nuclear and missile programmes have also been conveyed to the Chinese side at the highest level. India has underlined to China the importance of paying adequate attention to each outher's security concerns on vital issues affecting each other's security and territorial integrity.

No First Use N-Weapons

3210. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention was drawn to the statement of the Chinese President Jiang Zemin on the eve of P-5 Foreign Minister's meet in Geneva on June 4, 1998 imputing that India was targetting China in pursuing its Nuclear Programme;

(b) if so, the Government's response thereto by way of dispelling the Chinese apprehensions; and

(c) the Chinese response to "No First Use" of N-weapons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have stated that India's nuclear programme is not country specific. In the post-Cold War period, India's security environment has actually become more complicated with the accumulation of nuclear weapons and missiles in our neighborhood. We do not intend to join in an arms race. We are committed to maintaining peace with stability in the region and beyond.

We seek good relations with all our neighbours including China, our largest neighbour. We believe that the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, jointly enunciated by India and China, are of continuing relevance to the development of our relations. But we have some concerns. We would like the Chinese side to appreciate that our concerns need to be addressed in a meaningful manner with a view to finding an early resolution. The Indian people must feel assured that friendship with China will be a factor for peace and stability and will contribute to enhancing our security.

We remain committed to the process of dialogue to resolve outstanding differences and to the development of friendly, co-operative, good-neighbourly and mutually beneficial relationship with China.

(c) China is yet to respond to our offer of discussing no-first-use agreement bilaterally or in a collective forum.

New Production Technique

3211. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have developed new and better cost effective and commercially viable mass production technologies for the bio-control agents and bio-pesticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any biological control technique has been developed for important crops like cotton, sun-flower safflower, sugarcane, tomato and cauliflower; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Cost effective and commercially viable technologies for mass production of a number of bioagents and biopesticides have been developed. These include the following:

(i) **Trichogramma spp** : For control of pest of sugarcane cotton, rice, maize and tomato.

(ii) **Chrysopela** : For control of pests of cotton, sunflower, groundnut, tobacco and fruit crop.

(iii) **Cryptolaemus montrouzieri** : For control of mealy bugs in grapes, guava and citrus.

(iv) **Curinus coeruleus** : For control of subabul psyllid.

(v) **Cyrtobagous salviniae** : For control of aquatic weed, Savinia.

(vi) **Neochetina spp** : For control of water hyacinth.

(vii) **Nuclear poloyhedrosis Virus (NPV)** : For control of Heliothis on cotton, pulses and tomato; and Spodoptera on cotton, tobacco and groundnut.

(viii) **Trichoderma spp** : For control of soil borne diseases in pulses, cotton groundnut and vegetables.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Biological control techniques have been developed for the following crops:

(i) **Cotton** : Release of Chrysopela carnea at the rate of 50,000/ha on 45th and 60th day and at the rate of 1,00,000/ha on 130th day after sowing synchronising with the appearance of sucking pests. Release of Trichogramma chilonis at the rate of 1,50,000/ha/release starting from 70th day after sowing at weekly interval. A total of 8-10 releases are required depending on pheromone traps catches. Spraying of Ha NPV at the rate of 450 LE/ha at ETL of 7 second instar larvae/20 plants.

(ii) **Sunflower** : Application of Ha NPV at the rate of 250 LE/Ha and release of Chrysoperla at 50,000/ha for control of Heliothis.

(iii) **Sugarcane** : Four to six releases of Trichogramma chilonis at the rate of 50,000/ha, at 10 days interval starting from 45th day after transplanting for early shoot borer,

For top shoot borer, similar releases of Trichogramma japonicum is suggested. For stalk borer, internode borer and Gurdaspur borer, Trichogramma chilonis is to be released 8-10 times at 10 days interval starting from 90th day onwards at the rate of 50,000/ha each time.

(iv) **Tomato** : Release of Trichogramma brasilensis 6 times at the rate of 50,000/ha/ release from 45th day after transplanting at weekly interval spraying of Ha NPV at 250 LE/ha along with 0.25% boric acid at weekly interval after the appearance of fruit borer.

(v) **Rice** : For stem borer, release of Trichogramma japonicum at the rate of 50,000/ha at weekly interval starting from 30th days after transplanting is recommended. A total of 8 to 9 releases are required.

(vi) **Tabacco** : For aphid, release Chrysoperla carnea at the rate of 6 larvae/plant in crop or 60,000/ha of nursery. Sraying of SI NPV at the rate of 250 LE/ha three times along with 0.25% boric acid is effective against Tobacco caterpillar.

(vii) **Maize** : For stem borer, release Trichogramma chilonis at the rate of 75,000/ ha/release, 6 times starting from 45th day after sowing at 10 days interval.

(viii) **Chickpea** : Spraying o Ha NPV at the rate of 250 LE/ha along with 0.25% boric acid for control of Heliothis.

(ix) **Pigeonpea** : Ha NPV is sprayed at the rate of 450 LE/ha along with 0.25% boric acid for control of Heliothis.

(x) **Citrus** : For the biological suppression of citrus mealybug, release of Cryptolaemus montrouzieri at the rate of 10 beetles is recommended.

(xi) **Grapes** : For the biological suppression of grape mealybugs release of Cryptolaemus montrouzieri at the rate of 2500 beetles per hectare is recommended.

[Translation]

Computer Training Institute

3212. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up computer training institutes in backward States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Department of Electronic is implementing Employment Generation Training Scheme for North East, Backward Region and for SC/ST and OBC categories under which it supports institutions to conduct training programme in Computers and Electronics.

(c) Does not arise.

Electronic Industry

3213. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether electronic industries have been set up at various places in the country to meet the present demands of electronic items;

(b) if so, the names of such electronic industries set up during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98; location wise and the costs thereof;

(c) whether the hilly climate is more conducive for such industries than that of plain areas;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to set up any electronic/computer hardware industry in Uttranchal area of Uttar Pradesh during 1998-99; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS

AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (d) As per the Industrial Policy, 1991, electronic industries can be set up by entrepreneurs anywhere in the country without any locational constraints. The Government has only a promotional role. Electronics industry is highly competitive and is characterised by high rate of obsolescence and large economies of scale. In this background, it is difficult to say that hills have any comparative advantage specially because of locational disadvantage. In the IXth five year plan there is no proposal to set up new Public Sector Undertakings in electronics anywhere in the country, incldiuing Uttranchal.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Nuclear Tests

3214. SHRI T.R. BAALU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons and justifications for carrying out the recent nuclear tests in Pokhran;

(b) the urgency and priority for the tests;

(c) whether the government are aware of the threat of isolation of India by the International community as a fall out of these tests; and

(d) it so, the actions taken/contemplated by the Government to deal with the emerging situations particularly the international relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The nuclear tests carried out on May 11 & 13, 1998, were in response to the gradual deterioration in India's security environment as a result of nuclear and missile proliferation in our region. In addition, India has also been a victim of externally aided terrorism, militancy and clandestine war. At the global level, there has been no evidence on the part of the nuclear weapon states to take decisive and irreversible steps in moving towards a nuclear-weapon-free-world. Under such circumstances, Government was faced with a difficult decision. The touchstone that has guided us in making the correct choice clear was national security. These tests are a continuation of the policies that put this country on the path of self-reliance and independent of thought and action.

(c) and (d) Government are confident that India is neither isolated nor is it faced with the threat of isolation since we believe that one-fifth of humanity cannot be isolated. A number of countries have conveyed a degree of understanding of India's decision to undertake these tests and major countries continue to engage India in a constructive dialogue. In the wake of the nuclear tests, Government have also taken various initiatives with a view to addressing concerns expressed subsequent to the tests. These are : (i) India will observe a voluntary moratorium and refrain from conducting further tests. India is also willing to explore ways and means, in moving towards a de jure formalisation of this declaration, (ii) India is ready to discuss a no-first-use agreement bilaterally with Pakistan, as also with other countries, bilaterally or in a collective forum, (iii) India has made clear its readiness to engage in multilateral negotiations on a Fissile Materials Cut-Off Treaty in the Conference on Disarmanent in Geneva, and (iv) India has no intention of engaging in a nuclear arms race.

Agricultural Projects

3215. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Agricultural Projects funded by the European Economic Community and other agencies functioning in Gujarat for the last three years; and

(b) the targets fixed and achievements made under the projects during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) There is no agricultural project in Gujarat funded by European Economic Community. The only agricultural project in Gujarat funded by an external agency is the Integrated Watershed Development Project (Plains) which is funded by the World Bank.

The total cost of the Project is Rs. 63.51 crores which includes a World Bank assistance of Rs. 55.66 crores. The duration of the project was from 26.2.1991 to 31.3.1998 which has been extended upto 31.3.1999.

The objective of the project is mainly to slow down and reverse the ecological degradation and to introduce improved land management practices in selected watersheds through development of cost effective technologies.

(b) The targets fixed an achievements during last three years under the above project are as follows:—

Year	Target (Rs. crores)	Achievement (Rs. crores)
1995-96	15.46	12.22
1996-97	13.46	14.53
1997-98	16.63	11.97

Ganga Flood Control

3216. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint team of Ganga Flood Control Commission and the officials of the Government of Uttar Pradesh inspected Malihan Jheel in Allahabad District in March, 1997;

(b) if so, the findings of the joint team; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government and the Government of Uttar Pradesh in this regard?

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

(b) The Committee in its report has suggested preparation of a scheme by the Government of Uttar Pradesh comprising of renovation of obsolete weirs and regulators, removal of jammed crest of Pidauna Regulator, channel improvement of Veruna River after conducting detailed surveys and construction of bridges where necessary.

(c) The report of the Committee has been sent to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for formulating Project Report. Flood Management being a State subject, the scheme has to be formulated and implemented by the Government of Uttar Pradesh out of its own State Plan funds.

[Translation]

Fall in Water Level of Himalayan Rivers

3217. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the water level of the rivers originating from Himalaya are constantly decreasing due to drying up of their sources;

(b) is so, the remedial measures being taken to raise water levels of these rivers;

(c) whether the Union Government have find out the factors responsible for drying up of water resources of these rivers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No such phenomenon has been observed in case of the rivers originating from the Himalayas.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

US Sanctions

3218. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of high level US team to Delhi, Government had impressed for re-imposition of US sanctions against Pakistan in the light of the latest developments in the sub-continent, culminating in test firing of the Ghauri-Missile by Pakistan; and

(c) if so, the US response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) A US delegation led by Bill Richardson, US Permanent Representative to UN, visited India from April 14-15, 1995. Since, the visit of the US delegation came soon after Pakistan's claim of having test fired an intermediate range missile dubbed "Ghauri", this development was also discussed. The US side referred to its statement regretting the missile test. It was conveyed from our side that the testing of the Ghauri missile was not an isolated event, but part of Pakistan's on-going programme to acquire missile capability with external assistance. As on earlier occasions, it was further conveyed that government will continue to monitor developments that have a bearing on India's security environment.

(b) On May 4, 1998, the US imposed category I sanctions against Khan Research Laboratories (KRL) of Pakistan and a North Korean entity (North Korean Mining Development Corporation) for collaborating on the Ghauri Missile development.

Nexus between China and Pakistan

3219. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has expressed concern over the nexus between China and Pakistan in the nuclear and missile technology;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to make serious efforts to break the nexus between China and Pakistan in the nuclear and missile technology;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other efforts being taken to maintain good relations with China and Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Prime Minister has reiterated India's concern over China's cooperation in the nuclear and missile field with Pakistan. This concern was also expressed while replying to the debate in the Lok Sabha on 29th May, 1998 and recently in interviews to the press.

(b) and (c) Government are aware of the longstanding cooperation between China and Pakistan in the latter's missile and nuclear weapon programmes, including supplies of equipment, materials and sophisticated technology. Our concerns have been made known to the Chinese side, including at the highest level. Most recently, these were reiterated to the Chinese side during the visit of Chief of General Staff of the People's Liberation Army, General Fu Quanyou, to India from April 26-May 1, 1998.

(d) India sees its relationships with China as one in which the two sides should be responsive to each other's concerns. We remain committed to the process of dialogue to resolve outstanding differences and to the development of a friendly, cooperative, good neighbourly and mutually beneficial relations with China. With regard to Pakistan, India has conveyed that it desires a relationship of peace and friendship. India has also conveyed that the bilateral relations with Pakistan cannot be confined to resolving outstanding issues but should also be directed at building a stable structure of cooperation, which will benefit the people of both countries. The Prime Minister has recently written to his Pakistani counterpart saying that he is looking forward to meeting him in Colombo during the forthcoming SAARC Summit and hope that they would be able to hold bilateral discussions on all issues of mutual interest and also decide on how to proceed further with the dialogue process.

[Translation]

Launching of Satellites

3220. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has got a contract from Germany and South Korea for launching their satellites;

(b) whether India has got such offers from other countries as well and if so, the names thereof and the decisions taken by the Government of India on these offers; and

(c) the satellites the government are contemplating to launch in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDAHRA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An agreement has been signed with Verhaert Design & Development N.V., Belgium for launching a 100 kg micro satellite, PROBA, as auxiliary payload along with an Indian Remote Sensing Satellite.

ISRO has been receiving inquiries from a number of countries for launching micro and mini satellites. This includes USA, Asian and the European countries.

(c) The details of satellites that India is contemplating to launch in the near future are as given below:

1. INSAT-2E
2. INSAT-3B
3. GSAT-1
4. IRS-P4 (OCEANSAT)
5. INSAT-3A

[English]

Illegal Indians

3221. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian artisans who were illegally residing in Saudi Arab, returned to India;

(b) the number of artisans who are still living there;

(c) whether the Government have taken steps to check illegal migration of Indian artisans; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) About 41000 Indians, including a large number of artisans, who were illegally residing in Saudi Arabia returned to India under an amnesty declared by the Saudi Arabian Government between July 17 and October 16, 1997.

(b) About 13 lakh Indians continue to reside in Saudi Arabia, but no precise information is available as to how many of them are artisans.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The following guidelines and procedural safeguards are being implemented:

(i) it is obligatory for all unskilled, semi-skilled and certain categories of skilled workers to get emigration clearance from the Ministry of Labour before proceeding abroad for employment;

(ii) it is a cognizable offence for anyone to advertise in a newspaper, soliciting applications for employment aboard, without quoting the Ministry of Labour's licence number;

iii) as the immigration authorities act on behalf of the Protector General of Emigrants, the Protectors of Emigrants are under instructions to conduct surprise checks to see that the clauses of the Emigration Act 1983 are strictly implemented and persons are not allowed to travel without emigration clearance;

iv) Indian diplomatic missions aboard are under instructions to intimate the names of fraudulent recruiting agents/employers to the Protector General of Emigrants, Ministry of labour to prevent recurrence of such malpractices;

(v) complaints received against recruiting agents by the Ministry of Labour are examined in consultation with the concerned Indian diplomatic missions abroad and action for suspension/cancellation of their registration certificates is taken according to the merits of the cases under the Emigration Act, 1983.

Visit to Religious Places in Pakistan

3222. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether pilgrims especially the Sikhs from Jammu & Kashmir are not being allowed by Pak authorities to visit Nankana Sahib and other holy places in Pakistan for the past three years like other Indians;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to persuade Pak authorities to see that pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir could visit to their holy places in Pakistan/ POK; and

(c) the number of Pakistani pilgrims visited different religious places in India and vice versa during the past three years as also the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Government understand that Pakistan has denied visas to Sikh pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir who wished to visit Pakistan as part of the Sikh Jathas under the Bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines, 1974.

Government believes that Pakistan's actions are contrary to the Bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines. This has been conveyed to Pakistan through diplomatic channels.

During the past three years as also the current year, the number of pilgrims of one country visiting the agreed shrines located in the other, are as follows:

	Indian pilgrims to Pakistan	Pakistani pilgrims to India
1995	5210	Nil
1996	5085	Nil
1997	5110	1140
1998 (upto 30th June)	2830	180

Population of Livestock

3223. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the current population of livestock in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the total land capacity of the country is enough to support grazing for livestocks;

(c) the dry and green fodder requirements for the livestocks and its availability at present;

(d) whether the Government are aware that the shortage of fodder has led to overgrazing resulting in diminished vegetative cover leading to degradation of soil through erosion; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The statewise population in the country as per 1992 Livestock Census is given in the enclosed Statement. The work relating to 1997 quinquennial Livestock Census is in progress.

(b) The existing grazing land resources have the potential to support the present livestock population under the proper grazing management practices.

(c) The estimated requirements and availability of dry and green fodder are as under:

	Requirement (million MT)	Availability (million MT)
Dry fodder	944.53	338.3
Green fodder	2496.26	303.87

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. To overcome the problem of overgrazing resulting in diminishing vegetative cover leading to degradation of soil through erosion, the Government of India has been implementing the following components/programmes besides development of watersheds and wastelands:—

(i) Establishment of silvi pasture system for increasing the bio-mass production.

(ii) Grassland development including grass reserves.

Statement

Livestock Population as per 1992 Census

S.No.	State/UTs	Total Livestock (000'Nos.)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32911
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	842
3.	Assam	16062
4.	Bihar	47933
5.	Goa	243
6.	Gujarat	18598
7.	Haryan	9143
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5108
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	8703
10.	Karnataka	29568
11.	Kerala	5834
12.	Madhya Pradesh	46742
13.	Maharashtra	36404
14.	Manipur	1290
15.	Meghalaya	1182
16.	Mizoram	203
17.	Nagaland	1074
18.	Orissa	22742
19.	Punjab	10221
20.	Rajasthan	48439
21.	Sikkim	385

1	2	3
22.	Tamil Nadu	25007
23.	Tripura	1591
24.	U.P.	64799
25.	W. Bengal	35090
UNION TERRITORIES		
1.	A&N Islands	154
2.	Chandigarh	31
3.	Dadra & N. Haveli	71
4.	Daman & Diu	13
5.	Delhi	315
6.	Lakshdweep	19
7.	Pondicherry	142
	Total	470854

Note : Totals may not tally due to rounding of figures.

Source : Directorate of Economics & Statistics, M/O Agriculture.

Agricultural Research

3224. SHRI D.S.AHIRE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been signed recently between Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Iowa State University in the field of agricultural research and exchange of scientists for joint collaborative research; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) ICAR signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Iowa State University on 28.1.98 at Ames, Iowa (USA) in the field of agricultural research.

Under Article III of the agreement, the first Workplan for the biennium 1998-1999 between ICAR and the Iowa State University was signed at New Delhi on Ist May, 1998. It includes areas of mutual interest, exchange of scientists on consultancies/delegations and joint collaborative research projects. Follow-up action on each of the items has been initiated.

Atomic Missiles

3225. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has placed its atomic missiles on the Sino-Indo borders threatening almost the entire Indian territory;

(b) whether like-wise Pakistan too has placed its 'Ghauri' missiles on its borders facing India;

(c) if so, whether a complaint to this effect has been lodged with the U.N.;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Government closely monitors all developments on its borders. There have been no recent developments which indicate that either China or Pakistan have openly deployed nuclear missiles on their borders with India though it is a known fact that both countries possess nuclear capable mobile missiles.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Under the Shimla Agreement there exits a framework for discussing bilateral issues with Pakistan. Similarly, with China also there exist mechanisms, including the Joint Working Group, to discuss matters of mutual concern. Government will continue to press India's concerns in bilateral discussions with China and Pakistan. These concerns have also been shared with other inter locutors during bilateral discussions at all levels.

12.01 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Notification Under Essential Commodities Act, 1955

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1995;

(i) S.O. 694(E) published in Gazette of India dated the Ist October, 1997 containing order indicating the Supplies of the Fertilisers to be made by domestic manufactures of fertilisers to various States, Union Territories and the Tea Board during Rabi 1997-98 Session.

(ii) S.O. 272(E) published in Gazette of India dated the Ist April, 1998 containing order indicating the Supplies of the Fertilisers to be made by domestic manufacturers of fertilisers to various States, Union Territories and the Tea Board during the Kharif 1998 Session.

(iii) S.O. 759(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th November, 1997 containing order to fix the specification of Potassium Chloride (Muriate of Potash) imported in India from Commonwealth Independent States countries, for a period of six months.

(iv) S.O. 380(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 1998 making certain amendment in the Notification No. S.O. 759(E) dated the 5th November, 1997.

(v) S.O. 481(E) published in Gazette of India date the Ist June, 1998 fixing the price of Urea, Zincated Urea and Anhydrous Ammonia.

(vi) S.O. 484(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd June, 1998 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 481(E) dated the Ist June, 1998.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT930/98]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 1996-97 together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 1996-97.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons or delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT931/98]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks, Federation Limited, Bombay, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' federation Limited, Bombay, for the year 1996-97 together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, Bombay, for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT932/98]

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

(6) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi for the year 1997-98.

(7) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97 together with Audit Report thereon.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT933/98]

(9) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT934/98]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Madhya Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1994-95.

(ii) Annual Report of the Madhya Pradesh State Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the yeai 1994-95 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT935/98]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Uttar Pradesh State Agro Industrial Development Corporation Limited Lucknow, for the year 1993-94

(ii) Annual Report of the Uttar Pradesh State Agro Industrial Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT936/98]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT937/98]

(e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Jammu and Kashmir State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the year 1981-82.

(ii) Annual Report of the Jammu and Kashmir State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the year 1981-82 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor Generai thereon.

(10) Five statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT938/98]

Annual Report and Review of the working of the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai for the year 1996-97 and Notification under the India Services Act, 1951

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENU AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) a copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, for the year, 1996-97.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT939/98]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:—

(i) The Indian Administrative Service (Recruitment) Amendment Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 461(E) in Gazetted of India dated the 14th August, 1997.

(ii) The Indian Police Service (Recruitment) Amendment Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 462(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14 August, 1997.

(iii) The Indian Forest Administrative Service (Recruitment) Amendment Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 463(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 1997.

(iv) The Indian administrative (Appointment by Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 464(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 1997.

(v) The Indian Administrative Service (Recruitment) Amendment Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 729(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1997.

(vi) The Indian Police Service (Recruitment) Amendment Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 730(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1997.

(vii) The Indian Forest Service (Recruitment) Amendment Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 731(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1997.

(viii) The Indian Administrative Service (Appointment by Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 732(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1997.

(ix) The Indian Police Service (Appointment by Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 733(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1997.

(x) The Indian Forest Service (Appointment by Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 734(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1997.

(xi) The Indian Administrative Service (Appointment by Selection) Regulations, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 735(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1997.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT940/98]

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

12.04 hrs.

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following massages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 1998 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 4th July 1998 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Finance (Amendment) Bill, 1998 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 4th July, 1998 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.04½ hrs

[English]

Departmentally Related Standing Committees—A Review

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the 'Departmentally Related Standing Committees (1997-98)—A Review'

12.04¾ hrs

Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare

Fourth and Fifth Reports

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare:—

(1) Fourth Report on Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Labour for the year 1998-99.

(2) Fifth Report on Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Welfare for the year 1998-99.

12.05 hrs

[English]

Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development

First and Second Reports and Minutes

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (SONEPAT) : Sir, I beg to present the following reports and Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Urban and Rural Development:—

(1) First Report on Demands for Grants (1998-99) of the Department of Urban Development (Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment).

(2) Second Report on Demands for Grants (1998-99) of the Department of Wastelands Development (Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment)

12.05½ hrs

[English]

Standing Committee on commerce Thirty-third Report

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL (Nasik) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Thirty-third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Commerce, on Demands for Grants (1998-99) of Department of Commerce (Ministry of Commerce).

12.05¾ hrs

[English]

Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests

Fifty-third and Fifty-fourth Reports

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK (Mathurapur) : Sir, I beg to lay (Hindi and English versions) the Fifty-third and Fifty-fourth Reports of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants (1998-99) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Department of Biotechnology respectively.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry, I have to raise an issuing relating to the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Shrikakulam) : Sir, as per the List of Business, I have to present the Report of the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Standing Committee on Agriculture. My name has not been called. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, I have to raise an issue relating to what happened in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee. It was decided to discuss the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of External Affairs today. We were supposed to complete the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Railways yesterday. We are supposed to start the discussion on the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs today.

If you see today's Revised List of Business you will find there the Budget (Railways) and Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture listed for discussion. I do not think, we will be able to give justice

to the Ministry of External Affairs, When it was the unanimous decision of the Business Advisory Committee yesterday, how can it be changed? At least courtesy demands that there has to be some consultation with us.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Prime Minister has to attend the Rajya Sabha today and also has a meeting with some dignitaries. Therefore, the hon'ble Prime Minister had submitted to inter-change the agenda for 7th and 14th and you had passed orders to that effect. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : Courtesy demands that you should consult us. Without consulting us, you have changed the decision of the BAC....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, when the decision was taken in the BAC yesterday that we will take up the Demands of Grants relating to the Ministry of External Affairs today, how can they change the order in the List of Business without taking the consent of the House?

MR. SPEAKER : Yesterday, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs also came to me and said all these things and in the evening itself I wanted to apprise Shri Sharad Pawarji of this but I could not get him as he was busy in some other programmes.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri K. Yerrannaidu to present the Reports relating to Standing Committee on Agriculture

12.07 hrs

Standing Committee on Agriculture

Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Reports

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

(1) Seventh Report on Demands for Grants (1998-99) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation).

(2) Eighth Report on Demands for Grants (1998-99) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

(3) Ninth Report on Demands for Grants (1998-99) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Housbandry and Dairying).

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is the decision of the Chair on this? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram) : Sir, we want to know the ruling of the Chair. We do not question your discretion but that is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*...I do not think whether anybody can change the decision without the approval of the House. The hon. Leader of the Opposition has raised that matter. So, some ruling has to be given.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Yes, Sir, we want your ruling...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri A.C. Jos , first we are going to discuss the Railway Budget. Then later, we will think about it. After completion of the Railway Budget, we will take a decision about it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I am raising a very valid question. Can the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs or anybody for that matter alter the decision of the BAC, without approval of the House? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri A.C. Jos, please take your seat. Let us first complete the discussion on the Railway Budget. After that, we will take a decision.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, how can they alter the unanimous decision without consulting anybody?

MR. SPEAKER : We will take a decision later. First, we will take up the Railway Budget and finish the discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Baalu, please take your seat. Now, Shri P.C. Chacko to raise his issue in 'Zero Hour'

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very much thankful to you for raising a matter of very urgent public importance...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing all the hon. Members to cooperate with me. Today I have received 53 notices listed in the 'Zero Hour' and I want to accommodate all of them.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : Before the hon. Prime Minister leaves the Houe, I would like to raise a very important issue. Last Saturday, many hon. Members raised about the order issued by the Delhi Administration regarding the place of worship....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Before the 'Zero Hour' starts, I want to ask Shri K. Yerrannaidu to present a Report.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : I have already presented it.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : I thank you very much for the kind permission given to me to raise the issue of the Khadi Industry in this House. The Khadi and Village Industry in this country is employing millions and millions of people.

MR. SPEAKER : I am also saying thanks to you for allowing me to accommodate more Members during the 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : I will finish within two minutes, Sir.

The Khadi Industry is going to face a very severe crisis from August onwards. A rebate was given by the Government of India every year to the Khadi Industry because it was considered as an essential support by the Government to the Khadi Industry. Khadi Industry not only engages millions of workers, it is the heart and soul of the freedom movement of India. The Khadi Industry was enjoying the rebate facility for the last forty years. Now, all of a sudden, from this August onwards the Government is going to stop the rebate completely for the Khadi Industry. Without this rebate this Industry just cannot survive.

I request your kind intervention. A direction may be given to the Government that the Government resume the rebate. Every State Government, every State Khadi Board, all the other Khadi organisations used to give the Khadi rebate during the festival season. From this September onwards, it is the festival season in Kerala. For example, Onam season is coming. Khadi products are sold during the rebate season. Now the rebate is completely being stopped or going to be stopped from August. So, the rebate which is being given during the Onam season in Kerala, during other festivals in other States, cannot be given this year.

Ninety per cent of the Khadi products are being sold during the rebate period. The Industry Minister has taken it very lightly. The present Industry Minister is more interested in Suzuki. He is not interested in Khadi.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chacko, you have forgotten your commitment.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : This is such an important issue. The Khadi and Village Industry is neglected by this Government which professes *Swadeshi*. Khadi was the *Swadeshi* movement which fought against the British rule. This Government, which is saying that they are for *Swadeshi*, is totally ignoring Khadi. I want your direction.

MR. SPEAKER : The Government is responding.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : It may be reintroduced forthwith so that it can be implemented from September during the Onam festival season.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : We would have been very happy if the hon. Prime Minister were here. But the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is here. I request him to respond to the point and restore the rebate.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will convey the sentiments of the hon'ble Members to the concerned Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : They expect something specific.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He is giving the reply.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani) : People have a sentimental attachment with Khadi. You also wear Khadi. ...*(Interruptions)* Rebate should be continued on Khadi ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Members have expressed their feelings very effectively and forcefully. Therefore, I will definitely request the Industry Minister to tell the House about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government sent two teams—one to the State of West Bengal and another to the State of Bihar—to assess the law and order situation, which was unwarranted, uncalled for and unconstitutional. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : What is uncalled for or unconstitutional about? What is unwarranted? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Sir, this is not an issue to be raised during Zero Hour. This is a political issue. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Minister of Home Affairs has misinterpreted article 355 of the Constitution.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : No. This is a political issue. This should not be allowed to be raised during Zero Hour. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Basu Deb Achariya speaks.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIYA Article 355 says: 'It shall be the duty of the Union ...*(Interruptions)* Please take your seat. He has allowed me and I have every right to raise it. *(Interruptions)*

Under article 355 of the Constitution, it is said: 'It shall be the duty of the Union to protect every State...'*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed him. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Under article 355 of the Constitution, it is said: 'It shall be the duty of the Union to protect every State against external aggression and internal disturbance and to ensure that the government of every State is carried in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.' *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I want to accommodate more hon. Members today. Please cooperate with me.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Has such a situation arisen in the State which warranted interference from the Central Government? The Sarkaria Commission has interpreted the Constitution and has recommended that the Central Government has no right to interfere with the law and order situation. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not disturb.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What warranted the Ministry of Home Affairs to send a team? The Ministry of Home Affairs had asked for a report from the Government of West Bengal.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Government of West Bengal sent a detailed report on what happened before the panchayat elections and after the panchayat elections. After all this, why was a Central team sent? This has never happened. This has not happened in twenty years of Left Front rule in the State of West Bengal. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Chief Minister of West Bengal has already written to the Prime Minister to coveno a meeting of the Inter-State Council to discuss about article 355 of the Constitution, which is being misinterpreted by the Minister of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Central Government has no right. Such a situation has not arisen. There is no internal disturbance; there is no external aggression. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : So, the intervention by the Central Government is unconstitutional and unwarranted.

12.19 hours

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*]

It has been done to please and to appease one of the alliance partners of the BJP-led Government at the Centre. It is only to appease them that they are violating the Constitution. *(Interruptions)*

MR CHAIRMAN : Yesterday, only a very few hon. Members have expressed their views during the Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are many hon. Members who have given notices to raise issues. If you all cooperate by taking only two minutes each, you will all get a chance. If an hon. Member wants to speak out-of-turn, that creates difficulties and so, he would not be getting a chance. Now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia. This is zero Hour and so, kindly take only two minutes.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Acharia, you should not give a speech.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I am not making any speech.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, he has already taken ten minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : Sir, Shri Basudev has already spoken. There are other members who have to speak. The issue he is raising cannot be raised in zero hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Goel, have already conveyed it to you. Let me conduct the Zero Hour. Yesterday also, many hon. Members could not express their views.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Sir, Please give me one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will give you one minute at the time of your turn to speak.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Shri Basudev can not raise such an issue which he is explaining by giving examples in the zero hour. Please make him understand. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Goel, please resume your seat. Nobody can question the decision of the hon. Speaker. Hon. Speaker has given him the floor and you are not to question that decision. Now, you may please resume your seat. Let Shri Acharia have a chance.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, they are out to destroy the Centre-State relations. We condemn the unwarranted, uncalled for and unconstitutional action taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs by sending a team to the State of West Bengal to assess the law and order situation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Shailendra Kumar.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, you are allowing only one side to speak.

That action was not unconstitutional ; it was constitutional.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have got the list of names.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You start questioning for everything. Name of 46 hon. Members are there and if you ask questions like this, nobody will get a chance.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is your name in the list?

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : But, I want to speak on this issue.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : You are allowing only one side. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will call everyone whose names are there in the list. Names of 46 hon. Members are there; all will get a chance provided you all keep order in the House. If you start disrupting like this, nobody will get a chance. Please cooperate.

Now, Shri Shailendra Kumar. You have to take only two minutes; this is Zero Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, that was not unconstitutional; that was absolutely constitutional. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mamta Ji, you, will definitely get a chance to speak if your name has been included in the list ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Shailendra Kumar, if you want to say something you can say.

[Translation]

Mamta ji you are a senior member.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : This is not West Bengal; this is the Indian Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister wants to say something.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Sir, hon. Member Shri Acharia has raised an important point. He is the Deputy Leader of the Party. Kumari Mamta Banerjee is the leader of her Party. If she is also allowed to have her say, then it would be better for us to take up the next subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please hear him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Let there be a discussion on this matter, that is, sending a Central team to States under Article 355 of the Constitution. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Acharia, you had your chance to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : When an important issue is raised by a leader on which other leaders of parties would like to respond, it has been a convention that they are allowed. So, let her also have her say. This is a convention that we are following. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram) : Sir, I accept Shri Ram Naik's proposition that the power of Article 355 can be discussed by every leader. Is the Home Ministry justified in sending a team there? It can be discussed by every leader. I accept Shri Ram Naik's suggestion. ...*(Interruptions)*... The views of leaders of every party can be heard. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Why no body was sent there ...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : You only think about Bihar, what is the situation today in Bihar, What is happening there ...*(Interruptions)* There is 'jungle raj' there.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats. I am on my legs.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not make me use harsh words. Shri Basu, will you please resume you seat? Please hear me. After all, you are all senior leaders of this country. All of you are having a responsibility here. The practice in the 'Zero Hour' has been like this. Anybody who wants to raise a matter of urgent public importance or some events that are taking place in the country, gives prior notice, meets the Speaker and then a list is prepared. Yesterday, we could not cover may Members; we could cover only a few of them. And today, there are as many as 46 names with me. If you behave orderly, then all the 46 Members can be covered as also others whose names are not here. I will cover them also provided you please keep order in the House. If a Member raises a matter and if you go on reacting to it from every side, then I am afraid that I would not be giving chance to everybody. Kindly allow me to go as per the list.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I would not have stood up ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Why should he be given a chance now? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir. please allow us to speak ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jain, leave it to me as to whom I have to give the floor. Leave that to me. I have asked the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs to speak. He wanted to say something and I have allowed him. You are also a senior Member, Mr. Jain. Do not cast aspersions. I am here to conduct the smooth functioning of the House. For Heaven's sake, behave yourself.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This has nerve happened in the past ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me go on with the list. Shri Ram Naik has not yet completed.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I request you to sit down. Sit patiently, you will definitely get the chance.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I was just appealing to you that there has been a practice that if some important issue is raised and if a leader of another party wants to respond, he is allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ajit Jogi, I have given the floor to Shri Ram Naik. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : They are not allowing Kumari Mamata Banerjee to speak. They are not allowing me also to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri P. Shiv Shankar, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You hear him first.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You her him fully.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not know how to conduct this House.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, hon. Shri Shiv Shankar should know that when I am on my legs, he should take the permission and then speak. This is not the practice.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali) : It is not a question of permission. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : With that responsibility, we should conduct the House properly. I am appealing to you that since an important issue has been raised by Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Kumari Mamata Banerjee, as leader of her party, wanted to say something. She should be allowed to say on that. That is all, I have to say. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, you allow me to say.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already explained to the House that we have 46 Members, Shri Lalu Prasad raised the same matter. Many other hon. Members also wanted to speak, Kumari Mamata Banerjee also wanted to speak. After exhausting this list, we will allow them.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Otherwise, what will happen? If I ask Kumari Mamata Banerjee, then reaction would be here. There will be no end to it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me complete.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please cooperate with me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I appeal to the hon. Members of the House to cooperate with the Chair so that everybody gets a chance. There are 46 hon. Members. After that, we will also have some more hon. Members. We are not going to sit tomorrow, Practically, we did not have 'Zero Hour' yesterday. Today also, if you are going to do the same thing, I think, we will virtually be dispensing with the 'Zero Hour'.

Now, for heavem's sake, kindly let us keep it orderly and go through the list. Then, others will get a chance.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Speaker has already drawn the list. I will go according to that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, the non-controversial subject is the Delhi Rent Control Bill. It is pending since long. Please take the non-controversial subjects first.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Controversial or non-controversial, let us have tolerance to absorb it. After all, a controversial matter can also be absorbed.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : May I humbly seek a clarification? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is leader of a party.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I do not know who is conducting this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, allow him to speak only if his name is there in the list of 46 members. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jain, I will ask Kumari Mamata Banerjee also.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYPAL JAIN : Mr. Chairman, Members of C.P.M. have spoken, you should listen to the rest of the members also. It is a very sensitive issue.

[English]

Why should he be allowed to speak?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri K. Yerrannaidu, you will also get a chance.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, has only C.P.M. got the responsibility to run the House?

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I am not going to speak on the merits. I am only humbly requesting whether a Minister can interpose in response to a question raised by another hon. Member.

Can he give advice to the Chair? He is being allowed to speak only as a Minister in this advisory capability to the Chair. Is his the way the Minister should stand up and speak? ...*(Interruptions)* We know as to why they are supporting that. This team was sent only to placate their ally. We all know that ...*(Interruptions)* The Minister is taking a partisan attitude ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Should we now go according to the list? Shri Shailendra Kumar.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue during zero hour. A big problem of getting admission into Primary schools and university level has arisen in whole of Uttar Pradesh including Allahabd, Koshambi and Lucknow districts of Purvanchal region. Today it has become very difficult for the students to get admissions in various schools and colleges of the state. Parents are also concerned about this situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please come to the subject.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Students are affected by this. Many talented students are not getting admissions right from primary to university level classes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want to say? Please speak quickly.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : I would like to say that Government should adopt some policy to simplify the admission procedure....*(Interruptions)* I have not completed my submission yet. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude early.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Even the reservation quota is not being filled there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please tell what Government should do in this regard. Do not make a speech. It is the zero hour.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : State Government is restricting the admissions there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT (Hamirpur) (U.P) : I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very important question. The present plight of the youngsters is due to the wrong policies of the previous government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak precisely.

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* Not recorded.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : I will conclude in 5 minutes. ...*(Interruptions)* Today the condition of the youngsters has worsened. The youth is hungry, unemployed, sick, illiterate and helpless. Till today all the governments have been formed on the strength of the youth force. But it is sad that no government announced any policy for them to solve their problems. This issue has been included in the agenda of our government also. It concerns the whole House and all the parties ...*(Interruptions)* I request the Government to announce a youth policy on the basis of consensus to curb the increasing problem of unemployment and illiteracy among them. ...*(Interruptions)* It is an important matter and it should be discussed in the House. Youth Policy should be announced in this session itself.

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA (Kota) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we talk about uniformity of law in India. Different States in India have different laws. Octroi has been abolished in Delhi and Madhya Pradesh. But corruption is rampant in Rajasthan in the name of Octroi. Many big industries have been exempted from Octroi. On the contrary, a farmer has to pay Octroi even if he carries five bags of his produce. Unemployed person does not have money to open a shop and Government is not able to generate employment for them. Union Government has not formulated any policy to solve this problem.

This is simply an exercise carried on papers. Even if he opens a shop, he is not exempted from octroi.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I belong to Kota. It has a Municipal Corporation and a member belonging to the ruling party i.e. Bhratiya Janata Party is holding the office of Chairman in the Municipal Corporation. Still it is mired in corruption. The Hon'ble Finance Minister had said that 'Inspector Raj' should come to an end but corruption is rampant everywhere in the name of Octroi. The farmers and the truck owners have to pay tax. In Rajasthan, employees are agitating, they are blocking roads. Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Rajasthan situation is becoming worse. My request to government is that it should direct the State Government to abolish Octroi as demanded by truck owners and traders.

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the problem of drinking water is serious in the country especially in the purvanchal region of Uttar Pradesh. In many districts of this region, the level of water has gone down by as much as 3 metres. The common facilities which the government had provided have failed. The Minimum Need Programme and Accelerated Drinking Water Scheme of Uttar Pradesh Government has also failed. While taking oath on the very first day, the hon'ble Prime Minister had said that he would provide clean drinking water to the people of entire country. This scheme has also failed. Members are elected from Delhi and Lucknow. But even these important places face the scarcity of drinking water. People are staging Dharnas, holding demonstrations and blocking the traffic. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, you please conclude.

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request that government should make efforts to remove the problem of drinking water.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Madhya Pradesh, the farmers. ...* *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the representatives of the Government are present here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever you have said, will not go on record. **(Interruptions)*

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (BILASPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the farmers have started sowing operations in rainy season. 15-20% of the paddy and soyabean seeds have sprouted. But the paddy and soyabean seeds which are being given by the government in the form of taqavi loan, are not sprouted. These seeds are also being given to farmers at higher prices. Paddy and soyabean seeds are being sold at Rs. 800-900 and Rs. 2000-2300 per quintal respectively. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the seeds which are being given by the State Government are not sprouted. My request is that the Central Government should give directions to State Government that only sprouted seeds should be provided to farmers so that they can purchase seeds at fixed market rates.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Madhya Pradesh is the largest soyabean producing State of India. Due to heavy rainfall in November and December last, the soyabean seed in storage was rendered unfit for sowing due to sprouting. Therefore, the farmers do not have any soyabean at the rate of Rs. 25000 to 3000 per quintal. The Government also fixed the price of soyabean at Rs. 2300 per quintal in cooperation with the co-operation societies. Government of India is requested to direct the State Government to provide subsidy on seeds in order to facilitate the farmers to sow the soyabean crop.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a very serious issue in this House. My colleagues have said that to assess the situation of law and order, a team of central government had visited few states. But the condition of law and order in

* Not recorded.

Uttar Pradesh is the worst in the country. The Head of the Unnao block and his 3 companions were brutally murdered in the Lok Sabha constituency of our leader, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. 350 political murders have been committed in the last three months in the state. Most of them were activists of Samjwadi Party. Big industrialists are being kidnapeped for ransom and are being murdered if the ransom is not paid. Even then the government of Uttar Pradesh is silent. It has no control over law and order of that state. Through you, we demand that Uttar Pradesh government should be dismissed. President's Rule should be imposed there...*(Interruptions)* The condition of law and order there is so bad that no citizen is safe. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me hear him. Why are you people standing up?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am saying this because our leader Shri Mulayam Singh Yadavji, is in his parliamentary constituency. He called me to inform that three of his workers who were very close to him had been brutally murdered.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This matter pertains to law and order of the State.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : I would like to request that government of India should dismiss the Uttar Pradesh government.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I have given notice on the same issue. The National President of BJP, Shri Kushabhau Thakre himself has expressed concern over the law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh. I request the Union Government to send a team. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is on the same matter. He has given notice on the same matter and he is associating himself with it like the gentlemen who spoke just now.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, the law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh causes concern to BJP President. A team should be sent to Uttar Pradesh to study the law and order situation there. Shri Kushabhau Thakre himself has expressed his concern over it day before yesterday. I request the Government to send a team to study the situation there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basudev Acharia, I am going according to the list.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, do not disturb the proceedings like this. Let me conduct the House. They have given notices on this matter and the hon. Speaker has accepted their notices.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, A Central Team should be sent to Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)* During the last 6 months 649 cases of rape have been reported. In Lucknow where the Chief Minister stays ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are a senior member. If you have given your name, I will call you. You please sit down.

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI (Rewa) : My name is there in the list but you are not allowing me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : When I give permission, only then you can speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Chairman, Sir, about U.P. just now Shri Mohan Singh has said and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadavji had telephoned to say that heads of 3 blocks were murdered. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mohan Singhji has already spoken over this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Such murders are being committed in the State of Uttar Pradesh which has Prime Minister's constituency. ...*(Interruptions)* One Parliamentary committee should be constituted to go into this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : What are you doing? All of you are standing. This is not good.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN : Allow me to conduct the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already called Shri Mohan Singh to speak on the same subject.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Without my permission, you do not talk like this. I have called Shri Motilal Vora because he will speak on the same subject. Four hon. Members have given notices on the same subject. They will associate themselves with the subject. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I may be allowed to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not your turn *...(Interruptions)* Your name will be called as per the serial number of the list. You do not keep standing like this. Please speak when your name is called.

[English]

Kindly tell your hon. Members. What the Whips are doing? Kindly educate the hon. Members. This way, nobody can conduct the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Is it according to the serial number?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Exactly.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : For the past two days, we are waiting to speak. You should not jump the line just like that. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I can assure you that I will go according to the serial number in the list. This list is given by the hon. Speaker only. I will not use my discretion.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Just go through the proceedings. You can find that it is not as per the serial number in the list. What is the use of having the serial number in the list. ...*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is exactly as per the list.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I am very sorry to say that I wanted to walk out. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, please.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : *...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me tell you Shri Baalu, I have not deviated from the list. Not even in the case of one name. I will not deviate. I will conduct the business of the House according to the list. It is easy for you or anybody to accuse me sitting there. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : *...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : You do not pass such sarcastic remarks. You are a senior Member.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (Narasaraopet) : We have been giving notices everyday but we are not getting opportunity to say even a word. You are adjourning the House and you are going out. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yesterday, you know how we have conducted the House. Today, at least we are proceeding. The whole House will get the chance provided you keep the House in order. If everybody starts standing up and speaking at the same time, there will be interruptions.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Those who are shouting loudly are getting the opportunities. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I am telling you that anybody who shouts will not immediately get the chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Yesterday, you adjourned the House. Kindly do not adjourn the House till the whole list is completed.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Motilal Vora. You have to only associate with the subject since the matter has already been referred to by him.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon) : I am referring to the issue of Madhya Pradesh regarding the Naxalite problem. I have mentioned in my notice.

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* Not recorded.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have given the notice on the law and order situation of the State of Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (Coimbatore) : No team has been sent. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him say. This is how you are interrupting the speaker.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh has worsened. I myself had seen it in Lucknow. During the last few days, I was in Lucknow. You will be surprised to know about the orders issued by the senior officers of U.P. police where law and order situation has deteriorated to such an extent that even in Lucknow which is the constituency of the Prime Minister, every person coming out from there has to inform as to where he is going and that he should not come back by the same route otherwise he may get murdered. Such an order in writing has been issued recently through the Director General of Police. I would like to tell you that cases of dacoity, murder and rape have increased.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want to say?

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like the Central Government to take stern action against it. A central investigation team should be sent to assess the situation there on the same lines as was sent to West Bengal, Bihar and Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the terror of naxalite is on the increase, thereby affecting the law and order situation there. Naxalite activities are increasing there but no action is being taken to stop such activities. Only two days ago, a police officer was murdered in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh. I demand that the Union Government should put under control the activities of Naxalites in the State.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the government towards the following points:

1. What action has been taken against the people involved in the conspiracy against Kamal Kishore who was working in Central Silk Board, Kalingpong, West Bengal and is missing since 1995?

2. Why investigation was not entrusted to CBI despite the contradiction in the action taken by the police?

3. What results were achieved after enquiring about the allegations made by the missing worker against his senior officer?

4. The names of the senior officers and state leaders should be placed on the Table of the House who are directly or indirectly trying to hush up this case.

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA (Kodarma) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards Bihar. I would like to bring to the notice of the House, Home Minister and Minister of Planning that for the last 20 years, elections for Panchayati Raj institution have not been held in our state. Panchayati Raj in Bihar has totally crumbled and bureaucrats are ruling the state. The money allotted for J.R.Y. and other central schemes is being misappropriated by the bureaucrats.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please state what Union government can do in this regard?

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Union Government should direct the Bihar Government to hold the Panchayat elections there as early as possible. It is very necessary.

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are many villages in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh where the land is not smooth and farmers cannot plough the fields. Central Government has a scheme for leveling such lands. Through you, I demand that the Central Government should send a central team to villages like Paranpoli, Dokhar etc. to level the land there so that the land could be made cultivable by the farmers after levelling.

13.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of this august House to the tragic deaths of a large number of people in the tea garden of Upper Assam, that is, Jorhat, Golaghat, Sibsagar and other districts due to gastro-enteritis type of disease in an epidemic form.

According to the information, already more than 600 people have lost their lives. Last year also, the occurrence of this disease was there and more than 500 people had lost their lives. The tea industry cannot absolve itself of its responsibility towards the workers at a time when the industry is making a huge profit. The Government of Assam has totally failed to give minimum medical facilities to the tea garden workers. They are failing to take

appropriate action against the erring management also. There is a provision in the Plantation Labour Act that the Government can spend the money for providing medical facilities to workers. They can realise the revenue from the management. My request is that the Government of India should send an expert team to enquire and find out whether this is gastro-enteritis or some other disease because every year, hundreds of workers and villagers are dying. The government of India has to send a team and India out the cause of the death. ...*(Interruptions)* Both the State Government and the tea garden managements should also be asked to provide necessary medical facilities.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri T.R. Baalu, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Guwahati) : Sir, it is a very serious issue. The Health Minister is here. Let him respond.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I can not compel the Minister. If they want to react, let them react. They cannot be compelled.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : But it has been the practice that whenever a serious matter is raised, the Minister concerned always responds. This is the procedure of the House. Sir, the Health Minister is here. Let the Health Minister respond to it. It is a very serious matter. About 600 people have died due to gastro-enterits. Let him respond to this.

SHRI P.S. GHATOWAR : We are talking that we should provide health care to everybody by 2000 A.D. but people are dying every year. Hundreds of people have died in Assam. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : Sir, this is a very serious matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is true.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : We cannot avoid discussion. We want a response from the Health Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, it is the practice of this House that if the Minister is present, he responds as to whether he knows it or not.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, you please call the House to order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Kalita, you just understand the position that the Chair cannot direct the Government to react. When you raise a very important matter, on their own, they can stand and react. They have not yet.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : Sir, the House is supreme. The Chair is supreme.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is why, you are asking me. No, the Chair is not supreme. Do not say that. The Chair cannot direct. That is the rule. Since they have not reacted I am asking Shri Baalu to speak.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : The Health Minister is here. Let him respond. The Health Minister is sitting here. He cannot shirk his responsibility. He should respond on his own. Six hundred people have died. *(Interruptions)* This is a very serious matter. Why is he not responding?

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal) : This is not the procedure.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : What is this?

MR. CHAIRMAN . Shri Baalu, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, you call the House to order. How can I speak?

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat) : Is the hon. Health Minister shirking his responsiblity? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not reacting.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw the kind attention of the august House, especially the Home Minister, through the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to an important matter of extending Statehood to the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

Sir, cutting across party lines, so many times, the MLAs, the Ministers, the Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Pondicherry along with Members of both the Houses of Parliament met the hon. Prime Minister, the Home Minister and everybody. But, in spite of all these meetings and other things from 1971 onwards, the matter is now kept in cold storage.

Sir, the Government is very much ready to bring forward the Bill—this BJP Government—to extend statehood to Delhi but at the same time they are keeping mum over the excruciating painful feelings of the people of the Union Territory of Pondicherry. My request is having regard to the Resolution on 30.3.1998 sent by the Union Territory of Pondicherry and having seen the viability

reports by eminent people like Shri R.S. Chari, a former Development Commissioner of Pondicherry and Dr. Ramdas, an eminent economist of the University of Pondicherry, the Government should have conceded statehood. In spite of the viability and in spite of all the things which are needed to make the Union Territory of Pondicherry a full-fledged State with a special status, the Government is sitting over the issue.

Before start of this Session, the hon. Prime Minister had called a meeting of leaders in which I was also present on behalf of my Party. As instructed by my leader Kalaingar Karunanidhi, I requested the Prime Minister and the Home Minister to bring a Bill for conferring statehood for Pondicherry. Both of them readily agreed to do.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now what do you want the Government to do?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Both of them readily agreed to bring the Bill for the Statehood for Pondicherry along with the one for Delhi. But here I have not seen a semblance of bringing any Bill to that effect. I request, through you, the Home Minister and the hon. Prime Minister to expedite it. I have also written a letter to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to see that statehood with special status to Pondicherry is given in this Session itself.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : Sir, the Health Minister wants to respond to our matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot direct the Government.

Now, Shri R. Muthiah

SHRI R. MUTHIAH (Periyakulam) : I have given a notice on the same issue.

I am raising this sensitive and serious issue about Pondicherry along with Shri Baalu.

...(Interruptions)

Already agitations are going on in Pondicherry. Even a demand is there for the resignation of all the MLAs cutting across the party lines. Yesterday the Congress party people resigned their posts from the Assembly. Now, in this context, I insist upon this Government to resolve this issue by granting statehood simultaneously to Pondicherry along with Delhi.

MR. CHAIRMAN : And not to any other Union Territory?

SHRI R. MUTHIAH : You have to convey this message to the Home Minister. That is all you can do.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister is here. They were all asking me to direct the Government. The Chair cannot direct the Government.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH : This government is keen on giving statehood to Delhi. I doubt whether this Government is not in favour of another Tamil State in this country along with Tamil Nadu. My sincere doubt is about that thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly conclude now.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH : The Central Government is denying this sensitive request of the people of Pondicherry. Now there is a demand for the resignation of all the MLAs in Pondicherry. It can be extended to MPs also

MR. CHAIRMAN : MPs also?

SHRI R. MUTHIAH : That seriousness is there. That is why, I am insisting this Government about this.

So, that seriousness is there. That is why I am insisting on this Government to accept this demand. If this Government is going to take up only the Delhi Statehood Bill in this Session, I can say, through you, Sir, that this Government cannot get a consensus for the passage of that Bill. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : Sir, there should not be any discrimination between Delhi and Pondicherry. That is why we say that this demand of the people of Pondicherry should be conceded by the Government. It is an all-party demand. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Vaiko, I agree with you that there should not be any discrimination against any State or Union Territory.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you want to react, Mr. Minister?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, I hope the Government will consider the demand. The AIADMK and the DMK are all together at least on this demand. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you want to hear the reaction of the Minister, then you please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, we have been demanding Statehood for Pondicherry. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, do you want to hear the hon. Minister or not?

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, when the Government is granting Statehood to Delhi, what is preventing them from granting Statehood to Pondicherry? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Vaiko, I am on my legs.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, I am on my legs. You are discriminating now. They all have obeyed me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Again you are standing up, Shri Vaiko.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : When I am standing, you have to sit down. Now Shri Ram Naik wants to react. Do you not want to hear his reaction?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the Government is trying to get political mileage out of it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, your name was there. Then Shri Muthiah's name was also there.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : No, Sir. This is not proper. The Minister should respond to me first ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, this is a....* approach.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That word will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Vaiko, do you not want the Minister to react?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : What am I to do now? Will you please take your seats? The Minister wants to react.

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* Not recorded.

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Sir, it was a pleasant surprise for me and for the House that the hon. Members from DMK and AIADMK have agreed on one point that there should be a separate Statehood for Pondicherry. I am happy that both of them have agreed on this. ...*(Interruptions)*. All hon. Members from Tamil Nadu are unanimous on this issue. I shall convey this feeling of unanimity to the hon. Home Minister and the Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, about Andaman and Nicobar Islands, there was an assurance ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Acharia, he has already reacted. You know, during Zero Hour when a Minister reacts, it is an assurance. He has given an assurance to convey it to the concerned Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What about statehood of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshdweep. He should react to that also.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I have reacted. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : An assurance was given on the floor of the House that statehood will be given to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. What has happened to that? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, how can I compel him?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : Six hundred people have died . ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please ask your Members to sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I am very happy that the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs has reacted to the demand of the statehood of Pondicherry. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, the question of death of 600 people with gastro-entritis is also important. ...*(Interruptions)* The Health Minister is here and he can react. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Kurein, I cannot compel the Minister to react.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR KALITA : Why?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, 600 people have died. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please cooperate with me.

...(Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : They cannot force him. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I connot compel. What are you talking? The Chairman cannot compel the Minister to react.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the way. Please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : This is injustice. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have brought the matter before the House and the Minister might have taken notice of it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : Why can he not respond? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Vaidya Vishnu Datt.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called him. Please allow him to speak.

[Translation]

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT (Jammu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, firing has been continuing from the Pakistani side at he Jammu-Kashmir international border for several years. A large number of people have been killed or lost their limbs. Loss of livestock has also been reported. The Government made an attempt to do barbed wire fencing first, at which Pakistan retaliated. As a result, an order has been issued there to the landowners to stay two kilometers away from the border.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please tell us as to what action should be taken by the Government of India?

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT : The landowners have been unable to grow crops for the last three consecutive years. The Government has neither provided any substitute land nor any financial aid has been given to these people. I request the Government to allot them alternative land and provide them financial aid as well.

[English]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTHY (Basirhat) : Sir, I draw the attention of the House to a serious matter which involves public interest at large. Everyday from the Indo-Bangladesh border in West Bengal, all the essential commodities, including all kinds of vegetables, clothes, edible oils, spice and every other article with is essential for the livelihood of man are being smuggled in connivance with and with the direct help of the BSF. That is why, the essential commodities are not available in the market and the prices of the essential commodities are rising. Therefore, they are beyond the capacity of the common people. People are suffering very much. Many people are suffering irreparable loss and injury. On this serious issue, I draw the attention of this august House and through you, I draw the attention of the Government of India, particularly the Home Minister to take suitable and necessary steps to check and to stop the anti-national activities. If they are not stopped immediately, our people will suffer irreparable loss and injury; nothing will be traced out in the Indian market and people will lead to starvation.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the issue of continuous firing by Pakistan at our international border, raised by the Hon'ble Member just now. There are two villages in my Constituency, viz. Mandi and Budhia where at least 50 cattle have been killed and around 30 people have lost their lives. People living near the border are finding it difficult to step out of their homes. They are unable to grow anything on their lands. The Government is not prepared to offer them any compensation. The Government should allot alternative lands to these people where they could be relocated. The Government should also start the work of covering the international border and fencing it as per its plan. *(Interruptions)* The Government has spent only twenty crore rupees for this purpose and material is also available there, still the Government is unable to take up the work

of fencing. The Government has put up fence at Punjab border which has helped check the infiltration by terrorists and has also checked the firing from Pakistani side. Hence I request that fence should be put up at the border so that the firing from the Pakistani side may be checked. ...*(Interruptions)* Our forces should effectively tackle them so that they do not repeat it.

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD (SALEMPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise an issue of public importance with your kind permission. An organisation of around 50 lakh women has been managing the anganwadi centres throughout the country. The Members of this organisation are observing a fast unto death at Jantar-Mantar in New Delhi from 6th July to 8th July in support of their demands. As for their demands, the Anganwadi workers want that 35% reservation should be made for them in jobs. *(Interruptions)* and 50% in respect of assets. They have submitted their five demands to Hon'ble Prime Minster and all the concerned officials. I urge upon you to consider sympathetically the demands put forward by the women sitting on fast unto death so that their problems may be solved.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is one Swarnarekha project in my constituency. The work had strated there 20 years ago but even today that project is incomplete. Thousands of villages have been ruined for the sake of this project but even then it has not been completed. The many people of all those displaced families which were affected by that project did not get any compensation. They even did not get any job. Due to this, they are distressed. An amount of rupees 200-300 crores has been spent on this project. I would request the Central Government to provide funds to complete that project at the earliest.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Adityanath says.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to drawn the attention of government towards anti-national activities being perpetuated by Pakistan's Secret agency I.S.I. in different parts of the country. Sir, not only in Kashmir but is Uttar Pradesh, Bihar West Bengal, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu i.e. in the entire country anti-national activities by Pakistan are continued in one form or the other.

I demand from government that today there is a need to teach Pakistan a lesson by shedding the indecisive policies of previous governments. There is a need to teach a lesson to Pakistan. Today there is a need to take such action against Pakistan at its home turf so that activities of its secret agency in this country are curbed immediately.

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (Robertsganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of Government towards closure of mining operations in the Mirzapur and Sonbhadra districts of Uttar Pradesh as a result of which, 50,000 labourers have been rendered jobless. It has restricted the development work there resulting in a heavy loss of revenue. The Supreme Court has directed that illegal mining should be stopped whereas administrative order of Uttar Pradesh government says that mining work should be undertaken beyond the limit of 100 metres of forest area. But due to the stubborn attitude of District Officer of district Mirzapur, entire mining work is being restricted, stone industry has ruined and as a result of this 50,000 labourers have become jobless. I demand that the Union Government should ask the Uttar Pradesh Government to send all the papers regarding mining and stone industry and then take a positive action.

SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH (Muzaffarnagar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice one issue. Today half of the District Collectors in the country feel shy in giving respect to hon'ble M.Ps. I would like to bring to your notice one such instance. In Haridwar, there is one village called Nagla-Koyal. For the construction of road from Nagla-Koyal to Narsen Khurd and from Narsen Khurd to Mandavali construction material was lying there for the past one year. That material has been stolen. The material was again sent on the strict instructions of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Kalyan Singh. But that material was again stolen. After this, the farmers there went to see the S.D.M. of Roorkee at 9.30 P.M. But the S.D.M. of Roorkee has refused to see the farmers. When I asked him over telephone as to why he had refused to meet the farmers he said that he was neither bound to meet the farmers nor bound to listen my phone call. It is clearly a case of defamation of House. My request is that this case should be handed over to Privilege Committee.

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE (Mandala) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, 34,000 Quintal of rice which was stored in the godown of F.C.I's Katghora Sub-division in Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh was changed by some private dealers. The transporter, the inspector and the godown incharge, three of them together have supplied this rice

*Not recorded.

to one Mittal Rice Mill. My submission is that the foodgrains in F.C.I. godown is for common man. I think that if would be injustice with common man, if these foodgrains are diverted to private Rice Mills instead of poor people. Therefore, my request is that an investigation should be conducted with regard to Katghora godown and I also request the government that this should be strongly adhered to so that foodgrains should reach common man.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Banka) : Mr. Chairman, sir, I would like to make a mention of a religious place where crores of people are going to offer prayer next month. A fair is going to held at Vaidyanath Dham Devdhar from 9th July and crores of people will attend this one month long fair. There is lack of transport arrangement. I would request the hon. Railway Minister to introduce atleast 3 trains from Devdhar to Jamshedpur and for Dhanbad and Varanasi to facilitate the passengers. If transport facilities are not provided the pilgrims will be held up there. It will give rise to some other kind of problem and they have to face difficulty. Hon'ble Railway Minister is present here. He should give his suggestion about this and fulfil our demand.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a fair is likely to commence in this very month which will continue for one month. Trains were also introduced during the previous years for this purpose. Today morning itself I discussed this matter with railway officers and they said that there is heavy crowd on every Monday. Therefore special trains should be introduced from 4-5 centres on Sundays. The passengers can return on either Monday night or Tuesday morning by these trains. Every week trains will certainly run from 3-4 centres like Samastipur, Ranchi, Dhanbad, Patna and Chhapra.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : Trains should also be introduced from Kiul. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : That train will pass through Kiul also. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon'ble Railway Minister is not making any new announcement. Earlier also, special trains are pressed in for fair. He is requested to inaugurate those trains. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Last year trains were introduced especially from Patna and Chhapra. But this year trains will also cover Samastipur, Dhanbad and Ranchi region. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.S. GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh) : We asked for an expert team to be sent there because hundreds of people have lost their lives, but they have not responded. We have requested the Government to send a team of medical experts because more than 400 people have lost their lives. The earlier governments have sent such teams in the past also. The Minister may kindly respond to this because hundreds of people have died.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : Will this Minister kindly respond to this because it is a very serious matter?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, please understand.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : Sir, I request the Minister to please respond to this.

SHRI P.S. GHATOWAR : Sir, they can at least send an experts' team.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, are you prepared to react to this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : Mr. Chairman, we have taken note of this information. We will call for the reports and examine them. Whatever is possible, we will certainly take necessary steps.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.S. GHATOWAR : A team of doctors should be sent.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister has already said that he will do whatever is possible.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMLALAI : Yes, that will be done.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : Gastroenteritis is rampant there. Hundreds of people have died. I would request the hon. Minister of Health to make a statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the hon. Minister has agreed to do whatever is possible to be done.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : You can ask the hon. Minister to give his reaction to my request.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not interfering. How can I direct the hon. Minister to react? The hon. Minister has already reacted.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is discrimination in the distribution of sugar being provided per person on the basis of 1991 census in Rajasthan under P.D.S. According to my information, the distribution of sugar per person has been reduced from 420 gram to 400 gram in Rajasthan whereas in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi 1 kg. of sugar is being given per person.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not in the villages of Uttar Pradesh but in cities that 1 kg is being given per person.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : I thank you for confirming my point. In Rajasthan, whether it is a village or a city, 400 gram of sugar is being given per person. This difference is very big and this should be removed. This year's population should be taken as the basis for distribution of sugar instead of taking the 1991 population census as the basis. Since sugar comes from Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, it involves transportation charges also. My request is that sugar should be provided from the nearest States.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : The State Bank of India has decided to transfer the Foreign Exchange Dealing Operations from Calcutta to Mumbai. This Office is functioning for several decades in Calcutta with very good efficiency and they have all the modern communication facilities. There is a conspiracy on the part of certain people, certain quarters and officials to transfer the Foreign Exchange Centre from Calcutta to Mumbai. You know 40 per cent of the Foreign Exchange Operations are now being done from this Calcutta Office. If this office is transferred, many banks which have their Head Offices in Calcutta would also follow suit. It will create a serious problem for Eastern and North-Eastern region. A new atmosphere has been created because of this decision. New Investment are going to be made in the Eastern region. If this Dealing Centre is transferred from Calcutta to Mumbai, it will cause serious damage to the Eastern region. Now there is a conspiracy to make the transfer. The Prime Minister assured our Chief Minster that it will not be done. In spite of that, it appears that no such instruction eached the SBI.

Therefore I demand that the Government should stop this shifting of the office from Calcutta to Mumbai.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my number has not come.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Right now, I have got the list of 46 persons. If you have given notice then your name will be there in this list. I am calling according to the list which the hon. Speaker has given to me. You will certainly get a chance if your name is there in this list. You please sit down. I am also sitting. What is the hurry?

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH (Tamluk) : I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister to the fact that at present, there is a scheme of giving subsidy for dredging the navigational channel of Haldia port and Calcutta port. Now it is found that the total subsidy due for the dredging is about Rs. 342 crore. Of this, only Rs. 148 crore is given by the Ministry of Surface Transport, Government of India. Therefore, the balance amount of Rs. 194 crore is to be provided during the current financial year to the Calcutta Port Trust for dredging the navigational channel. This subsidy should be given immediately. This is very urgent because without this fund, the dredging work will not be completed and the ships will not be able to enter into Calcutta port and Haldia port. So, I demand the hon. Minister of Surface Transport to provide the above mentioned fund immediately.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai) : According to the provisions laid down under Article 348 (1) of the Constitution, regional languages may be used in the High Courts. Following this provision, regional languages are being used in the High Courts of Gujarat, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and U.P. etc. According to these provisions, the Government of West Bengal requested the Union Government to seek permission from the Supreme Court for the use of the regional language, Bengali in the Calcutta High Court.

But the Supreme Court has rejected the proposal on the ground that the President's consent has not been obtained. I would, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to seek the President's consent for the use of Bengali in the Calcutta High Court.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has repeatedly assured this House that India will not sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in its present form. But now disturbing reports are appearing that negotiations are on and we have indicated that we are ready to sign the CTBT. You know that there is already a national consensus on this issue. The whole country supports the position of the Government. What we want to know now is whether any negotiations are going on and whether we are going to sign this Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in its present form. The hon. Prime Minister should come forward and make a statement before this House.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of this House towards the situation of law and order in Maharashtra. A reign of terror is prevalent in Mumbai and in other cities of the state and hundreds of people are being killed. In Aurangabad, one Jain ascetic (Muni) called Sampath Muni was murdered and that too inside a temple. He was national ascetic of Jain society and after his death a bandh was observed in many cities. The State Government has asked the C.I.D. to investigate the matter in order to find out the people who brutally murdered him. Inspite of this, murderers could not be traced. You would be aware that whenever a Jain ascetic visits far away places he travels on foot and does not carry anything else except a few clothes. They eat the food offered to them on the way. Thus such a situation has arisen in Maharashtra that a state is witnessing a spate of murders in that connection. I would like to request through this House that the hon. Prime Minister should pay attention towards this and this case of murder should be handed over to C.B.I. Besides, one All Party Team of Members of this House should be sent to Maharashtra to investigate the case of not only Jain ascetic but other murders also. If you are sending team to West Bengal, Bihar and other states then one Parliamentary team should be sent to Maharashtra also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, five persons have died due to heavy rainfall in the Pithorgarh and Begeshwar districts of Uttar Pradesh. There has been a heavy loss of livestock and houses have been damaged. Apart from this, the roads have been damaged in the border areas of mountaineous region due to heavy rainfall because of which the dispatch of ration items has been affected. In this connection my request to the Central Government is that immediate compensation should be given to the dependents of deceased and relief work should be started immediately so that traffic may run smoothly and food grains could be supplied. Mainly Jamtad region of Didihaat, Bungbung of Dharchula and Farsali region of Kapkot suffered heavy loss.

[English]

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Sir, according to reports appearing in a section of the Press, more than two lakh Indians are stuck up near Cooch Behar in Bangla Desh in bout 130 areas called enclaves. They have been there for the last five decades and they are eager to come back to India now. In this regard, it is reported that some leaders of these people met the Chief Minister of West Bengal and requested him to help them. On going back, it was said that they were threatened. They are said to be living under serious threat and very adverse conditions.

I, therefore, appeal to the Government of India to call for a report in this regard from our Ambassador in Bangladesh and take up the matter at the diplomatic level.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the metro-city Kanpur, U.P. which has population of 40 lakh was facing acute shortage of drinking water. On 20th January, 1994 the Central Government had given administrative approval to construct a dam over river Ganga for which Rs. 233 crores had to be spent. Half of this amount was to be arranged by the Central Government and the other half by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. Initially, the Central Government had given Rs. 4 crores for this purpose, but so far Rs. 35 crores 24 lakh have been spent by the State Government. I am trying for more funds from the State Government. But the problem is that the Central Government has not sent any money during the last 6 months due to which work has stopped, contractors are running from that place and prices are increasing heavily. Our Chief Minister and Chief Secretary of the State have requested the Central Government many times about this subject. Today, through you, I would like to request the Central Government that in order to complete this important project of Kanpur it should fulfil its responsibility by sending the requisite funds in lump sum to State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Sir, a serious constitutional crisis has arisen in Assam as the Government of Assam has been persistently refusing to hold the panchayat and zilla parishad elections. It is distressing to see how the Government has cheated the people. First, all the then existing panchayts have been dissolved. Once the panchayats have been dissolved, they have asked the BDOs to take over. Now more than a year has passed during which period the Development Fund has been spent in a most partisan manner at the behest of the Govt. This is not only against the spirit and purpose of the Act but it is a flagrant violation of the provisions of the Act which stipulates that elections must be held within six months of the dissolution of the panchayats. Not only that. As the panchayat elections in Assam sunder the 1994 Act have not been held so far, the Development Fund provided under the Act has been denied to the people of Assam. Thus, it negates the radical character and basic purpose of the Act that about 30 departments

will be transferred to the Zila Parishad in a bid to transfer power to the people.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want from the Government?

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : This failure on the part of the Govt. of Assam boils down to the break-down of the constitutional machinery. I want the Central Government to take up the matter seriousy with the Government of Assam so that elections can be held as early as possible.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod) : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government of India and the Defence Minister towards the pathetic condition of the discharged servicemen of Kerala. ...*(Interruptions)* They have formed their association. They had represented the previous Government. But none of the Governments has given any justice. Finally, they went to the Kerala High Court. The High Court gave a direction to the Government of India to settle the matter within there months. They again came here and met our Defence Minister. But the Defence Minister and the Government of India are not prepared to settle the matter. Therefore, I request the hon. Defence Minister and the Government of India to settle the matter immediately.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, since it is a most important matter, I request you to pay kind attention to it.

In Andhra Pradesh, farmers are suffering a lot due to supply of spurious pesticides and seeds. In recent times, the Government of Andhra Pradesh have noticed the prevalence of spurious pesticides and seeds in the market. Therefore, the Government of Andhra Pradesh have recommended amending the Central Pesticides and Seeds Act of 1968. The entire Act is helpful to the manufacturers and traders and not to the farming community. Now due to suicidal death of farmers in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, everybody has noticed the need to amend the Act immediately in the present session itself. As the Kharif season has already started, we cannot launch prosecution against the manufacturers and traders of spurious pesticides and seeds without amending this Act.

Therefore, through you, I want to draw the attention of our hon. Minister Shri Ram Naik. The hon. Prime Minister is also the Agriculture Minister. No money is required for this. Everybody is ready to pass these amendments. The Andhra Pradesh Government has already suggested some crucial amendments. Yesterday, the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh met the hon. Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister. He has been repeatedly requesting this since three years but nothing has been done. This is a very serious issue. That is why I humbly request the Government to amendment the Central Pesticides and Seeds Act of 1968 as early as possible. Thank you.

SHRI P.S. GADHVI (Kutch) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to invite the attention of this august House towards the fact that in the recent cyclonic storm about 3,000 to 4,000 poor persons have lost their lives. Over and above, in Kutch District Mundra Nanja Taluka, poor farmers have lost their fruit bearing trees including Mango and Kharef worth about Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 15 lakh. Kharef trees are grown in Kutch only. Due to this storm, about three lakh Kharef trees have been destroyed. Over and above, mango, chiku, coconut and other trees have been destoyed due to this cyclonic storm.

So, my humble request to the Central Government is that the long-term policy be framed, long-term assistance be given by the NABARD and other fertiliser plants to help them as also to grow their trees. Thank you.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Government nurses and nursing students numbering about 2,500 are on strike for the past one month demanding parity of pay-scales in the State of Haryana. The ruling HVP-BJP Government have not taken any step to end that strike.

Sir, the nurses in the State of Hryana are having the lowest pay-scales in the country while their counterparts in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi and other States are having either the pay-scales according to the Fifth Pay Commission or according to the agreement reached upon between nurses organisations and the respective State Governments.

It is a shameful thing that the Haryana Government have used even ESMA on the striking Government nurses and the nursing students who are actually resorting to a very democratic measure and demanding their rightful claims. The State Government of Haryana have not made any move to end the strike.

Therefore, I appeal to the Central Government to make use of their good office and persuade the Haryana Government to end the strike and meet the demands of the striking nurses and nursing students.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Bengali-speaking people living in south-western part of district Purulia in West Bengal cannot witness the TV programmes from Calcutta or Asansol. The Government has decided to set up a BLPT at Bagmund. But it will

not serve the purpose. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to set up a low power transmitter centre at Bagmund in the district of Purulia.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, people in Bihar grow Sheesham on a large scale. On private as well as on Government land, there are large number of Sheesham trees. Farmers also grow Sheesham trees in their fields on large scale. For the last few days, Sheesham trees in Bihar are getting dried up. According to the data collected till now, approx. 1,00,000 Sheesham trees costing Rs. one crore have dried up. Farmers are frustrated due to this. I demand that an expert team of I.C.A.R. and also experts from Environment and forest department should be sent to Bihar to save the Sheesham trees from drying up. It has been stated that this disease has been caused due to water logging. I would request the Government to make arrangements for the proper drainage of the water. Some proposals of projects of State Government are pending with the Centre. Centre is not willing to implement these projects. Therefore, the pending matters of water drainage should be cleared in the public interest and to help the State Government.

Jansatta which is a leading newspaper of India has printed it in bold letters. ...*(Interruptions)* There is Research Institute of Forest department at Dehradoon. Environmentalists and experts from I.C.A.R. should be sent to detect this disease and preventing measures should be taken to stop it. People whose trees have been ruined, should be given compenstion according to the provision made by the Government for the loss due to the natural calamities.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun) : The life span of the bridge on Chamari Nalla situated at the sixth or seventh kilometer of the National Highway-25 enroute Orai to Kanpur has been completed 15 year back. This route being the national highway and Kanpur being industrial capital, this one is the only direct road for transportation of goods and for passenger traffic. The bridge can break down at any moment leading to a serious accident. In the recent past a bridge adjacent to the old one has been constructed by the department but it is of such a poor quality that even a tractor trolly with a load of 25 quintal cannot pass on it. I request the Government to investigation into the poor quality of material used in the construction of the bridge and construct a new one.

[English]

*SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNAIAH (Tumkur) : Mr Chairman Sir, the Post & Telgraph employees are agitating all over the country. Their demand is that their jobs have to be made permanent. In this regard a Committee known as Tiwari Committee was constituted sometime ago. In fact this Committee has already given its recommendations. But strangely so far no action has been taken by the Government of India. This is the cause for the Post & Telegraph employees to continue their agitation.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to look into this matter immediately and to sort out the problem expeditiously. I hope that the Centre would implement the recommendations of the Tiwari Committee without any further delay.

Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANKDURI, AVSM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, headquarters of Oil and Natural Gas Commission is situated in my constituency Dehradun. It is a matter of discussion from time to time that this headquarters is going to be shifted from there. There are two reasons for it–firstly O.N.G.C. reduces the strength of its employees without any planning. Secondly, a camp office of ONGC has been opened in New Delhi. I had raised this matter in the 10th Lok Sabha and an assurance was given that the same will not be transferred from there. But now-a-days this discussion has started again. Therefore, I request the Central Government (1) to clearly announce that the headquarters will not be transferred from Dehradun. (2) Camp office of ONGC at Dehradun is only financial burden. It should be removed from there so that its Chairman and other officers who have their office at Delhi should be transferred from there. (3) The number of officers working in camp office at Deharadun should be reduced and they should be sent to headqurter and that should be shifted from Deharadun.

[English]

14.00 hrs.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

An hon. Member from the CPI(M) correctly said that the maintenance of law and order is a State subject. I

* Translation of speech originally delivered in Kannada.

appreciate that but at the same time, the breakdown of law and order is also the responsibility of the State Government. Breakdown of law and order does not stand within the Constitution. I do not know whether they have got their constitution framed from Russia and China so that so long as they are in power, they can rule out all the Opposition in the State.

Article 355 says: 'It shall be the duty of the Union to protect every State against external aggression and internal disturbance. ...' The Central Government sent a team to the State of West Bengal in accordance with article 355 of the Constitution and we had not asked the Union Government to do anything. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY (Tripura West) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : There is no point of order during Zero Hour. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : This is not a matter to be raised during Zero Hour. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have allowed her. I will conduct the House and you are not to bother.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Under article 355 of the Constitution, if there is any disturbance, external or internal, even within the State, a Central team can be sent to assess the situation. We do not have any objection to this because 110 people have been killed, before and after the panchayat elections. Out of these, 70 people belonged to our Party. Around thirty people belonged to the minority communities; people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have also been killed. Women have been raped and brutally murdered. Four persons belonging to the RSP have been brutally murdered; four from the Forward Bloc, one from the SUCI, one from the CPI and fourteen from the BJP have been killed. Even some persons belonging to the CPI(M) could have been killed.

They appointed a team to investigate why the law and order situation was bad. They have admitted that the law and order situation was bad. My point is not to ask for the invocation of article 356 of the Constitution. When the State Government itself has admitted that the situation was bad–they appointed a team to have their own investigation—is it not the duty of the Centre to give protection to the people, especially the weaker sections?

We are in the Opposition in the State of West Bengal. Does it mean that they can carry on with these killings and that they would not allow our voice to be heard? I think, the Centre's decision to send the team was constitutional, justified and correct. I want the Central Government to investigate the matter. People belonging to the minority committees, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are being brutally murdered; women are raped and killed. The Central Government must investigate the matter. We want an inquiry by the CBI. The Government should rehabilitate the members of the affected families. I am asking the Government to help the poor people. I am asking for help from the Centre.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I am asking for help from the CPI(M) also. I am not asking for help for only one particular Party. One hundred and ten people, including women and those belonging to weaker sections have been brutally murdered. So, I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs through the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that the victims should get rehabilitation. This House should protect the democratic rights of hon. Members like us who belong to Opposition parties in the State. We do not have any protection there.

The ISI activities are increasing in West Bengal. A team has been deputed there to kill me. There is some activity from Bangladesh also. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs has got this report. I am not interested in myself. Let them kill me. I am interested in the poor people. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want the Government to do? You just make a specific request.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : We want a CBI inquiry. There is economic bankruptcy. You see the track record. Starting with the personal ledger scandal, there are a lot of other scandals. There is economic bankruptcy in the State.

Common people do not get protection. Is it not the duty of the Central Government to protect the people? Yesterday, some hon. Members of the Samata Party had said that the SP has given a letter saying that their lives are not secure. What is it going on? The Central Government is like parents or like a mother and the State Governments are like its children; the Central Government, like an umbrella, should protect the people of this country. We are not saying which political party one belongs to. We want the protection of the people. We want the Central Government to give justice to the people.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister wants to react.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Sir, I appreciate the intensity of the feeling of the hon. Member. I will definitely communicate her feelings to the hon. Home Minister.

[Translation]

DR. VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very serious incident. Kashi Hindu Vishvavidhalaya is the largest in Asia and second largest in the world. Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya founded this university with a dream for quality education. But the incidents which are happening there now-a-days are serious and are also shattering the dreams of Madan Mohan Malviya. Few days back, Manish Rai, a brilliant student of University was murdered there which has been publicised as suicide. Since this university comes directly under the control of Central Government, hence its administrative set up is also governed by Central Government. I would like to request the Central Government that earlier also two students were murdered there and the matter was investigated by CID. The report was submitted to the U.P. Government and the action is being take by the State Government in this regard. Because of such happenings, students and farmers of Northern India are on the path of agitation. Farmers are worried about the future of their children. Students are unable to assure their parents as to whether they return alive after completing their study or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please tell, what action should be taken in this regard?

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : I am coming to that. I demand that Manish Rai murder should be investigated by the CBI. Some effective steps should be taken to check such serious incidents. Otherwise an agitation might be started in Kashi Hindu Vishvavidalaya which may lead to nationwide student agitation.

It will force the students to move in other direction. Therefore Manish Rai Murder case should be investigated through C.B.I. so that a message of impartiality could be conveyed amongst the students.

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : A Central team should be sent to Uttar Pradesh to study and investigate the law and order situation there.

14.09 hrs.

[PROF. RITA VERMA *in the Chair*]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): Mr. Chairman Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Railway Minister towards a very serious matter. When Shri Nitish Kumar and Shri Ram Naik took charge as Railway Minister and State Railway Minister respectively, we were hopeful of the reforms in Railways. But the situation has worsened. Railway employees are serving unhygenic food in the trains in which lizards have been found. There is a news item in the newspaper dated 18th June that at least 80 people were taken to hospital after eating food contaminated by lizard. It is a matter of regret that officers of your department have asked the police not to register case in this regard. Fortunately, both the Minister are present here. Through you, I would like to know from them about the action being taken in this regard. Such type of incidents are happening at many places in India. While taking the House into confidence, whether the hon'ble Minister would like to ensure that such incidents will not be repeated and food will be cooked and served carefully. Whether any action will be taken against the people who are responsible for sending 80 people to the hospital. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon'ble Minister should say something about why people are fed with dishes laced with lizards.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Sir, it is a very serious matter.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (Chinur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very serious matter. The amount of scholarship given by the Government to Scheduled Casts and Scheduled Tribes students is so meagar that it defeats the very purpose for which it is given. It affects the education of such students. Therefore, keeping in view the price hike I demand that the Government should raise the amount of scholarship. This amount should be proportionate to the price rise so that scheduled casts and scheduled tribes people get the opportunity to study and progress.

Besides, I also demand from the Government to provide scholarship to students belonging to OBCs. as is given to scheduled Casts and scheduled tribes so that they may also make progress. I demand this much only.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Sir, we support this demand

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Sir, I would like to demand the Government that applications for the

telephone connections are pending for the last 6-7 years in Gujarat. This is due to the inadequate supply of telephone instruments to Gujarat. Especially in the villages of Bhavnagar and Ahmedabad district, applications of 50-100 people are still in the waiting list. Moreover, no interest is being paid on the deposit money paid with the applications. Village people are seen in rage due to this. I demand that telephone exchange instrument given to states should also be provided to Gujarat also. Special attention should be paid to be Bhavnagar and Ahmedabad districts which have been deprived of telephones. Telephone connections are always provided in urban areas however rural areas have always been neglected. Therefore, I gain request the Government that more and more telephone connections should be provided in villages and waiting list should be cleared early and interest should be paid on the deposit money to satisfy the people.

[English]

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANSHI (Mangaldai) : Madam, I want to raise a serious matter which took place in my constituency, Magnaldai in Assam. I want protection and security for the women of Assam.

On the 16th June, one Shrimati Lilawati Baisha wife of Shri Dharani Baisha, a teacher, was raped by a group of Army personnel along with ten others. Shrimati Baisha is still in the hospital of the district headquarters.

On 12th June, a group of Army personnel had also raped Shrimati Purnima Deka wife of Shri Tileshar Keka in village Gopalpur of district Dorang in my constituency. She is also still hospitalised in the hospital of district headquarters of Dorang.

A young boy, Shri Podum Kumar Nath, middle school teacher, agenda about 28 years, was brought by the Army Camp at Duni.

MR. CHAIRMAN : These are matters to be raised in the State Assembly.

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANSHI : Madam, the Army personnel are involved.

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : These are matters concerning atrocities on women. It is not a State matter. You are a champion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know that you are trying to help him.

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANSHI : The young boy, Podum Kumar Nath, was brought to the Army Camp of Duni in the district of Dorang on 4th June. He is missing from the Army Camp. The High Court of Guwahati directed the Army Camp to hand over Shri Nath to the nearest Polices Station but they failed to do so. The Government of Assam has also failed to do its duty.

I want, through you, that the families of the victims should be given compensation. Shri Podum Kumar Nath should also be handed over physically to his parents.

I want that the atrocities on women should be stopped. The law and order situation has collapsed in Assam. The peace and amity among the people of Assam has already been ruined.

SHRI KHARABELLA SWAIN (Balasore) : Madam, there is a case of Bottling Plant set up by the Indian Oil Corporation near Balasore in the State of Orissa. Two days back, due to the negligence of the Bottling Plant authorities, a gas tanker started developing a leak while it was being unloaded. A panicky situation was created in the nearby area. The people in that area virtually fled from their villages. While they found that this was an impending disaster, they fled. The situation was brought under control with a lot of difficulty.

I appeal to the Government of India to conduct an inquiry into this issue and punish the defaulting officers. The necessary preventive measures should also be taken so that such a near calamitous situation does not take place in future.

MR. CHAIRMAN : 'Zero Hour' is over. Now, Matters under Rule 377.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, it is enough.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Today, Zero hour continued for quite a long time. List of the Members to speak has been exhausted. I have called all the Members. Shri Ramdasji, you always get the opportunity to speak. You please sit down, you will get an opportunity to speak next time.

[English]

Enough is enough. Now, Matters under Rule 377. Shri Janardan Prasad Misra. It is an endless thing.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramdas, you have always cooperated with me, I will give you the opportunity to speak next time.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please cooperate.

14.19 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

(i) Need to set up a Sugar Mill at Sitapur in U.P.

SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA (Sitapur) : Though with a view to encourage the setting up of industries the government is giving many concessions and now it is not even necessary to take licence for many industries, yet it is not known why the sugar industry is not being kept licence–Free whereas with the setting up of sugar industries the farmers are benefited the most. It has been seen that where licence is issued to set up sugar industry the industry is not set up immediately there. For instance, in 1992 a licence was issued to set up a sugar mill in Behata and Reusa in Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh. But the said mill has not been set up so far. As a result of this the farmers of the area have to suffer a lot and as they do not have any other source of livelihood, they are on the verge o starvation

Therefore, I would urge the Central Government that keeping in view the interest of farmers the sugar industry should be made licence free and the said sugar mill in Sitapur district should be set up expeditiously. Necessary instructions in this regard should be given to the concerned department so that the problems of the farmers of the area could be resolved.

(ii) Need to provide adequate Funds for completion of Irrigation Projects of Madhya Pradesh

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the inter state irrigation project, State Irrigation Project and the proposed irrigation project of Madya Pradesh government like Bhaisajhal, Aagar diversion, half diversion, Arpa project, Khadiya dam, Ghogra diversion and in inter state projects, the Ban Sagar and Indira Sagar which will give irrigation facility to other states whereas state projects will provide adequate facilitates to state districts and specified regions for irrigating Kharif and Rabi crops. The Central Government should sanction the project proposed by State Government and release aid for the same so that farmers may get irrigation facility and they may prosper. The government should also provide additional assistance for the schemes which are incomplete.

(iii) Need to improve the functioning of Telephones in Vidisha, Raisen and Sehore Districts of Madhya Pradesh

SHRI SHIVARAJ SINGH CHAUHAN (Vidisha) : The telephone system in Vidisha, Raisen and Sehore districts of Madhya Pradesh is not functioning. STD facility is often out of order. Telephones are not being provided in rural areas. No action is being taken by the officers of the departments even after several complaints.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to take immediate steps by formulating an Action Plan with a view to streamline the telephone system.

(iv) Need to provide adequate Funds to State Government of Himachal Pradesh for channelisation of Rivers in Solan District with a view to checking Severe Erosion caused by them

SHRI K.D. SULTANPUR (Shimla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in my constituency in Himachal Pradesh many rivers originate. During the monsoon season, there is lot of soil erosion when these rivers are flooded. Last year due to heavy rains in Chandgaon a power project on the sub-divisional road in district Shimla (H.P.) suffered heavy damage and many people lost their lives. Even the police station, high school and shops were destroyed and all the police staff and other shopkeepers who were present there, died in flood. This condition continued for many days due to which good cultivable land of landlords was also washed away and the farmers had to suffer loss to the tune of crores of rupees. The condition of roads has deteriorated. Due to soil erosion, roads are closed and even bridges have been destroyed. This year also there were floods in Bata river and Giri river in Sirmour and Valda rivers and Gambar river in Solan. These rivers should be channelised and measures like planting trees be taken on war footing with a view to stopping soil erosion. The roads of the routes on which bus, truck etc. were plying, require more funds for metalling them.

Therefore, I would urge that the central government should direct the state government to complete these works and provide adequate funds for this purpose.

(v) Need to Ensure that Private Hospitals provide Medical Facilities to the Poor in Return for the Commissions given to them by the Government

[English]

DR. BEATRIX D'SOUZA (Nominated) : Big private hospitals all over the country get several facilities and concessions from the Government in return for reservation of 10 per cent of the beds for the poor. However, even hospitals which were earlier started to perpetuate some charity, now deny admission to the poor.

The Government should insist on these big hospitals honouring the agreement to provide latest sophisticated medical care and treatmont to the poor. Action should be taken against erring hospitals.

(vi) Need to Ensure that States Implementing Family Planning Programme do not Suffer due to Delimitation of Parliamentary Constituencies on Population basis.

DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA (Peddapalli) : Andhra Pradesh has achieved excellent targets in Family Planning alongwith a few other States. It helps India in many ways. If the delimitation is done on population basis, Andhra Pradesh and other States which have vigorously implemented Family Planning Programme will have lesser number of seats in Parliament while the States which have more population will get more number of seats in Parliament. It is contrary to the policy of rewarding States for implementing Family Planning Programme.

It will be an irony if States which *add* to the National problem of population get more representation in Parliament.

So, I submit that the matter should be given proper thought.

(vii) Need for Early completion of National Highway Between Darbhanga and Farbisganj

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of government towards Darbhanga-Farbisganj national highway. This road runs from Bareili (Uttar Pradesh) to Assam. The road from Darbhanga to Farbisganj is yet to be constructed. The traffic between the Northern Bihar and the north-east region passes from this very road. Several difficulties are being faced in managing the smooth flow of traffic due to non-completion of national highway between Darbhanga and Farbisganj.

I request the government to take up immediate construction of this national highway which is about 200 km in length. The government has already taken a decision to get it constructed but the work in this regard has not commenced.

14.2 hrs

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Third Report

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : I beg to present the third Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

14.30 hrs

BUDGET (RAILWAYS), 1998-99

AND

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS) 1998-99*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1998-99 for which four hours have been recommended.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (Railways) for 1998-99 have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved.

Motion moved:

> **"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund of India, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1999, in respect of the heads of Demands interred in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 16."**

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

List of Demands for Grants (Railways for 1998-99 submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of the Demand	Amount of Demand for Grants on Account voted by the House on 25.3.98	Amount of Demand submitted to Vote of the House
1	2	3	4
1.	Railway Board	12,22,93,000	24,45,87,000
2.	Miscellaneous Expenditure (General)	57,93,21,000	115,49,99,000
3.	General Superintedence and Services on Railways	432,89,33,000	868,17,67,000
4.	Repairs and Maintenance of Permanent Way and Works	857,05,00,000	1751,03,99,000
5.	Repairs and Maintenance of Motive Power	475,63,34,000	937,21,69,000
6.	Repairs and Maintenance of Carriages and Wagons	870,54,82,000	1687,08,64,000
7.	Repairs and Maintenance of Plant and Equipment	448,73,53,000	917,94,06,000
8.	Operating Expenses - Rolling Stock and Equipment	688,53,88,000	1729,75,76,000
9.	Operating Expenses - Traffic	2022,31,99,000	3061,86,97,000
10.	Operating Expenses - Fuel	1733,13,49,000	3356,61,99,000
11.	Staff Welfare and Amenities	330,15,19,000	668,50,37,000
12.	Miscellaneous Working Expenses	415,26,46,000	844,32,91,000
13.	Provident Fund, Pension and other Retirement Benefits	1338,53,00,000	975,28,21,000
14.	Appropriation to Funds	2088,33,33,000	4268,53,10,000
15.	Dividend to General Revenues, Repayment of loans taken from General Revenues and Amortization of Over-Capitalization	8,49,89,000	1768,76,11,000
16.	Assets-Acquisition, Construction and Replacement		
	Revenue	15,00,00,000	30,00,00,000
	Other Expenditure–		
	Capital	3565,53,42,000	7452,06,85,000
	Railway Funds	1496,82,00,000	3754,19,00,000

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki) : Thank you, Madam Chairperson, for calling me to participate in this discussion.

Participating in the discussion on Demands for Grants (Railways) year after year has become a very disappointing experience for we people who come from the southern parts of the country. On many occasions in the pst, this House has witnessed our agony, our struggle to get our due share of railway development. However, it has been falling on deaf ears every year. This year, during the initial stage of the discussion, we have raised our apprehensions, our anxieties and the long-pending demands of our State in the matter of railway development.

These demands have been discussed in the Standing Committee of Railways. The Report of the Committee which has been presented to the House is without much positive recommendation. We anticipated that under the Chairpersonship of Kumari Mamata Banerjee at least, some recommendations which can alter the whole situation in a very positive manner would come. In spite of our confidence in our sister, unfortunately, the report which has come before the House is without much recommendation.

However, the fact remains that the Railway Minister can take solace by saying that he is presenting a Budget with which he himself is not satisfied because there is no budgetary support for the Railways. If there is no budgetary support for the Railways, which is a public service organisation, it is almost impossible for any Railway Minister to satisfy the aspirations and demands of the people from various parts of the country. Since there were substantial increases in the allocations for many Departments this time, we expected that this time the railways will get its due share. However, I do not find any concrete suggestion in the report for any additional allocation. So, it is most likely that the Demands for Grants (Railways) will be passed as it is without much hope to many of the States. I am not going into the details in general terms because I know that the time is very limited. I would confine myself to some burning problems of the State where I come from.

One of the most prestigious projects of the Indian Railways since Independence is the Konkan Railways. It has recently been inaugurated by the Prime Minister. It can be considered as one of the prestigious symbols of Indian Railways. I take this opportunity to congratulate all the people who are involved in the implementation of this big project. This is the most important work of railway development that has taken place in the country after Independence. It is a very prestigious project which we could complete. It runs into hundreds of kilometres and passes through the most difficult terrain.

Madam, you are aware that the State of Kerala is also a participant in the Konkan Railway Corporation, along with four other States which are benefited by this Railway. We were shareholders of this Corporation when it was formed. However, Madam, the only State which is not touched by the Konkan Railway is the State of Kerala. We are a Poor State but we had spent Rs. 50 crore as our share capital in the Konkan Railway. Konkan Railway passes through all the other participant States. It has come up to Mangalore and stopped there. We are far away from Mangalore. Yet, our State has contributed Rs. 50 crore towards the share capital of Konkan Railway in the hope that the Ministry of Railways will see to it that further South, that is beyond Mangalore, the railway line will be doubled. We expected that since we are investing in the share capital of the Konkan Railway Corporation, by the time the Konkan Railway reaches Mangalore, the railway line towards South will be doubled up to Trivandrum to make our participation effective and also to enable the State of Kerala to avail the benefit of the project. Unfortunately, this railway line has stopped at Mangalore and no effort is being made for the doubling of railway line further from Mangalore to Shoranur and further up to Trivandurm.

In our State, the work of doubling of railway line is going at a snail's pace. There are three or four segments—between Trivandrum and Quilon, between Quilon and Shoranur and between Shoranur and Mangalore. Provisions provided for these lines in every year's Railway Budget is very meagre. It is not even sufficient for a few kilometers of railway line. At the present rate, to complete the doubling line from Mangalore to Shoranur, a distance of 350 kms., we need a minimum of Rs. 600 crore. If the Keralites have to get the benefit of the railway line running up to Mangalore, it has to come at least up to Shoranur. What is provided, as the hon. Minister know, in this year's Budget is that the total provision for the old railway developmental work including everything provided under various heads is only Rs. 100 crore. Whereas Rs. 600 crore is needed for the doubling of the line. For such an important line, what is provided is a meagre amount.

I know the hon. Minister will give a very satisfactory explanation in regard to what is provided in the last year's Budget and other aspects. This year also the same is being provided. Hon. Railway Ministers are coming only from Bihar. What do we do? Kerala is a poor State. Even this time, the BJP Government did not, even for a courtesy, make at least one BJP M.P. from Kerala a Minister in the Central Government. So, the neglect and the kind of treatment which is being meted out everyday is only increasing. I know that Shri Nitish Kumar is very considerate towards the development of railways in our State. But wishful thinking alone will not do.

Take what is provided this year and just multiply it with the total requirement or the total mileage which is to be doubled, it will take not less than ten years. If this is the experience we are meted out, after investing the scarce resources, which the State Government is having, in this Corporation, I have to say that this is a very very disappointing experience. Probably, there were assurances—the hon. Minister can verify—in this House itself. On a number of occasions, it was said when the Konkan Railway is commissioned up to Mangalore, the Railways will see to it that the line up to Shoranur is also doubled. All these promises are now not even being remembered by the subsequent Ministers. So, we are being faced with a very peculiar situation. Entire development of railways in the State is totally being blocked. We are not given our due share. This is a very urgent need. I hope the hon. Minister will find some way out.

He was kind enough to call the MPs from Kerala for a discussion. He said that at least during the Supplementary Demands or on some occasion in this House he will come before the House with adequate suggestions to meet our demands. I want to place this before the House and before the hon. Minister that the long-pending demand of the State—a State which has got the feeling that we are being neglected in the matter of development of railways—this one aspect of doubling of the railways from Mangalore to Shoranur may kindly be undertaken with a time-limit. At least in the next two years, if sufficient provision is made, it is possible to complete the work.

During the British days, they have acquired the land. So, widening the railway lines—be it doubling or trebling or four lines—is not a problem. Sufficient land is available. So, there is not problem of land acquisition. It is only the will power of the Minister and the sufficient provision in the budget that can satisfy our problem. Kindly treat this as an urgent matter. The carving of a Government of a State is being neglected continuously in the many Railway Budgets. We are still confident in spite of all that has happened. With the young and dynamic Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar, we hope that he will come to our rescue.

Madam, Kerala is a State where people are in the habit of travelling with tickets. You know, there are many places where people do not buy tickets to travel in trains. We are distributed all over the country. Our people are there in large numbers. Madam, in your constituency, and in various parts of the country we live. Our culture is such that we spread out to various parts of the country and become part and parcel of wherever we go or wherever we work. A large number of people settle down in various other parts of the country. They also find out that it is impossible to get a ticket to go back to their State. We cannot make a booking even two or three months in advance, be it from Bombay or from Bhilai or from any other place. It is not possible to book tickets two or three months in advance. The number of trains running in that route has become less and many of the trains are running to full capacity.

Some of the prestigious trains like Rajdhani Express are running to full capacity. The hon. Minister has said that they were going to increase the number of bogies in the trains so that at least 25 per cent people can be carried more. It is a very good idea. Optimum utilisation of the Railway rolling stock, track and all this is a very good idea. The hon. Minister has touched the right point. But what is happening in the trains which are running in the southern parts of the country where they can hold 25 wagons, they are still running with 12 or 13 wagons. So, it is a almost impossible to travel in that area and travelling in train is a nightmare with which we are always allowed to live with this kind of a difficult situation.

We have, on a number of times, raised the issue of electrification of Railways. We are one State where hydel power is available. It is the cheapest form of power in the country. The State Government has offered that they would give sufficient power for the Railways at a concessional rate for a period of time for electrification of the Railways.

Madam, it is a very small State. If you start from south in the morning you can reach in a car in five or six hours in the northern part, it is such a small State. Electrification of the Railway line from north to south has been a pending issue for the last many years but electrification also is going at a snail's pace. Something is provided in the Budget every year but that is a very meagre amount. Madam, you know that cost escalation is going up every year. So, what is provided this year is not even sufficient to meet the fiscal target of what we had achieved last year. If we had achieved hundred kilometres last year, with the same amount, this year we cannot do that hundred kilometres because cost escalation is there.

What is happening is that even electrification which has been promised on a number of occasions is virtually stalled or whatever is provided this year is not sufficient to meet the requirement.

Madam, we have been always and during every Railway Budget tentatively been listening to the Railways Minister until he finishes his last word to say that there is a new train or some extension or something like that is there. But in spite of our best hope and waiting, this

time also it was a disappointing experience. We were not provided any new train. Some extensions were made but they were very minimum extensions and that is not going to serve any purpose.

So, a new train from Delhi, a new train from Mumbai while passing through large number of places where large number of Keralite population is there should be provided where railway travel is the only source for them. This time also in the Railway Budget, we were not given our due share regarding new trains, electrification and doubling, etc.

In addition to that, I come from a constituency where there is no train at all. Even for the school children to go and see a train, they have to travel at least hundred kilometres. So, I thought that at least in my constituency Idukki—high ranges of Kerala and Madam as you know that it is the most beautiful part of the State where Munar is there, cardamom plantation is their—a train should be provided. We do not have a railway line at all in that place.

I had given a suggestion and the hon. Railway Minister had accepted that they would do a survey. I am happy that from Madurai to Kottayam a survey is being announced for the train for which I am grateful to the hon. Railway Minister. But I am reminded of the famous saying or the quotation that the former Railway Minister, Prof. Madhu Dandavate said that 'Where there is no Railways, there is a survey'. So, survey is always a mirage. it may come. It may not come.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Where there is survey, there is no Railways!

14.44 hrs

CUT MOTIONS

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTARJEE (Bolpur) : I beg to move :

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1"

Failure of the Government to capitalise on the offer of the Government of West Bengal to contribute Rs. 25 crores during the year 1998-99 for the completion of the railway projects in West Bengal, as per priority indicated by the Government of West Bengal. C 53

"That the demand under the Head operating expenses—traffic be reduced by Rs. 100.'

Need to take expeditious steps to provide more EMU coaches for Calcutta Suburban Section. (78.)

"That the demand under the Head operating expenses—traffic be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to provide adequate railways services between Calcutta and Haldia which is a very important industrial area. (79.)

"That the demand under the Head operating expenses—traffic be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take immediate steps to introduce super fast train between Howrah and Haldia. (80.)

"That the demand under the Head operating expenses—traffic be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take immediate steps for rerouting of Assam-Rajdhani Express *via* Calcutta. (81.)

"That the demand under the Head operating expenses—traffic be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to provide additional trains on the Sahebgunj Loop Section between Howrah and Rampurhat. (82.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take steps for introduction of a super-fast express train between Howrah and New Delhi. (159.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to run 2303/2304, 2381/2382, 2301/2302 and Saraighat express daily. (160.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take steps for introduction of Shatabdi Express between Calcutta and New Jalpaiguri and between Calcutta and Bhubaneswar. (161.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take steps for introduction of passenger service between Asansol and Rampurhat. (162.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take steps to increase the frequency of Asansol-Barddhaman and Purulia-Barddhaman sections by providing more EMU rakes. (163.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take steps to introduce more trains from Calcutta to N.E. region. (164.)

"That the demand under the head assets–acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take expeditious steps for completion and conversion of Barddhaman-Katwa, Ahmedpur-Katwa, BDR line and Siliguri-New Jalpaiguri-Coochbehar line into broad-gauge. (165.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take expeditious steps for the completion of double line between Ashoknagar and Bongaon. (166.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take expeditious steps for the completion of Lakshikantapur-Namkhana railway line. (167.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take expeditious steps for the completion of electrification and doubling of Krishnanagar-Lalgola section of Eastern railway. (168.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take expeditious steps for the modernisation of Himalayan Railway in Darjeeling (169.)

Need to take expeditious steps for the completion of the Balurghat-Eklakhi line. (170.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to increase the frequency of Calcutta suburban railway service. (171.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take expeditious steps for completion of the doubling and electrification of Khana-Sainthia Section of Eastern Railway. (172.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take expeditious steps for the construction of double line and electrification of Andal-Saithia section of Eastern Railway. (173.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take immediate steps for construction of double line between Asansol and Burnpur Section of S.E. Railway. (174.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take expeditious steps for the completion of Dankuni Goods Terminal. (175.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take expeditious steps for the completion of EMU Car-shed at Asansol. (176.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take expeditious steps for completion of double line between New Farakka and New Jalpaiguri. (177.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take expeditious steps for the completion of double line between Sheoraphuli and Tarakeswar (178.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take expeditious steps for construction of new railway line from Tarakeswar to Bishnupur *via* Arambagh. (179.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take expeditious steps for the construction of new railway line from Mecheda to Raghunathbari under S.E. Railway. (180.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take steps for construction of double line and electrification between Katwa and Azimganj of Eastern Railway. (181.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take expeditious steps to connect all the State Capitals of N.E. States under Railway net-work. (182.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to extend Calcutta Metro from Tollygunj to Garia and from Dum Dum to Barrackpore. (198.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to extend Circular Railway to Majherhat and for doubling and electrification of the entire stretch of Circular Railway. (199.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to develop passenger Terminal facility at Shalimar. (200.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to expedite completion of rail line between Digha and Tamluk. (201.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to expedite completion of Howrah Amta and Howrah-Siakhala rail lines. (202.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to expedite doubling and electrification of tracks in Barasat-Hasnabad section (203.)

SHRI ANAND PATHAK (Derjeeling) : I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to provide additional super fast trains between New Jalpaiguri and Calcutta. (54.)

"That the demand under the head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to utilise vast chunk of surplus railways land in Siliguri Municipal areas. (55.)

"That the demand under the head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to relinquish surplus railway land in favour of State Government orgnisations and Siliguri Municipal Corporation for development works. (56.)

"That the demand under the head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need for doubling of rail lines in North Bengal. (57.)

"That the demand under the head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to replace old and dilapidated coaches by new ones in all North Bengal bound trains. (58.)

"That the demand under the head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to improve the condition of railway tracks and to expedite provision of new tracks between Malda and Cooch Behar. (59.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to maintain punctuality of Darjeeling mail. (185.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to maintain punctuality of 5657UP/5658Dn. Kanchanjunga Express and 3141UP/3142Dn. Teesta Torsa Express. (186.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce a New Surperfast train between New Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar in north Bengal. (187.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to remove the rail gate and also to divert the rail line within Siliguri town station which is causing traffic bottle neck. (188.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to modernise Darjeeling Himalayan Railway. (189.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduced Rail Service in Sikkim. (190.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce subsidy on freight on all essential commodities. (191.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce a super-fast train between New Jalpaiguri and Asansol. (192.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce a Shatabdi Express between Calcutta and New Jalpaiguri. (193.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to provide fly-over at Siliguri town station. (204.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to expedite conversion of metre gauge to broad gauge of Alipur Dur and Siliguri section. (205.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take steps for setting up of Divisional Office at Siliguri. (224.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to connect Siliguri with other parts of the country with broad gauge line. (225.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take expeditious steps for conversion of New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri NG line into BG. (226.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to originate passenger trains from New Jalpaiguri to Mumbai and other parts of the country. (227.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce more passenger trains from New Jalpaiguri to Guwahati. (228.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take steps to connect all State Capital of N.E. States with rail network. (229).

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take steps to convert all the rakes into air-brake under N.E. Railway. (230.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take steps to expand railway network in the district of Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar, Uttar Dinajpur and Dakshin Dinajpur in West Bengal. (231.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take steps to connect Siliguri railway station with computerised reservation system with Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Secunderabad. (232.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take steps to provide computer reservation system at New Jalpaiguri railway station. (233.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take steps to bifurcate the Teesta-Torsha Express train into two and originate one from Haldibari and another from Alipurduar. (234.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce Shatabdi Express between New jalpaigur and Calcutta. (235.)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : I beg to move:

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to complete the development of passenger terminal facility by S.E. Rly. at Shalimar (60.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce a daily superfast train between Sealdah and New Jalpaiguri. (61.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need for early completion of Tamluk-Digha railway line by S.E. Railways. (62.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need for early completion of Banskura-Damodar railway line conversion. (63.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to expedite the work of electrification of Barasat-Hasnabad section. (64.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take up conversion work between Barddhaman and Katwa line. (65.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to improve punctuality of sub-urban Railway service at Howrah and Sealdah sections. (66.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to replace all overaged EMU coaches at Howrah and Sealdah Division of E. Railways and Kharagpur Division of S.E. Railways. (67.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to provide adequate modern passenger facilities at all the stations in Howrah, Sealdah and Kharagpur Divisions. (68.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to increase the frequency of EMU services in Howrah, Sealdah and Kharagpur Divisions of E. Railways and S.E. Railways. (69.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce EMU trains with 12 bogies by E. Railways and S.E. Railways in West Bengal. (70.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to provide facilities particularly to female passengers at various stations in West Bengal. (71.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take up conversion work of Siliguri-New Jalpaiguri Coochbehar Section by N.E. Railways. (72.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need for early completion of Laxmikantapur-Namkhena line by E. Railways. (73.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to expedite the work of Ashoknagar-Bongaon railway line by Eastern Railways. (74.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take up electrification and doubling of Krishnanagar-Lalgola line. (75.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take up conversion work between Katwa-Ahmedpur railway line. (76.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take up doubling between New Jalpaiguri and Frakka railway line. (77.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to modernise Darjeeling Himalayan Railway. (83.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to complete rail line between Balurghat-Eklakhi. (84.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to provide stoppage of one Orissa bound superfast train at Bauria station of South Eastern railway. (85.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to increase number of EMU trains between Howrah and Bargachia under South Eastern Railway. (86.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to increase speed of EMU local train between Howrah and Bargachia section of South Eastern Railway. (87.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce EMU local train service between Kharagpur and Sealdah via Dankuni jointly run by South Eastern Railway and Eastern Railway. (88.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to stop police repression against railway Hawkers at Howrah, Seaklah and other stations in the country (137.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to provide computerised reservation facility at Uluberia station of S.E. Railway. (138.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to complete and repair approach roads at Badria, Chengail, Phuleswar, Uluberia and other stations under Khargpur division of S.E. Rly. (139.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to construct a metalled road from Beltala to Paschim Bauria on North-side of the down line connecting both sides of Chengail station in S.E. Railways. (140.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to construct a bridge on Gaurignga canal under S.E. Railways. (141.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to develop home stations of Members of Parliament as model stations. (142.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to provide necessary passengers amenities in Howrah-Bargachia section of S.E. Railways. (143.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to construct a new flag station at Chackasi between Bauria and Chengail stations of S.E. Rlways. (144.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to hand-over the abandoned land from Bauria station to Lawrence Jute Mill, to Uluberia municipality for construction of a road. (145)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to issue licences and identity cards to all railway hawkers. (146.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to reduce the increased fare of Season Tickets for suburban commuters. (147.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to complete Howrah Amta Broad gauge line under S.E. Railways. (154.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to construct fly-over at Mourigram, Ramrajatola and Bagnan under S.E. Railways. (155.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to complete third and fourth railway line between Howrah and Kharagpur under S.E. Railways. (156.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to provide funds for extension of Calcutta Metro upto Garia. (157.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need for extension of Calcutta Circular Railway to Majherhat and to provide funds for doubling the circular railway line. (158.)

SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH (Tamluk) : I beg to move:

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce a super-fast train like Shatabdi Express with A.C. coaches between Howrah and Haldia. (183.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to provide facility for booking of betel leaves at Mecheda and Panskura. (184.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to construct new rail line between Mecheda to Raghunath Bari under S.E. Railways. (194.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to construct double line between Panskura and Haldia under S.E. Railways. (195.)

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to construct road over bridge at Ranichak and Durgachak. (196).

"That the demand under the head assets-acquisition, construction and replacement be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to provide computer reservation facility at Haldia (197.)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : I beg to move :

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to provide adequate passenger amenities for pilgrims at Tarakeswar Railway Station. (206.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to pay Tarakeswar Municipality surcharge collected from pilgrims ticket at Tarakeswar Railway Station. (207.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to provide Computerised Reservation Counter at Tarakeswar Station. (208).

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to construct new railway line from Tarakewswar to Arambagh. (209.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to set up a Yatri Niwas at Tarakeswar Railway Station for pilgrims. (210.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to construct double line between Sheoraphuli and Tarakeswar. (211.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to consider the proposal of Government of West Bengal for contribution of Rs. 25 crores for expansion of railway network in West Bengal. (212.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to take expeditious steps for construction of double line between Bandel and Katwa (213).

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce EMU service between Bandel and Sealdah (214.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to provide stoppage of Ganadevata Express at Bandel. (215.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to run Uttar Banga Express daily as a super-fast train. (216.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce another super-fast train between Howrah and New Delhi (217.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to construct an over-bridge at Kamarkundu and Mogra Stations. (218.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to replace old EMU coaches in Howrah and Sealdah Divisions of Eastern Railway. (219.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to reduce hike in the price of platform ticket. (220).

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to reduce hike in Sleeper Class fares. (221.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to connect end section of all platforms of Howrah Station with over-bridge leading to Howrah Bus Stand. (222)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to run suburban trains in Howrah and Sealdah at an interval of 5 minutes each during peak hours. (223.)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I beg to move:

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce passenger service between Asansol and Rampurhat. (236.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to increase coaches of Bokaro Shatabdi Express and provide its stoppage at Raniganj. (237.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to provide stoppage of train No. 2421/2422 at Kharagpur. (238.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce a super-fast Express train between Howrah and New Delhi in view of the increase in the number of passengers. (239.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to run an Express train between Sealdah and Lalgola daily. (240.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to run train Numbers 2303/2304 and 2381/2382 daily. (241.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to run EMU service between Bankura and Asansol and Bankura and Purulia. (242).

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce more trains between Calcutta and North East. (243)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to run Saraighat Express (3045/3046) daily and to convert the rake into air-brake. (244)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to attach 3 tier A.C. coaches with all N.E. Region trains. (245.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to run Shipra Express (9305/9306) daily. (246)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce shuttle service between Barasat and Bongaon. (247.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to change the route of Guwahati Rajdhani Express and run it through Calcutta. (248.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to run EMU trains between Asansol and Barddhaman with frequency of 45 minutes. (249.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce an Express train between Barakar and Howrah to cope up the passenger volume. (250.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to run an Express train between Howrah and Ranchi *via* Durgapur-Raniganj-Asansol. (251.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce a super-fast train between Asansol and New Jalpaiguri. (252.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to run Patna-Puri Express daily. (253.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce a super-fast Express train between Howrah and Mangalore. (254.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to increase the frequency of Howrah-Trivandrum Express Train No. 6323/6324 and to run it as a super-fast train to reduce the running time. (255.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce another Express train between Howrah and Puri. (256.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to run train Number 2019/2020 daily. (257)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce a super-fast Express train between Kharagpur and Amritsar. (258.)

'That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to run Uttar Banga Express daily and to reduce its running time. (259.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce a direct super-fast train between Howrah and Bikaner. (260.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to run train Number 3073/3074 daily and to run it as a super-fast train to reduce the running time (261.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to run train Number 5049/5050 daily instead of weekly. (262.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to run Patna Rajdhani Express (train Number 2309/2310) daily and to simultaneously withdraw the service of train Number 2305/2306. (263.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to run train Number 2301/2302 daily and to provide its stoppage at Asansol. (264.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to provide stoppage of Ganadevata Express at Bandel. (265).

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce direct Express train from Howrah to Darbhanga and Chhapra. (266.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce direct train service from Howrah to Rajkot-Gandhidham-Porbandar *via* Durgapur-Asansol-Mughal Sarai-Agra. (267.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce an Express train between Howrah and Jhajha. (268.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce Shatabdi Express from Howrah to Bhubaneswar/New Jalpaiguri, Patna and Mughal Sarai. (269).

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to run Guwahati Rajdhani Express daily and to attach more coaches with it. (270).

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to attach eight 3 tier A.C. coaches with Calcutta Rajdhani Express throughout the year. (271.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to attach 2 tier A.C. coach with train Number 3007/3008 from Howrah. (272).

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce a super-fast trian between Howrah and Jabalpur. (273).

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to increase the frequency of Purulia-Barddhaman EMU service. (274)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce EMU service between Bandel and Sealdah. (275.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to increase the frequency of Barddhaman-Sealdah Howrah-Katwa EMU service. (276.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to run EMU services between Bandel and Barddhaman/Katwa/Ranaghat/Kalyani. (277)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to start EMU service from Khana. (278.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to increase the frequency of EMU service from Memari and Pandooah. (279.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce a Shatabdi Express between Howrah and Haldia. (280.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce a super-fast train between Howrah and Amritsar. (281.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to increase the frequency of DMU services between Andal and Sainthia and Bardhhaman and Rampurhat. (282.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to extend Calcutta Metro from Tollyganj to Garia and Dum Dum to Barrackpore. (283)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to complete Calcutta Circular Railway from Princeghat to Majherhat. (284)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to take up electrification and doubling the entire stretch to Circular Railway. (285.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to develop Passenger Terminal Facility at Shalimar for South Eastern Railways. (286.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to set up Goods Terminal at Dankuni. (287.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to improve the Calcutta Suburban Railway services by increasing the frequency of trains and to provide new EMU coaches. (288.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to introduce EMU trains with 12 coaches in Calcutta Suburban Service. (289.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to introduce a super-fast train between Howrah and Haldia. (290.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to take expeditious steps for completion of Tamluk-Digha, Howrah-Amta, Howrah-Siakhala, Lakshikantapur-Namkhana, Balurghat-Eklakhi railway projects in West Bengal by allocating more funds. (291.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to take expeditious steps for completion of electrification of Ranaghat—Gede, Ranaghat—Bongaon, Krishnanagar—Lalgola, Adra—Midnapore sections by allocating more funds. (292)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to take steps or construction of double line between Asansol—Burnpur, Andal—Sainthia, Khana—

Rampurhat, Bandel—Azimganj, Ranaghat—Lalgola, Habra—Bongaon, Baruipur—Diamond Harbour, Barsat—Hasnabad, Ranaghat—Bongaon sections in West Bengal. (293.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to take expeditious steps for conversion of Barddhaman—Katwa, Ahmedpur—Katwa, Bankura Damodar River (BDR), Shantipur—Nabadwip Ghat, New Jalpaiguri—Siliguri, Siliguri—Guwahati and Barsoi—Radhikapur railway lines into broad gauge. (294)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to take expeditious steps for the electrification of Andal—Sainthia, Khana—Rampurhat, Maldah—New Jalpaiguri, Katwa—Azimganj, Barasat—Hasnabad sections in West Bengal. (295).

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to capitalise on the offer of the governemnt of West Bengal to contribute Rs. 25 crores during the year 1998-99 for the completion of the railway projects in West Bengal as per priority indicated by the Government of West Bengal. (296)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to provide additional train on the Sahebganj Loop Section between Howrah and Rampurhat (297)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to modernise the Himalayan Railway in Darjeeling for the tourists. (298.)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to provide better facilities in the entire Sahebganj Loop Section by introducing more trains with more frequency. (299)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to modernise Tikiapara Yard by providing flood lights welding plants, dock, platforms and washing system. (300)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to take steps for increasing the homing capacity of electric loco-sheds of Howrah (Bamungachi) and Asansol. (301)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to raise the level of platforms between Barakar and Khana and Asansol Railway stations for the benefit of senior citizens and children. (302)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to complete the construction of car-shed at Asansol for maintenance of EMU coaches. (303)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to connect all the State Capitals of Northern Eastern States by rail. (304)

"That the demand under the Head Railway Board be reduced to Re. 1."

Failure to modernise and expand Howrah Railway Station. (305)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : So, I hope that this new Minister will see to it that the survey of Madurai to Kottayam railway line is completed within a record time and steps are being taken to implement this long awaited dream of the people of the high ranges of Kerala.

The density of population being very high, the doubling of the Railway line has become very necessary. But the Railway officials are always finding some excuse to say that it is always treated as a double line. There is a line to Guruvayur, the Temple town of Kerala. But it is taken as a double line because there is a railway line parallel to it 30-40 kms. away. It is taken as a double line. By doubling of the railway line, this is not what we mean.

From Ernakulam to Kayanakulam *via* Alleppey there is a line and from Ernakulam to Kayanakulam *via* Kottayam there is a line. Now, this is taken as a double line by the Railways. Each sector needs doubling and this point is not being given sufficient attention to and new trains, electrification and doubling of the Railway lines are the most important things as far as the railway development of Kerala is concerned.

Madam, complaints are coming from various States and from various corners of this House that we are being given very old coaches, wagons and other things. Probably, the coaches which should be exhibited in some museums are still on the line. It is a mere providential thing that people are escaping from accidents. Still you can seen such old rolling-stocks. I think the Minister should pay a visit to South to see the oldest rolling-stocks in the country because you cannot see them in Bihar or in any other part of the country. Probably you have to come to South, to Kerala to see the original thing which was introduced when the railways were introduced by the Britishers in India. Such rolling-stocks are still there in Kerala. We are quite happy about that. We can be proud of our tradition but still we have to travel on that. It is the life of human being that is involved. I cannot even explain that because that much of vintage models are being run on the railway tracks there. Some consideration may be shown to us because we are continuously being neglected in competitive spirit by all the Railway Ministers. So this time that kind of a neglect will come to an end. The long-pending needs of the State of Kerala may kindly be considered favourably so that within the scope of the present Railway Budget, the Minister can do whatever he can. Of course, if there is a will, there is a way. If the Minister decides, then everything will come. The Minister has said in his Budget speech that this is the symbol of national integration. National integration means we have to satisfy all the States and their demands. So with reference to the problem of railway development, Kerala needs more attention and encouragement. So I would like to use this opportunity to invite the kind attention of the hon. Minister to the problem of railway development in Kerala.

I know modernisation of the Indian Railways is very much on the cards but because of financial constraints, whatever he may wish, he cannot implement it. We are still in a stone age as far as these things are concerned. When modernisation of railways is undergoing a sea change in many other countries, we are not privileged to have such facilities in the country. There are many things. Accidents have become a daily routine affair now-a-days. In fact, some very tragic and horrible accidents have taken place in our part of the country also. But what is happening today? What about the safety aspect of the railway? Something is being mentioned in the Budget. Budget speech is one thing. But is there any sufficient provisions for that?

I want to bring it to the notice of this House that once I made a suggestion. Some innovative group of engineers found out a new device by which even unmanned level crossings can be made safe. It is a new device which can be fitted on the railway track. Even in the unmanned level crossings, sufficient warning or alarm or bell can be given before the train comes. That kind of a device was invented by a group of engineers. I myself made presentation to one of the predecessors of the present Minister and explained the whole thing. I found there was no taker in Railways. They are not receptive to any new idea as to how to avoid accidents. The unmanned level crossings are large numbers in this country. Hundreds and thousands of unmanned level crossings are there in the country. The Railways may not be able to have guides in all the unmanned level crossings. The accidents in the unmanned level crossings are happening on a day-to-day basis. But even in such a situation, the Railways are not thinking seriously how the modern technology can be made use of to avoid these accidents.

I know that in the Railway Board's file, there are many suggestions. On such suggestion was made by me. But to my utter disappointment, after going from pillar to post for years together, we were not able to pursue. Some new ideas have to be received. New modern technology is to be utilised to avoid accidents. So, the safety aspect is not taken seriously by the Indian Railways. I think this is the most important aspect. Both safety and modernisation are very important aspects. This time also there is no dearth of increase in charges because we are a consumer State. Everything which is coming from outside are from far away places. So, transportation has become very, very costly. Our problem is that when there is any increase, we are the people who would be paying the maximum. The Minister may be saying that it is a moderate increase. We have to travel 2000 kilometers to come to Delhi. So, you please understand what 'moderate' means.

So, a moderate increase means that every passenger will have to shell out a handsome amount, not moderate amount. That has always been our fate. So, probably the increase in the railway fare does not justify the developmental projects which are presented in the Budget. So, I can understand if more charge is levied on people and there is sufficient developmental activity. When the Railway is not giving us anything new it is not justified. What is new in the Budget? If the Railway is giving us anything new, new lines, modernisation or anything, it is all right. But that kind of a situation is not there.

Every Railway Minister, I think, in the beginning will say that he does not want to put any burden on the common man and all those things. But finally when the fare is raised there is a substantial increase also. This time also there is a substantial increase. Especially we people who travel long distances are paying more, But

we are not getting the proportionate advantage after the increase. This is a major lacuna or a drawback I see in this year's Budget.

There are some pending issues over which in the past our hon. Minister also had shared his sentiments. This is about the Railway Protection Force, their association and their rights for forming an association. I do not blame this Minister at all because it has been done during the time of the Congress Government. I also agree. I am not blaming the present Railway Minister. But the freedom of the union or the association of the RPF is being taken away and this has been agitated in this House. Irrespective of party politics or affiliations people came out openly in this House supporting the cause of the RPF. Time and again assurances were given in this House that this issue would be considered favourably. But nothing is being mentioned this time. It may be an omission. But I am sure that the Minister is very much aware and conscious about this legitimate demand and we very fervently hope and expect that, in his reply speech and expect that he would make an announcement giving them some relief because it is a very long pending demand.

With these words, I would like to support this Budget but my conscience does not permit me to support it because we need more consideration. Looking at the face of our dear Minister i cannot even say that I am opposing the Budget also. I am in a dilemma. Kindly permit us to support this demand because I want to support, because as long as he is there we are hopeful and we are confident. I request him to give something during his reply speech so that we can happily support this Budget.

With these words I conclude my speech.

(Translation)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) : Madam Chairperson, I want to thank Minister of Railways Shri Nitish Kumar for acceeding to our long pending demand to dispense with the use of plastic and introducing earthen pots and leave plates (pattals) in the trains. I also want to thank him on behalf of artisans living in villages of India because these earthem pots (kullad) and dry leaves plates (pattals) are the handiwork of potters and gardeners living in villages. They were facing unemployment. Lakhs of people got employment once again due to this decision of the Ministry of Railways.

I want to say something pertaining to my constituency. I want to make a submission to the Minister of Railways. He has taken the charge of this ministry in a very difficult situation. The Ministry of Rail was derailed. But I do hope that he will do his best to bring back the railways to normalcy and very soon everything will be all right with the passage of time. But I do believe that Shri Nitish Kumar ji will do his best to bring back all those things to normal. In order to achieve these objectives he has carried out a number of raids and got many cases equipped by the vigilance. He has tried to check malpractices prevalent in reservation of tickets. He has also dissolved the Regional Recruitment Boards and has made an attempt to revamp them. I also want to thank him for the efforts he has made to check corruption prevalent in Recruitment Boards where jobs were being offered for a price thereby leaving the deserving candidates in the lurch.

I do not have to make a long speech. I will be very brief. Therefore, I request the hon'ble minister to pay attention to it. ...*(Interruptions)* Yes, it is there and it will be better if you remove that.

Hon'ble Minister I belong to a famous place named Bareilly. Between Delhi and Bareilly, there is another famous place named Moradabad which is famous for exporting brass items. ...*(Interruptions)* What so ever you say, I will keep on speaking inspite of all your objections. ...*(Interruptions)* I will also serve you myrobalan (Amla)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not make a running commentary. Don't indulge in running commentary. You please address the Chair.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : I was telling that Bareilly is a very important place. I am addressing the Chair only but this aged member keeps on interrupting. He hails from Bihar. Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)* I will not term him aged, he is young.

MR. SPEAKER : You please address the Chair.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : It's a matter of coincidence that the Railway Minister, the person occupying the Chair, myself, all come from Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : That's why I am making submission to the Railway Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : Please refrain from cross talking.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : I was saying that Bareilly is a very famous place. It is a big centre of embroidery where from exports worth crores of rupees is done. Moradabad exports brass items but due to lack of good hotels and lack of easy access the foreign traders are not reaching there. Therefore, I request the hon'ble Minister of Railways to introduce a Shatabadi train from Delhi in the morning in order to promote trade as well as provide facility to the people ...*(Interruptions)* Right

[SHRI RAJVEER SINGH]

now I am making the points that are of concern to me.

MR. SPEAKER : You continue speaking.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : I was submitting that a Shatabadi train from Delhi to Lucknow via Moradabad and Barelly be introduced in order to promote business, export and also to provide facilities to the people. Earlier, a train named Kashi Vishwanath Express was introduced on this route departure time of shich was 12.40 a.m. The former Railway Minister changed its time Schedule. Now it departs at 2.30 or 3.00 a.m. in the night. It creates a lot of problems for we people who board this train from Bareilly to come to Parliament. Since there's no train before two o'clock in the night from there. The people have to wait at the platform until 2 o'clock in the night. It is, therefore, requested that a train should be introduced which should leave Bareilly at 10 or 11 p.m. and it should strickitly adhere to its time schedule.

SHRI BASUDEV ACHARYA : Where from?

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : From Bareilly, Shri Basudevji Barielly is your in-laws place and as such I am strongly recommending your case. It is beneficial for me also. I will not say more because should I do so, the members of his party will become angry. Therefore, my only submission is to introduce such a train.

The next important thing is to double the rail line from Ghaziabad to Moradabad which is at present single line. The work of doubling is in progress but meagre amount is being allocated for this. Because of this the work is taking quite a long time to complete. It should be completed at the earliest. My third submission, which I mad many a times in the past, also is regarding Delhi-Lucknow mail which runs 8 to 9 hours and, is then stationed in the yard for 15 hours. uselessly. Compared to this, Tamilnadu Express covers a distance of 2000 km and commences its return journey immediately. The Lucknow mail reaches Lucknow at around 7 o'clock.

15.00 hrs.

If you run this train from New Delhi after two hours from its arrival, it will reach Lucknow around 4 or 5 o'clock in the evening and then it can start its journey back to Delhi. This will give people a good train and you do not have to invest a single penny on it. Its rakes will also be the same and income therefrom will be doubled. This will provide a train from Delhi to Bareilly during day time. At present this train remains stationed in New Delhi yard for 15 hours and uselessly occupies the yard for such a long time thereby creating problems for the railways also. This will solve their problem also. So kindly introduce this train.

Earlier, the pantry car was used to be managed by the contractors. Some of them were with the Railways also. But a lot of other unauthorised vendors also ply on these trains. The same situation prevails in Shramjeevi Express also. I have made a complaint also in this regard. Perhaps the hon. Minister might have received it. We seldom find quality food served in the trains. Sharamjeevi Express runs between Delhi and Patna and it has the largest number of complaints.

Sanction has already been accorded for converting Kasganj Kathgodam rail line into a broadguage line. But the work is yet to begin. Even the Minister visited there and also laid the foundation stone for this work. But the work has not started yet. Last time when this decision was taken to convert it into broadguage line then the passengers, who used to make journey to and from Bareilly can no more proceed beyond Lal Kuan which create problems.

There is metre gauge line therefore, people coming from Lucknow or Agra alight at Lalkuan and from there they reach Nainital by bus or taxi. I request you to immediately convert this line and also the line between Lucknow and Kathgodam into a broad gauge line to make it more convenient for the people.

There is a divisional office of Railway in Izatnagar, Bareilly. It is an office of DRM. There is a big workshop of Railway there. When there is no work it remains almost closed. It starts working when it get some work. A coach factory was approved for that place but in 1984-85, but due to political considerations that factory was setup in other state. It is a very good workshop, officers and workers there are very efficient. You go and sel it yourself. Since they have no work they are sitting idle and asking for work.

15.04 hrs.

[SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY *in the Chair*]

Railway lands are being encroached. Railway has lots of land in big cities. Railway should properly manage its land. Istead of ignoring illegal encroachment of land Railways can build authorized colonies there for their staff or it can use it for providing residential facility to its retired staff. But contrary to it, what is happening today the people have encroached the land and have build their private residence there. Now it is difficult to get it vacated. This is just a reference of two or four cities only, where Railways have property worth millions of rupees. But if a Nation wide survey is conducted then

the price of such land would count upto billions of rupees. It can also improve the financial condition of Railway. The rail lines not in use, should be removed, because the people remove some parts from unused rail line. I hope the Government would immediately pay a heed towards the encroachment of land.

Sir, there are four Railway crossings in Bareilly but there is no over bridge there due to which traffic remain jam for hours causing lots of difficulties to the people. Uttar Pradesh Government has approved the construction of over bridge there they have also contributed their share, but as per my information your department is neither approving it nor giving money for it. The hon'ble Minister should pay attention to it. I want to make one more submission. You said that there will be no unmanned crossing and crossings have been closed. But the problem is that the people live at this side of the line in the village and their land is on the other side of the line. They have to walk ten kms. to reach there. Therefore, please try to make those crossings a manned one. If the state Government is willing to bear the cost then it is alright otherwise you give the money for this work. The Government should pay attention to the convenience of the rural people also. You have laid rail line on their land, you have acquired their land, and you are making it difficult to go and plough their fields. Therefore, I request you to take up this matter seriously.

Sir, the budget presented by the Minister of Railway is very good budget. I have congratulated him before and I again congratulate him. I would like to congratulate you more if you agree and fulfill these demands.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAY (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : By When?

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Fulfill them today itself.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Suppose I fulfill a few of your demands.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : I will congratulate you even if you will fulfill two or three demands. The demands that I have presented before you are extremely essential I have deliberately not given a lengthy speech, there are long pending demands, we have raised them many a times. Earlier the Minister of Railways was not so considerate who would look after these difficulties. You are a considerate Minister and I have full faith that you will surely consider and fulfil these demands.

With these words I support this Railway budget and I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, good number of members of this House have participated in the General Discussion on Railways. They have made valuable suggestions. The Railway Ministry has miserably failed to respond to most of the very justified demands and also important suggestions made by my esteemed colleagues.

I shall confine myself to three or four important areas. Indian Railways are important national transport sector. The problem with the Railways is that as a public transport, it is losing its importance over the years. Both in terms of passenger carrying capacity and in terms of carrying goods, its role is declining over the years. The road transport is taking precedence for several factors. I am not going into that.

Over the years, the budgetary support is declining and the Railway Ministry has to depend on internal resources and extra budgetary support. If things continue in this manner, it is not far away when this largest public sector undertaking will become sick. That is my apprehension.

It is high time that adequate and suitable steps are taken by this Government to contain the negative developments in this very important sector.

My first point is that the Railways do have assets, the locomotives in thousands, coaches and the wagons. These are the assets of the Railways. But apart from these assets, the Railways do have several other assets worth several hundreds of crores of rupees which have not yet been properly and intelligently used in any innovative manner. One such area was being referred to by the Speaker, who was speaking just before me and that is about the use of the railway land. The Railways have about 4.17 lakh hectares of land and as the Chairman of a very important Committee, of which our hon. Railway Minister was also a Member, I had occasion to go deeply into certain problems related to the use of railway land. Long back, a proposal had been mooted by the Railway Ministry about the commercial exploitation of the railway land. I am not going into the details of the outcome and how certain people have been involved in corruption relating to the land deals. It is well known to this House and I am not going into that now. But when this Government is emphasizing on the housing sector and the hon. Finance Minister has spoken a lot about the importance of housing. It is said that the present Government is proposing to taking up housing in right earnest and solve a very major problem of the people of India. But the Railway Ministry does not have any coordination, it seems, with the other Ministries which

[SHRI RUP CHAND PAUL]

are interested in building houses for the low and middle income groups and also for others.

Sir, there are public sector undertakings like the Life Insurance Corporation of India, HUDCO and many others which are suffering from dearth of land and if there is a dialogue and proper discussion with the related departments, public sector undertakings and the Ministries, this land can be used in a proper manner. But the tragedy is that since 1984, this leasing out of land to individuals and, for that matter, to other agencies have been done in a very casual and discretionary manner. I can cite one example in this regard. In West Bengal, there are lakhs of people who, after the partition, had come and settled in some places by the side of the railway lands. These lands will never be used for the railway purposes and the State Government had approached the Railway Ministry to provide this land for development purposes and rehabilitation purposes of these poor people who had come from the eastern part of the United Bengal, after partion.

As far as I am concerned, I have a bitter experience of a proposal which I had sent to the Railway Ministry. A local body had proposed to develop a particular land for a path leading to the station and for that purpose they had approached the M.P. for providing some money for the development of this area, and to construct a road which was very much needed for the people of this area and requested for recommending some money from the MPLAD Scheme. But unfortunately, the Railway Ministry said that presently the policy of the Government, particularly in relation to this railway land, is not permitting any such project to be taken up by the local bodies.

The local bodies are coming forward to develop the land particularly in the interest of the railways as the path will lead to the Railway Stations only, through which people can move. Now, people are moving in *kucha* roads. But this was never sanctioned. Our energetic, young and dynamic Railway Minister knows the problem as much as I do. But I think a caution should be given here that I am not in favour of reckless and disparate commercial exploitation of Railway land for private purposes. I am saying this because a discussion is going on within the Government to open up the railway land for foreign investment. It is a dangerous thing because there are agencies which are eager to use Railway land. I can mention LIC, HUDCO, State Governments and local bodies. But you are depriving them of this opportunity to develop land in the interest of local people, Railway employees, retired Railway employees and others. I have visited some such places in Bangalore and Mumbai. They are very much attractive for the foreigners also. They should not be allowed to use Railway Land. This should never be done. So, my earnest plea to the Government will be not to allow any foreign investment in the Railway land which is now being considered by the Government. It should never be done. Rather, there should be some alliance between the Railways, public sector undertakings, financial institutions, local bodies, State Governments and such other bodies who can make the best utilization of this Railway land.

Now, I come to the possibilities and the potentialities for the resource mobilization. It is the resource crunch which is standing in the way of fulfilling many of the promises that have been made by this Government or that had been made by the former Governments to the MPs and others. No new Railway line is possible. The plea is that there is resources crunch.

Sir, the Railways do have a very wide telecom network and a part of it had already been equipped with optical fibre transmission. I have made a suggestion long back to the DoT that there should be some sort of startegic alliance between DoT and the Railways because Railways network passes through the remote rural areas. We can exploit the latest 'Will' technology—radio wireless technology—which is just being developed by our own institute, namely, IIT, Chennai. It has just come out of serious difficulties created by the multinational telecom giants and others. The 'Will' technology is very much acceptable. The technology is very much befitting for extension and for starting telecome service in the remotest rural villages through which the Railway network is passing. But unfortunately whatever good is available for the countrymen is being opened up to the outsiders. I am constrained to make this observation because I have got a report that discussions are going on behind the scene with the multinational telecom giants to utilize this infrastructure network. My plea will be that it should never be done. In our country, the technology is available. Our own scientists have developed it and we do have the network. It will serve the people in a big way with a little bit of coordination, collaboration and some sort of alliance between our public sector undetakings.

For example, in the field of power, you have a good network with the NTPC and the State Electricity Boards. Similarly, if the DoT network and the Railway network is taken together in a coordinated manner can, to a large extent, it can solve the problem of our telecom in providing telecom services to the rural people.

Thirdly, there is another area. The Railways do have very good hospitals. They can be compared with some hi-tech nursing homes and hospitals that have come up very recently, I am not mentioning anyone of them, at Chennai, Calcutta and at many other places. Some of the Railway hospitals are very good hospitals. The hon. Minister and his Ministry should concentrate on the suggestions of the experts in this area to develop them further and a part of it can be put to good use—I am

not saying that the railway people should be deprived in any way. They can be made to be at par with the best medical units that have come up during the last few years in our country.

Fourthly, the Railways used to run some hotels. I do not think that running of hotels can be one area for a large undertaking like the Railways. But some of them are better run, better located and more attractive for the foreign tourists as also the domestic tourists than many others. There is a move behind the scene, the Minister may corroborate or deny, to handover the lucrative hotels at good locations to foreigners. It should never be done. My suggestion is that those hotels which are doing well should be helped to develop further. In the development of tourism the role of these hotels is very important.

My next suggestion is that the Railway Ministry should have a meaningful dialogue with the Tourism and Civil Aviation Ministries. In the growth of tourism, the Railways have a very important role. The Railways play a major role in taking the tourists to places that are culturally or historically important, including eco-tourism or whatever it may be. There was a move earlier to see that the Railways coordinate with Tourism and Civil Aviation Ministries and the hotel industry. The Minister may enlighten this House whether there is any such coordinating body working effectively towards this end. The Railways started 'Palace on Wheels' and such other attractive transport systems. In Darjeeling, Shimla and in many other places, the Railways have the 'toy trains'. Today, they are in a dilapidated condition. They can contribute a lot in the development of tourism. Therefore, the Railways do have a very important role to play in this regard to make these 'Toy Trains' more attractive.

With regard to infrastructure, the Minister mentioned about the on-going projects. He has rightly emphasised that instead of going in for any new project, the Ministry should concentrate on the on-going projects. Many on-going projects are continuing for decades together. I do not know as to what will be the reaction of the Government about them.

Due to constraint of time, I am confining to two or three examples only.

The Bandel-Katwa railway line was electrified and on the occasion of the inauguration of the line, the former Railway Minister, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, in a public meeting openly declared that steps were being taken to convert the single line into a double line. It was a public commitment. In the case of assurances given in the House by the Ministers, we can just consider them in a different manner. The Minister is a Minister and the Government is a continuing Body. So, I just like to know about this.

There is another such line, the Sheoraphuly-Tarakeswar doubling line. More than once assurance has been given to construct double line here, but till today we do not find any positive response about what is going to happen to that line.

In 1951, Mrs. Indira Gandhi the then Prime Minister and she had laid the foundation stone for Howra–Amta railway. It has been extended up to Bargachia only. It stopped there. The Government should do something, at least as a homage to the departed leader, the former Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. It has ended there only. The Eklakhi-Balurghat line, the Budge-Budge Namkhana line and the Digha-Tamluk line and also the extension of the Calcutta Metro to Garia in the South and to Barrackpore in the North, not yet been undertaken.

I shall now come to certain issues which have been agitating the railway employees, both casual, regular and contract labour. Since the steam engine was phased out. Repeatedly we had raised this question inside the House. We have met the Prime Minister and the Railway Minister on several occasions. For the coal and ash handling workers who lost their jobs following the phasing out of the steam engine, an assurance was given on the floor of the House. By my side, Shri Basu Deb Acharia is sitting. He was the Chairman of the Assurances Committee. He took particular note of the situation and we made repeated recommendations. But what happened? When more than 55,000 casual workers of the railways were absorbed, in a meeting an assurance was given by the Minister to absorbe the coal and ash handling workers also. I congratulated the Minister for that. By the time the cases of these unfortunate workers were reviewed, most of them died. They are not very much in number. Most of them have died because of the negligence of the Railway Ministry. Something must be done to them. They must be absorbed.

One more point about the contract labour. This Government and some former Governments also, opted for employing contract labour even in jobs of permanent nature and a large number of them might have been absorbed. But when these contract labour working under a contractor but doing the permanent nature of job meet with an accident, sometimes deaths do take place, the Railways have a responsibility and there should be a humanitarian approach. There are the contract labour working for the railways for ages. Death may be caused to them by falling from a crane or something like that. What will happen to these people? I would request the Railway Minister to consider their cases.

[SHRI RUP CHAND PAL]

Before concluding, I have two or three more point. to make. These are not about extension of lines. I have already made many suggestions about new lines from Tarakeswar to Arambagh etc.

There is another problem which a negative contribution of the Railways. During the British days, they had constructed some railway lines. There are some sub-ways. Over the years, urban development has taken place. Particularly during the monsoon time, people cannot move in those areas because of waterlogging. There are many such sub-ways like the ones at Bancel, Chinsura and Chandan Nagar. Such sub-ways are there not only in West Bengal but also in other places. There should be a policy in this regard.

Mr. Minister, you are unable to provide a new line. You are unable to provide a new train. But you are increasing the fare and imposing burden on the common people. You are imposing several things running to crores of rupees as tax in a different manner on the common people. These innocent people, who have caused no harm to the Railways, have not demanded anything. They live there. During monsoon time, because of the Railways, because to the sub-ways, there is waterlogging. Their whole economic and social activity is stopped there. So, something must be done in this regard.

Lastly, I would like to say that in these days of information technology revolution, the minimum that the Government can do is the extension of information facilities through computers not only in selected stations but also in all places. It can be done very easily. It does not involve very high expenditure also. Further, information technology is becoming cheaper and cheaper. You can have the technology that is best suited. You can opt for the right technology. Now, people start thinking when a particular train will come, when it will leave, what has happened to a particular train. Many such information including accident information can be provided in a better way. I suggest that the information technology revolution should be there. The Minister should apply his mind. He himself is an engineer. He has a liking for all these things. It will not cost much also.

With these few words, I conclude now. I thank you very much for allowing me this time.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to you that you have given me an opportunity to participate in the debate on the demands for grant of the Railway Budget 1998-99.

Through you, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that though there is an office of DRM in Allahabad and it has also been announced that a zonal office of Railway will be opened there but nothing has been done so far in regard to the location of the office. This has generated a feeling of discontentment there. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards my second point. Although the Minister has left the House but I would like to present my point through the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The other Cabinet Minister is present. The Minister concerned will come back very soon.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY) : He cannot sit indefinitely here. He has to go for some time and come back. Otherwise, it will not be possible. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : I was thinking that the Minister has left because he was displeased with me. Thanks a lot for enlightening me

Allahabad and Kaushambi are the two such districts that have religious importance also. All the hon'ble Members would be aware that Allahabad holds 'Magh Mela' every year and the 'Kumbha Mela' at a particular time.

Kaushambi is a new district and it is a Buddhist Tourist place. Both these places are usually visited by the foreign tourists. But it is quiet an unfortunate that there is no other train except Prayagraj Express connecting Allahabd to Delhi the capital of India. This has been in demand for years that a Shatabdi Express should be started between Delhi and Allahabad. Earlier. I have raised this issue many a time in the Supplementary Budget and General Budget. Allahabd is important because Swaraj Bhawan and Anand Bhawan are situated there. Nation's freedom struggle was fought from there. Therefore, I demand from the Minister that a Shatabdi Express may soon be started from Delhi to Allahabad because right now there is only one train *i.e.* Prayagraj Express, to which 4 bogies are attached but even then the load of the traffic is so much that sometimes it really becomes difficult for us to get a reservation in the Prayagraj to reach Parliament during a session.

There is no provision for construction of Junction station at the newly created Head Quarter of Kaushambi. Bharwari, which is the nearest station should be made junction station and I demand that until the new platform are constructed there or present platforms are extended important trains should halt there so as to make its

convenient for the foreign tourists to reach the Buddhist place. The tourists from China, Hong-kong, Indonesia, Japan come there and it will add to their convenience.

Tourists from all the districts come to visit the head quarter of district Kaushambi or the religious place Kaushambi. There are three railway crossings there– Mandar Bhagwatpur, Maneeri and Bharwari. When the portal to the railway crossing is closed the traffic remains jam on the roads for hours which causes inconvenience to the tourists to reach Janpad Head Quarters and its Buddhist place Kaushambi. Therefore, I demand that an overbridge should be constructed there. Overbridge should also be constructed after acquiring the land near Bharwari. Similarly a railway overbridge should also be constructed near Manauri and Mandar Bhagwatpur, it will make travelling convenient for all the travellers.

An important sleeper factory was set up in Subedarganj Dhoomanganj which used to manufacture the railway sleepers of cement. I have heard that there is a plan for the privatisation of that factory. The labourers and workers of that factory are on the verge of starvation, therefore instead of privating it, financial assistance may be provided by Railways to start it again. I have talked to workers and the officers of the sleeper factory. They told that they were apprehensive that if the factory was closed they would be driven to the verge of starvation and if it was privatised they would be dismissed from the service.

Similarly, the construction of an overbridge on the Subedarganj railway crossing, Allahabad is going on for the last five years. Only pillars have been created. Till today the bridge has not been constructed. It causes great inconvenience to the people of 4-5 Janpads namely Kanpur, Fatehpur, Kaushambi, and Allahabd. Therefore I demand the speedy completion of the overbridge, it will not only make the transportation convenient but also keep a check over the accidents that takes place on the National Highways. Though at times we send written request to DRM for providing reservation out of the quota yet we are not able to get it. We received a number of such tourists who frequently visit foreign countries and for reaching here they come by air either from Bombay or from Delhi as they do not get reservation in railways because of the limited quota and our request to DRM in this regard yields no result. I therefore, request that reservation quota for all the important trains may be increased in DRM office at Allahabd.

Another important point which concerns the hon. Members of this House is that as per the existing provision only two berths in AC II class are provided to the Member and when berth is not available in AC II class then he is entitled to travel in AC I class but his companion is not provided the same facility because of which the person travelling along with him has to face lot of difficulty. I therefore, request that at least two berths should be provided to each Member in AC I Class. Moreover the children of the hon. Members also face lot of difficulty while travelling so they alongwith their companion should be provided similar facilities which are being enjoyed by the railway employee and officers. ...*(Interruptions)*

In the event of death of a railway employee or officer we bother the hon. Railway Minister every now and then for employing the dependents of the deceased on compassionate grounds. It is, therefore, requested that their service terms and conditions may be amended in such a manner that the dependents of the deceased are provided with job without any delay and they are able to earn their livelihood.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when I go from Allahabd to Lucknow by Rajdhani Express, I often find that there is no power supply on several small stations such as Kunda, Unchahar and the trains do stop on these stations. It leads to accidents and incidents of thefts & dacoity take place. Particularly in Mugal Sarai passenger train incidents of theft are quite common. Therefore, I request that the stations on which such express trains halt, should be provided with proper facilities of water and electricity so that the passengers may not have to face problems on that account.

I would like to draw your attention to one more important point. The quality of food to be served by the railways, be it at platform or in the trains should be good and the menu should be changed from time to time. Can railways not provide things other then bread, butter or cutlets?

Ganga-Gomti Express is an important train among the trains which the people of Uttar Pradesh generally take to visit their capital Lucknow. Earlier one AC I class coach and one AC Chair car used to be attached to it but now only one AC Chair Car Coach is being attached to it. As the hon'ble judges of the High Court have to travel quite often by train to Lucknow from Allahabad where there is a bench of the High Court, they face lot of inconvenience while travelling. Therefore, I request that number of AC Chair cars should be increased in the Ganga Gomti Express and AC I Class Coach should also be attached to it so that the representatives of the people and the hon'ble judges of the high court have no problem while travelling.

With these words I would like to request the hon'ble Minister for railways to pay special attention to the points raised by me because perhaps he was not here when I

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

raised those points. Since suggestions of the hon. Members were sought during the discussion on demands for grants pertaining to railways, I hope due attention will be paid to the above mentioned points. With these words I conclude.

[English]

DR. RANJIT KUMAR PANJA (Barasat) : Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to speak for the first time in this august House.

I will talk about certain aspects of the Railway projects and the principles of budgetary allocations. I draw the attention of the Members of the House and of course the hon. Railway Minister to the fact that I am an MP from a suburban area where most of the people travel by Railways. They are commuters, they have got different problems. I have come as their representative. I will also have a few words about our dear city, Calcutta.

Firstly I will talk about passenger amenities. I am sure, everybody believes and knows that the passenger amenities are not up to the mark. We do not have clean compartments, we do not have clean corridors, toilets and dining cars and many of the trains are really filthy. They can be corrected with a little attention and without much budgetary obligation. Drinking water, toilets and sanitation should be available in every station.

I feel everybody will agree with me that travelling makes you hungry. So, a good catering service is welcome to all. We have forgotten the days when Kelner used to serve in our childhood delicious meals which we used to look forward to. Now-a-days we are rather scared to taste the type of food that is served in the dining cars as well as in the stations. We are not concerned about the quality of food. We are more concerned about how the goats are killed, whether by *Halal* or by *Jhatka* method. I would stress on the quality of food. We do not need any lavish food from the Railways. But at least it should be clean, fresh and palatable—both vegetarian as well as non-vegetarian food.

There must be some improvement in the commuter service. In many of the places around Calcutta we need more frequent trains, more bogies or longer trains to accommodate the huge population and also shuttle service between busy stations. About the punctuality of trains, though it is the claim of the Railways that most of the trains are running punctually, I think there is still scope for improvement. Leaving aside the people who are going on holidays, who could not care loss whether the train is running an hour or two late, most of the people who go for work need the trains coming in time.

There should be protection and safety of passengers. Just the other day in a place called Masagram, about 40 kms. from Calcutta, twenty lady passengers were attacked by *dacoits* and there were no Railways Protection Force or Railway Police to help them. Local people and co-passengers had come out to help. Four ladies were injured and they were taken to hospital. I am glad to say that the Railway Minster has informed us that some steps have been taken. This should be a regular affair, not just for that particular incident.

These days are the days of middlemen and between Railways and the passengers there are middlemen also called touts. I think there are *Tatkal* touts for Tatkal bookings. You will always get them in and around the place asking for a little more money for a ticket. This kind of nuisance should be stopped immediately.

Regarding projects it has already been mentioned that more stress should be laid on completion of projects which are remaining unfinished for a long time. We have quite a few in West Bengal. I think in the rest of the country also there are many. In my place there is a line between Barasat and Bangaon, only 25 kms. of doubling of the line is left unfinished for the last twenty years. Similarly, in other areas of West Bengal like Howrah-Amta line, as has been mentioned just now, Eklakhi-Balurghat line and Digha-Tamluk lines have been pending for the last fifteen to twenty years.

These projects should be completed before new projects are taken up. Many people die of accidents at level-crossings. Flyovers are necessary to save them. The flyovers will facilitate the pedestrains as well as on-going traffic. There are many examples around Calcutta in the suburban railways. They are Sonapur, Bandelgate, Lake Gardens, Barasat in my constituency and a few more. These projects have been accepted. They are sanctioned projects but they have not yet been completed. The State Governments have some responsibility in this respect. The PWD will have to pay for the connection at both ends of the flyovers. This is often not available. This is why there is difficulty in completion of these projects. I feel that the Ministry of Railways should negotiate with the State Government for the completion of these flyovers.

The metro rail of Calcutta is not only a matter of pride for Calcutta but a pride for the nation as well. It has got excellence in operations, in utility, in cleanliness and in service to millions of people. Apart from this technical excellence, the metro rail of Calcutta is exemplary to all. Considering these facts, the Calcutta metro rail should be considered as a national project and proper budgetary allocation should be made for this project.

Some surveys have been made. Just now an hon. Member was saying, 'where there is a survey, there is no railway'. But the surveys have been made and we are awaiting the extension of the metro from Tollygunge to Goria to be completed. This project should be given priority and implemented quickly.

Lastly, for railway projects, there must be a deadline for completion and budgetary allocations should be made accordingly. For example, if a project which is to be completed in two years' time is allocated Rs. 10 crore, Rs. 5 crore should be given each year. But only Rs. 50 lakh or Rs. 1 crore are given in a year whereby the project is never completed before ten years. Also there is a lot of escalation of prices. There must be some sort of a parity between the deadline for the completion of a project and the budgetary allocation. We must understand that the prices shoot up like rockets but never come down as rains. Therefore, we must be careful on budgetary allocations so that money is not wasted.

I thank the House and you, Mr. Chairman, and our hon. Minister of Railways for giving me a patient hearing. ...*(Interruptions)* Thanks to our Leader, of course, is always there. I thank one and all.

As a new Member; I might say that our suggestions must be constructive; mere criticism will not help us.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA (Nellore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the railway Budget.

The Railway Budget presented by the hon. Minister of Railways is not as expected. The Budget does not spell out the steps to be taken to strengthen the Indian Railways to enhance their role in providing efficient transport of both freight and passengers. The Railways should rise up to the expectations of the passengers to ensure safety, security, punctuality and comfort.

There is no point in imposing austerity measures to maintain economy in expenditure when the Railway administration itself is neglecting the use of the infrastructure for effective purposes. For example, the Bitragunta loco shed in Andhra Pradesh is totally neglected, without making use of the assets, infrastructure and the vast land area available.

There is a long-pending demand to start a railway unit at Bitragunta. But such units are being set up elsewhere without considering to have it at Bitragunta.

Regarding passenger amenities, as the hon. Railway Minister has rightly pointed out in his Budget speech, there is an ever increasing pressure for improvement of passenger amenities—for introduction of new trains, of new lines, stoppage of trains and suburban train extension, etc. For the last two years, I have been requesting the Railway Ministry to extend the Siurped-Chennai MEMU trains to Nellore. But the Railway Ministry is not considering that. It is practically very important for the passengers' convenience, and hence, I would request the hon. Railway Minister to consider extension of these services to Nellore.

The hon. Railway Minister has proposed to run some trains via Konkan Railway. By doing so, the Mangala Express also has to be diverted via Konkan Railway. As a result, the people of Nellore are losing the benefit of stoppage of trains at Nellore. As the demand for such trains is more on both the directions—South and North— it is requested that the Ministry may consider stoppage of the Kerala Express at Nellore in place of the Mangalore Express.

Regarding new surveys, I would like to say that surveys for new railway lines are being undertaken by the Railways after their announcement in the Railway Budget. The revised survey of Nadikude-Venkatagiri railway line as well as Nellore-Cuddapah in Andhra Pradesh was announced in the 1997-98 Budget by the then Railway Minister, but the progress of the same was not mentioned in the 1998-99 Budget. The survey should be justified because the proposed new railway line will serve as an alternative route on Chennai-Vijayawada section. Huge investments are being made for repairs of the line every year between October to December due to frequent floods and cyclones on Gudur-Vijayawada section.

Regarding Tatkal Reservation Scheme which was introduced in the Railway Budget of 1998-99, I would like to say that it is beneficial to the urban passengers only who will have credit cards, driving licences, etc. What about the fate of the rural men? I would request the hon. Minister to modify this scheme and give equal opportunities to everyone.

The safety of the passengers particularly women is of serious concern. Thefts in trains and at stations are increasing day by day. Women are losing chains, 'mangala sutras' and other gold ornaments due to regular thefts at the stations and in trains. There is a need to curb the same on priority.

I would also like to point out that the accidents at unmanned level crossing gates are increasing day by day. It was told in the House in the last Railway Budget that gatemen would be stationed at all important

[SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA]

unmanned railway level crossings, but the same is not implemented so far. Even the hon. Railway Minister did not spell out anything on this. Hence I would request the Hon. Railway Minister to take up this issue on priority.

I regret to inform the House that the Railway Budget has thrown some light on the marketing strategy so as to attract additional traffic, but the same is not being implemented by the Railways. Practically there is a great demand for transportation of lime from my constituency, Nellore, Gudur, Vankategiri and other stations. Parcel vans are not being provided by the Railways and, as a result, there is a huge loss to the farmers who would like to transport perishable commodities. Similarly, wagons are not being provided to the millers for lifting of rice to the other States, either as piecemeal or as bulk.

I would also like to suggest that the Railways should introduce some soft incentive schemes for the passengers who travel long distances regularly in trains which can be on the lines of 'flying returns scheme' of Indian Airlines. This may increase revenue through passenger traffic to the Railways.

So, while opposing the Railway Budget, I would request the hon. Minister to consider the proposals mentioned by me on priority.

[Translation]

*SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNAIAH (Tumkur) : Mr. Chairman Sir, Railways are the most important means for linking various corners of our nation. It plays a vital role in the transportation of goods. Railways provide the most convenient mode of journey. Almost all the Ministers have given us assurances of laying new railway lines. They also promise us to provide stops at various stations. Water facilities and medical care would also be provided according to them.

Sometimes the doctors are transferred to distant places. Afterwards it takes a long time to get those doctors back. They have to approach some political leaders for this purpose. Officials and other workers are also transferred in the same manner. Instead of this, the transfers should be made according to the need. The transfers should be made only when there are vacancies. If the transfers are made in a haphazard way then a number of problems would arise. Transfers should not be made erratically in the name of national integration. Transfers should be made in such a way that they should help not only the individuals but also the Railways. Then only the Railways can extract very good work from its employees. I hope that the Hon'ble Minister would look into this very important problem of the employees of railways.

Tumkur city is very near to the capital city of Karnataka and it is becoming satellite city. The problem of water facility has already been solved. But the problem of transportation is yet to be solved. Tumkur has one medical college, two engineering college, three teachers' training colleges and many more technical and other institutions. Everyday at least 3000 persons travel from Tumkur to Bangalore and back. About 2500 Government employees and about 500 persons of private offici and firms completely depend upon trains for their journey.

16.00 hrs

A push and pull was introduced between Tumkur and Bangalore after converting the railway line into a broad guage line. Now this train has been extended upto Arasikere. This of course is a good step. But what about the facilities to the passengers in this train? The number of bogies has not been increased so far. Drinking water facility is also not satisfactory. There is no place for passengers to sit and wait for the train. There is no place for passengers even to stand in the bogies. I have sent several representations to the Hon'ble Minister in this regard.. I think my voice has not reached the heart of Hon'ble Minister.

My next demand is the construction of double line between Tumkur and Bangalore. The people of my constituency are demanding for this double line for the past seven years. But so far there is no positive response from the Hon'ble Minister in this regard.

The broad guage line between these two cities is catering to the needs of the commuters and people are very happy about this. People are grateful to the then railway Minister Shri Jaffer Sharief. I would be failing in my moral duty if I do not thank Mr. Jaffer Sharief who completed this doubling work at a very short period.

For doubling work a very small amount has been allocated. It is like a very smalls drop. It is a great secret. The money allotted by the Hon. Minister for Railways is really very very meagre. It is not worth even to quote that figure on the floor of the House.

The Minister has to take a bold step if he is serious to help the people of Tumkur constituency in Karnataka. If you do not allocate sufficient funds, then the progress of this double line would proceed at snail's pace.

The National Highway No. 4 is in between Tumkur and Bangalore. The density of traffic on this highway is one of the highest in the country. At least two to three accidents take place on this route daily. Many important

* Translation of speech originally delivered in Kannada.

persons have lost their lives in accidents on this highway. I have approached the Centre and the concerned Ministers to explain this problem. The only solution for this traffic problem of National Highway No. 4 is to speed up the doubling of railway line between Tumkur and Bangalore. The National Highway should also be doubled. I trust that the Government of India will take up this issue seriously at least in the future. The Center has to sanction the money and the State should take up the actual work. Strangely, the State Government is showing step-motherly attitude to this vital issue.

D. Ramapura is an important place in my constituency. A railway station has to be constructed here according to the need of the people of that place.

Siddaganga, a holy shrine is situated very close to Tumkur. This is not only a pilgrimage Centre but also a learning Centre. Siddaganga Mutt has its own engineering college apart from many other educational institutions. Thousands of people visit this Centre everyday. I therefore urge upon the Hon'ble Railway Minister to provide stop here in Kytasandra for all the trains.

Somesha extension is an important place in Tumkur. Channanjappa Hostel is also a very important place. About 25,000 persons are living in this locality. Construction of an over bridge in this area is a long pending demand of the people of Tumkur. This can avoid two railway gates and it would be a great boon to the people of that area. A foot bridge is also being constructed here. It is going on very slowly. This has to be expedited immediately.

The Railway Station at Tiptur, Kayatasandra and Tumkur are not at all clean. Water facility at these stations is also not satisfactory. There are no benches for the passengers to sit. It have written several letters to our Hon. Minister, Shri Satish Kumrji, regarding these problems. I request him to look into these letter seriously and to tackle the problems at the earliest.

Sir, I thank you for giving me a chance to speak and with these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Sir, discussion is being held in the House on the Demands for Grants for the year 1998-99. I also would like to give some suggestions. Several suggestions had been given by the Hon'ble members to the Minster of Railways. However, those have not been implemented upon. I would like to call your attention to a more important point. Train accidents are becoming frequent incidents. Recently on 5.7.98 there was a news of collision of two trains viz. Himsagar and Bundelkhand Express running on the same rail track. According to official reports two persons died and fifty injured in this accident. This accident took place near Gawalior. I want that the incidents of train accidents should not occur. This has to be investigated as to who was responsible for the accident. Before that some people also died in collision of trains in Fatuah. That area falls in the constituency of the Minister of Railways. The train accident took place in his own constituency, but no improvement has been made. Later an accident took place at some other place. Therefore, I have no hope from the hon. Minister. Even then, in public interest, it is our responsibility to take such measures which can effectively check the incidents and the Government should also take measures to check the incidents of accidents in future. Cause of accidents can be the outdated railway track having loose nutbolts used to fix the wooden plaque or fish plates. These nutbolts are never checked. The railway officers should perform their duty, but they do not perform their duty properly because when the Minister concerned is inattentive, it is quite natural that the officers will be careless and the accidents would continue to take place. I would like the hon. Minister to take appropriate steps to bring about improvement and give strick directions to the Officers thereby saving the lives of the people from unnatural death.

Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Railways towards Darbhanga and Nirmali railway line in Bihar. The train services provided on this route not worth mentioning. The train which originates from Janakpur in Nepal is slow to such an extent that one can get down and then board the train easily after 10 to 25 minutes. Such a trian is being run on Darbhanga-Nirmali route which has not time schedule. If the scheduled departure time of the train is 10.45 a.m., it departs at 3.45 p.m. The entire staff there is negligent, due to which passengers have to face a lot of difficulties.

Not only difficulties, but they face lot of trouble. Injustice is being done to the passengers in this way. The passengers purchase the tickets, but the train does not run on schedule. There was a proposal for laying of broad-gauge rail line from Darbhanga to Nirmali. An announcement was made in this regard, but I do not know why it has not yet been sanctioned? In this way, announcement made by the Government hold no importance.

Therefore, I demand from the Government through you that broad gauge rail lines from Darbhanga to Nirmali and from Darbhanga to Jainagar should be laid. There is no rail connection between Nirmali and Bhaktiyai. There is no transportation facility in some villages situated near river Kosi. I would like to demand that to provide transportation facility to the people of this area, a rail line from Nirmali to Bhaktiyai should be laid. Rivier Kamlabalan passes through my constituency Jhanjharpur.

[SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV]

There is a railway bridge on the river on which the traffic also ply. Accidents may occur there as both the rail and road traffic pass through that bridge. The official machinery is unaware of this fact. I would like to say that arrangements should be made for the trains to run on lower bridge and the road traffic ply on the over bridge. If that is not possible for the time-being, repair the broken rail track at the earliest. The rail track should be laid properly by installing new sleepers and fish plates. I would like to say to the hon. Minister through you that arrangement should be made for rail traffic underneath and the road traffic should ply on the over bridge. We call it "Tare-Tare Re" in countryside. But I know that the Minister of Railways will not be able to do so because he remains unaware even when any accident takes place in his area. Therefore, I am drawing the attention of the Government towards the area where there are chances of accident. If arrangements are not made in this regard, you will come to know about some incident in Kamlabalan also as was heard about Gawalior and Badla.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no train service from Delhi to Nawada. Even after a prolonged agitation by the people of Nawada, no action was taken by the hon. Minister in this regard. There is a need to start a train service from Delhi to Nawada to facilitate the people.

There is a train which runs from Delhi to Guwahati. This train does not stop at Lakhmania station in Balia Sub-division. This train should be given a halt at this station, so that the people may get transportation facility. This Government is not providing adequate train facilities to the poor masses. No action was taken for the construction of railway bridge in Sonepur. A lot of announcements were made but no work was done. You may say that the announcements were made by previous Government, but the government is a continuous entity. It is the duty of the succeeding government to implement the announcements made by the previous Govt. If any scheme has been announced, it must be implemented. We were told that a survey would be conducted, but no action was taken in that regard. I would like to say that immediate action should be taken in this regard.

AN HON. MEMBER : Both the Ministers are not present in the House.

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I have no hope from the hon. Minister. I am expressing my views before the House and the people of the country so that the entire country becomes aware that this government is for the capitalists. The people know that no rail-track will be laid by this government. There is no one to listen to the poor. The Hon. Minister is not even present in the House when debate is being held on such an important topic...*(Interruptions)* Not only the Cabinet Minister but even the Minister of State for Railways is not present in the House. The Prime Minister should appoint a Deputy Minister of Railways and he should sit here. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is representing the matter at present. Wide publicity was given to all the inaugurations through newspapers. Crores of rupees of the masses were spent on this propaganda. I would like that an enquiry should be conducted in this regard. Wide publicity was given to laying of railway lines through photographs. Crores of rupees of the poor were spent in this regard. Besides this, there was large scale misuse of funds in appointments. An enquiry should be conducted in this regard. Action should be taken against the guilty even if that person is in a high position. Strict punishment should be meted out to him, so that it may become a precedent and people should take a lesson from it. A few people want to grab the money of the poor. It is the duty of the government to conduct an enquiry in this regard. This is not just hearsay. It was published in the newspaper that fake appointments were made by taking bribes. The people should know the reality. A lot of discussion took place in this matter but no result was achieved. It is just a case of the government paying deaf ear to the entire issue. This government is not going to do anything even after a lot of investigation and even I have no hope from this Government. A lot of malpractices were reported in appointments during the rule of the present Government. Crores of rupees were spent on advertisements and public fund was misused, but nothing was done for the poor. The situation should not come to such an extent that we have to come on roads and start agitation. Therefore, I would like to say that the Government should become aware of the reality and take steps in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, now I would like to express my view on the railway time-table. The time table at the station shows that such and such train will arrive at 15 minutes past 10' O clock. However, the poor people have to wait for a longer period for arrival of the train. Sometimes the train is cancelled. I urge upon the Government to prune the number of trains so that they can be run on time. As the coaches are over-crowded, the people have to sit on the proof of the train above which there are high tension electric wires. If they manage to enter the bogie, they do not know where their belongings are. Western style lavatories have been provided in the trains but the poor people are not aware of the commode and how to use them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the prevailing condition in the trains, a lot of improvement is required.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to urge upon the Government through you that an over bridge should be

constructed at Dighi-Ekhara-Ramdayalpur on Hajipur-Muzaffarpur railway line crossing.

*SHRI KANCHI PANNEER SELVAM (Chingleput) : Hon'ble Chairman, at the outset I would like to thank wholeheartedly and most respectfully our beloved Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi (Revolutionary Leader) who is our eminent leader living in our hearts and also the General Secretary of our party All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. It is she who has identified me to represent the people of my constituency. I who hail from a poor family is now a member in this august House and it is due to her. It is our dynamic leader Puratchi Thalaivi who has enabled me to give a speech now in this august House on the Demands for Grants for Railways. I profusely thank her again on this occasion.

I also express my sincere thanks with a deep sense of gratitude to the electorates of my constituency who have elected me to be their victorious representative after my being identified to be so by our beloved leader Dr. Puratchi Thalkaivi (Revolutionary Leader).

Even before this year's Railway Budget could be submitted to this august House our able leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi put forth certain demands before our Hon'ble Prime Minister pertaining to the progress and prosperity of our State of Tamil Nadu. She had indicated several development and welfare schemes meant for the upliftment and the welfare of the people of Tamil Nadu. One of our demands emphasized the need to go in for electrification of railway line between Villupuram and Madurai alongwith the guage conversion that has been taken up now. In the Chennai-Madurai Broadguage line only the Chennai-Villupuram section has got electrification. Electrical traction is there only in that section.

In order to run fast moving electric locomotives and electric trains between Villupuram and Madurai, electrification of this line should be taken up on a priority basis. I again reiterate the need to give due weightage to this demand put forth by our eminent leader and to implement the same at the earliest.

There were many such well meaning demands and constructive suggestions made by our beloved leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi. Villupuram-Thanjavur railway line is still a metre guage line. Our eminent leader came forward with another demand to convert the railway line in this section too as a broad guage line. I would like to humbly submit and through this august House I would like to reiterate that this demand pertaining to Villupuram-Thanjavur gauge conversion may also be taken up soon.

She also wanted that laying of new railway line between Karur-Salem be taken up. That demand was acceded to and that has been included in this year's new project proposals for the Railways. I feel I am duty bound to thank the Railway Minister and the Union Government for the same.

Presently we find the Salem section of the Chennai-Palghat division is ridden with heavy traffic handling more passengers. The manifold increase in the number of the travelling public in this section especially at Salem Junction was cited by her to be a need-based-requirement to divide or bifurcate the Palghat Division for administrative reasons. From the administrative point of view, two divisions may be carved out from the Palghat division. Then there could be a new Railway Division with Salem as its headquarters. Salem Junction which handles more passengers and goods service need to be given a facelift and an upgraded status. Hence I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Railway Minister to this particular demand made by our leader to commence and inaugurate a new Division with Salem as its headquarter.

Madurai-Rameswaram railway line is still having metre guage line. Guage conversion work has not been taken up there as yet. It needs to be broadened in unison with the ongoing guage conversions. I request the Railway Ministry to attend to this project too at the earliest. Madurai also handles heavy passenger traffic as a pilgrim and commercial centre. Hence this scheme needs to be taken up as early as you can. It would be better if the guage conversion is taken up along the entire Villupruam-Manamadurai line via Thanjavur. As far as new projects are concerned there is also a need to lay a new railway line between Paramakkudi and Tuticorin.

Now I would like to come to my constituency Chingleput which is in the neighbourhood of Chennai. several demands by many people at various points of time have been made but they have all been left unheeded. It would be pertinent to mention here that such a demand was made by Thiru. O.V. Alagesan who was a former Minister in the Union Council of Ministers. It was also reiterated by our late lamented leader Anna right from 1962 in the Upper House of this Parliament. The demand pertains to Kanchipuram which is now a district headquarters which again has got more passengers to handle due to its importance as a pilgrim town and a commercial town as the capital of silk industry. It is a temple town and the world renowned Kamatchi Amman temple is there. The peetam of Kanchi Sankaracharya is widely known as the same way Anna hailing from Kanchi is known all over the world. This historical town attracts foreign tourists in good number. Those who would like to go to Salem or Kovai or Bangalore from Kanchipuram,

* Translation of speech originally delivered in Tamil.

(SHRI KANCHI PANNEER SELVAM]

an important industrial and commercial town have to go either to Chennai or Arakkonam. That is why our great leader Anna emphasised in Rajya Sabha the need to make Kanchipuram as a district headquarters and proposed that the centrally located Kanchipuram should be linked by rail to Tindivanam via Vandavasi. He urged upon the then Government to lay a new railway line. I am pained to note that this long pending demand still lies pending. Similarly if we are to go to Chennai we need to go either to Chingleput or Arakkonam. The distance convered extra is about 30 to 32 kms. more. We have to traverse a circuitous route everytime. That is why we would like to impress upon the Government to lay a new railway line from Chennai to Katpadi via Poonamallee, Sriperumbudur, Kanchipuram, Kaveripakkam, Thamam, Walljahpet. Kanchipuram station will then have a direct link to both the main railway lines that link major towns and cities all over India. Hence I humbly request you to attend to this new railway line project.

Thiruvallur is part of our neighbouring constituency. A level crossing is there and it is closed most of the times due to heavily congested road traffic enroute Tirupati. All these years the need to have a over bridge has not been considered positively. This has been brought to the notice of the Minister of Railways by the Hon'ble Member of Parliament from Sriperumbudur constituency. I am to request Hon'ble Minister to look into this and consider including the Thiruvallur railway over-bridge scheme in this year's developmental programmes for which demands for grants are being discussed now.

Now let me come to the fall out of Konkan railway system. In order to ply a train on that route, they have stopped a train service. Mangala Express which was running from Nizamuddin to Mangalore via Jolarpet, Salem, Erode, Tiruppur, Coimbatore, Palghat was stopped once and for all with effect from 1.7.98. This train service was covering at least seven districts in Tamil Nadu. Coimbatore, Nilgiris, Erode, Namakkal, Salem, Dharmapuri and Vellore were the seven districts that were particularly drawing its benefits. General public in great number from these districts were greatly benefited by this train service. I urge upon the Union Government to look into the problems faced by the business community in particular in the absence of this train service. Hence you may effectively consider operating a new train service from Nizamuddin to Palghat via Jolarpet, Salem, Erode, Tiruppur, Coimbatore at the earliest.

The South-bound trains from Chennai are having AC compartments but with inadequate security. There are many trains with this facility right. But is it right to ply them without adequate security system? This has given rise to railway thefts and burglaries too. Hence the security arrangements have to be strengthened to avoid inconvenience caused to the travelling public. It is also imperative to add First class compartments in all these trains without exception. In the absence of I class compartments it is difficult to arrange adequate security personnel.

There is yet another submission pertaining to my demands which I made on behalf of my constituency. Chingleput town is an important town in our Lok Sabha constituency. Till date there is no computer reservation system in Chingleput station which is one of the important stations between Chennai and the Southern districts of Tamil Nadu. I humbly request the Railway Minister to consider and introduce computerised ticket reservation counters in our Chingleput railway station.

There is an emerging pilgrim centre in my constituency around a very popular temple at Malmaruvathur. It is again in the neighbourhood of Chennai and Chingleput. Many pilgrims from all over India throng the place and hence I request the Ministry of Railways to consider and announce a stoppage at Malmaruvathur. All the south-based trains from Chennai may be stopped at this station for a while invariably everytime.

Chennai has got Mass Rapid Transit System now. The sky-trains operated on the railway lines over ground has been introduced between Park and Luz. It is being extended upto Tharamani. But it should be extended upto Mamallepuram via Thiruvanmiyur. Mamallapuram is an international tourist centre. Foreign tourists frequent the culturally-rich historically-important Mamallapuram tourist spot which is in my constituency. The visit of the tourists fetch the much needed foreign exchange to our exchequer. Hence this MRTS needs to be extended upto Mamallapuram. This request of mine may be considered. You may also consider the proposals of laying Salem-Cuddalore, Salem-Vriddachalum, Salem Karur new railway lines. The Westcoast Express train may be given stoppage at Sangagiri station which is situated in an emerging industrial area.

Tirupathi is an important pilgrim centre with a world renowned temple. People from all over the world visit Tirupathi. So, Arakkonam-Tirupathi line needs to be electrified to enable fast moving traffic in this section. Running of electric trains and EMUs between Arakkonam and Tirupathi would greatly benefit the pilgrims that come from several parts of the country.

The distance between Kanchipuram and Chingleput is 32 kms and at the same time the distance between Kanchipuram and Arakkonam is 30 kms. Electrification of these two rail sections would greatly benefit the people

of these places. I have been pleading this case right from 1989 when I was elected as a Member of Parliament then. I made the plea in this very same august House.

Dindigul-Karur broadguage line enhancement do not get budgetary allocations this year. I request the Hon'ble Minister to look into this as the announcements have been made already. Necessary finance may be provided in these Demands itself. This again is my humble request.

Let me point out the needs of the devotees and general public that travel to Tiruchendur, a well known temple town in the south. But many trains like Janata Express, Nellai Express trains covering that station have been cancelled now. It is imperative that effective steps are taken to ply normal train service in this route with the usual stoppage at Tiruchendur. Let me put forth my humble prayer again to the Railway Minister about the Virudhunagar-Tenkasi Bangalore-Sathyamangalam new railway lines which need to be given due consideration.

I have submitted several demands and brought forth several constructive suggestions pertaining to my constituency and also of several other places in Tamil Nadu. The demands and suggestions that come form our able and eminent leader our beloved Dr. Puratchi Thalailvi (Revolutionary Leader) were handed over to our Hon'ble Prime Minister by a delegation of our MPs. Of the several things cited to improve the lot of the people of Tamil Nadu only one scheme was accepted. New railway line between Karur and Salem was then readily approved. I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude at this juncture for this gesture.

Before I could conclude I would like to impress upon the Railway Minister to give due consideration to all the demands and suggestions that came from our beloved leader through us on behalf of the people of my constituency and several other constituencies in Tamil Nadu. Let me Thank again our beloved leader who enabled me to speak here and the Chair for giving me an opportunity to speak. With this, I conclude. Thank you.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion. A number of points have already been covered, but I will try to cover some other points.

Firstly, I will mention the question of running of trains on time. Trains being late does not only put the passengers in difficulties, Railways are also losing revenue because the goods are being taken by roads instead of trains.

Moreover, that is also causing difficulty to environment. So, this one single point, that is, running the trains on time, is very very essential from all these points of view. I hope the Minister for Railways and the Minister of State for Railways will give proper thought to it and see what can be done.

My second point is with regard to improvement of track condition. Earlier, in 1980s, in Rajdhani Express, I succeeded in translating a whole book while sitting in Rajdhani Express but now if you go by Rajdhani Express, it is very difficult even to write a letter. So much is the tilting. The tracks are being repaired but by whom and in which manner that this kind of things are happening. And this is a thing which causes accidents also. Therefore, I would request that this track improvement should be taken in a much more serious way and should be given to such people who do it seriously.

On the cost escalation question, many Members have spoken. I would also like to mention it because it is really becoming disgusting. About the Tamluk-Digha line, I do not know when it will be completed. Probably I shall die before it is finished because so many years have already gone.

North Bengal is a very backward area. So, this Eklakhi-Balurghat line should have had some priority and from the point of view of what the Minister said that the on-going projects should be quickly finished, there should have been much more allotment for this, which has not been done.

In my own district there are certain things that are very very essential. One is the completion of the fourth line from Howrah to Panskura and third line from Howrah to Midnapore so that more trains and fast trains can go.

Second is the question of Haldia which is developing very fast now. providing more trains and fast trains from Howrah to Haldia is essential. Another thing is the construction of a flyover at Bali Chowk station. Our Government has already agreed to give their part of the money but even then the Railways are not taking it up thus causing a very difficult congestion problem for a very big area.

In my own district, another thing is with regard to beetle leaves. Beetle leaves go to various areas but, unfortunately, we see that from time to time the V.Ps. are not there in requisite numbers in East Coast Express, Howrah-Ahmedabad Express and Bombay Express. Beetle leaves being a fragile commodity and so many agriculturists and peasants being dependent on it, I would request the Minister to take it up seriously because in our State, these beetle leaves are very important. I believe

[SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE]

that is a problem with your State also as well as with Orissa. Therefore, I would request the Minister to kindly see that it does not happen.

I must thank the Railway Minister for granting electrification from Hasnabad to Barasat line. I only hope that that will not be like Tamluk-Digha line going on for ever, but will be done quickly. Anyway, that he has taken up and I thank him for that.

Then, there are certain trains like Shatabdi Express. Whenever I travel in Shatabdi Express, whether in the Eastern Railway or in the Southern Railway, I find that most of the compartments are empty.

Why? It is because so much is the fare that people cannot afford. If people cannot afford it, why should so many compartments be attached in such trains? Something should be done. Either bring down the fare or do not attach so many compartments burdening the railways. I also feel sorry to see the situation. Please see to it that these things are not done.

Another point is that in Calcutta, the extension of Metro Rail up to Garia is very essential. Calcutta, as you know, has very little road surface. In Calcutta, road surface is only 6.25 per cent whereas normally it would be 34 per cent elsewhere. You imagine the congestion in Calcutta. So, you kindly see that the extension of Metro Rail up to Garia and Chakra Rail up to Majerhat is done.

The Government of West Bengal has offered money to the Central Government saying that if they take up projects according to their priorities, they are prepared to give money and it is quite a hefty sum. Unfortunately, the Central Government did not take it up. I do not know why. They should have taken it up. I would like to know why they did not take it up. I would also like to know whether they will take up this proposal of West Bengal Government.

Last but not least is the difficulty of passengers, particularly the ladies. What is happening in the stations and inside the trains. It is not only a question of their being robbed but also of their being raped inside the trains. Such type of things are happening. At least, please ask both your Railway protection Force and the State Police not to behave in such an abominable manner so as to put our country to shame. I hope that the Minister will kindly consider these points and take necessary steps.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (Mahasamund) : Members have started clapping even before Shri Ram Das Athawale could start speaking.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Mumbai North Central): Clapping is sure to be there.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Will you speak on rail or derailment.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Certainly, I will speak on railway as the discussion is on the Demands for Grants relating to the Railway. Every year, the discussion take place in the House but reforms in railway department are not taking place in the manner they should be.

Khalasis are the most important part of railway functioning. However, these Khalasis who work hard for the Railway, are not made permanent even after 10,15 or 20 years of service. I request the hon'ble Minister to take some decision today itself in this regard. Contract system is needed to be abolished. The food & tea provided during the railway journey is tasteless and of poor quality and it needs improvement. Private companies can be given contract for catering in the trains. Hon'ble Minister should consider this point.

Also, the backlog of vacancies reserved for Scheduled Casts and Scheduled Tribes are not being filled up in the Railways and also employees of such categories are not given promotions. Government should consider to take effective measures in this regard. In Mumbai, State Government was to hold talks with the World Bank regarding the Mumbai Urban Transport project but the same has not been done till date. There is heavy local traffic in Mumbai. Therefore, the World Bank should be approached for the approval of MUTP and efforts should be made to get more grant from there. Additional Platforms are needed to be constructed at Kurla Station. At present, if a train arrives at the station, it has to wait for one-two hours to get the platform. Therefore, I request you to construct one or two more platforms there. V.T. Station in Mumbai has been re-named as Chatterpati Shivaji Station. Similarly, I request you to rename the Mumbai Central Station as Baba Saheb Ambedkar station as Mumbai has also been the Centre of activities of Baba Sahib.

Hon'ble Minister of Railways should tell us about the reforms being carried out in Railways. What steps the hon. Minister is going to take to root out corruption from this department? I suggest to send a delegation under the leadership of Hon'ble Minister and the State Minister to Sapan to study the railway Management of this country.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He will be happy if Shri Ramdas Athwale is also included in the team.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I will not go. I have already visited Japan once. Railway reforms required to be taken in railway network can be studied there. Trains run there smoothly. The same arrangements can be made in our country also. Your Government has come to power very recently. I do not know how long this Government lasts.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : It will last five years.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I do not know whether it will last 5 years or 5 months. But, Hon'ble Minister should seriously consider the issue of railway reforms. It is right that both the Ministers are active. Railway Commuters will use their mandate against them if they do not improve the condition of railways in the country.

My suggestion is that to facilitate the poor people at least eight bogies of general class should be attached in very train instead of six as announced by the hon. Minister. The number of coaches should be increased to 25 if there are 21 coaches presently in the train. Attention should be paid to strengthen the railway mechanism. The conversion work of Puruvari metergauge track into broadgauge should completed as early as possible so that more labourers could get employment. Attention should also be paid towards the local trains in Mumbai. People will be benefited if the local trains run at a frequency of one minute.

17.00 hrs

In the end, I would like to demand that Superfast trains should run from Mumbai to Gorakhpur, Calcutta, Chennai, Kanyakumari, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Nagpur, Mangalore, Patna and Trivendrum. As Mumbai is the Capital of Maharahtra, adequate facility of trains should be there. I hope that the Government will pay attention towards it and will consider getting cooperation from Private companies, if needed.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

1701 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY (Kendrapara) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, since 1843 we started the Railway communication between Mumbai and Thane and in between, the country has achieved 62,729 route kilometres. By the year 1998, the State of Orissa which I represent have got 2200 kilometres, out of which, 1400 kilometres had been spread during the British period. Considering both route kilometres of the country and the route Railway kilometers spread in Orissa, it come to about 12.86 per 1000 Sq. kms. Railway route.

The national average achievement is 19 kms. per 1000 Sq. kms. in my native and neighbouring State like in Bihar, this ratio is 30 kms. and in West Bengal, it is 43.1 kms. per 1000 sq. kms.

In the matter of Railway route development for the last 15 years, I would like to draw the attention of the Railway Minister who has reacted vary badly to my intervention during his presentation of the Railway Budget and he said that Orissa has not been neglected, I would like to stress on the net route spread during the last 15 years in different States and in Orissa. From 1980 to 1997, Orissa has got only 20 kms. which, is in absolute increase, will be around 1.6 kms. Whereas, West Bengal has 100 kms., the absolute increase in 8.1 kms. for Andhra Pradesh it is 22.9 or 228 kms.; for Madhya Pradesh, it is 20.4 or 151 kms.; for Uttar Pradesh it is 15.7 kms.; for Kerala, it is 11.1 kms.; for Tamil Nadu, it is 10.2 kms.; and for Assam, it is 12.7 kms. During the last 15 years, this is the Railway route which has been spread in the states other than Orissa. Earlier, I was mentioning that from 1843 to 1998, Orissa has got only 2200 kms. of which, 1400 kms. have been spread during British period.

For the last 50 years, so far as Orissa is concerned, this was the achievement of the work done by the Railways. If this is not considered or interpreted as negligence in respect of Orissa State, then, I am afraid, I will have to consult some other dictionary to find out the real meaning of the word 'negligence'. For the last 50 years, when the railway tracks are being laid in different parts of the country, in Orissa, more than 75 per cent of the railway route is being spread in those area where the South Eastern Railway is getting the maximum revenue—not from the passengers services but from the goods carried from different mining places in Orissa.

We have the Daitari-Banspani line. Since the 70s, when I was a student in the college, we have agitated on this issue. In 1971, the Central Government had approved this project. But till 1998, this railway track is yet to see the light. Moreover when this railway track is completed, it will not only be benefiting the people of Orissa but the whole country by reducing carriage charges of iron ore and coal from Paradip Port and *vice versa* by Rs. 7 per tonne. Today, the carrying charges of coal from Paradip Port to Rourkela Steel Plant, Jamshedpur,

[SHRI PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY]

and iron ore from mining places to Paradip Port will be reduced and the country will be the gainer by Rs. 7 per tonne. When millions of tonnes of iron ore and coal are being transported, then what would have been the profit for the country? For the last 50 years, in spite of the agitation, persuasion and appeals, still, this remains incomplete.

Then, there is the Talcher-Sambalpur railway line, which is 174 kms, which could have provided a cultural linkage between the Western part of Orissa and the Eastern part of Orissa. Till today, the Western Part of Orissa is yet to be linked by the railway route. We have to travel from this part of Orissa to the other part of Orissa either through Andhra or West Bengal or Bihar. That is the tragedy over which we have reacted, but we have been misunderstood by many of our friends.

MR. SPEAKER : Please wind up.

SHRI PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY : Sir, I have spoken for only three minutes. I will try to conclude.

Then, Khurda Road-Bolangir is another major railway project, which was approved by the Railway Ministery. The cost requirement is about Rs. 350 crore. Only Rs. 4 crore have been sanctioned till now. If this would be the fate then assuming that there is no cost escalation and a rise in the prices, I believe, it will take another 150 years to complete this project.

Another project links Haridaspur with Paradip Port, and it has been started only last year. Before the Railway Budget was presented, I had drawn the attention of the Railway Minister to give priority to this project. It covers a distance of only 78 kilometres. I have been told that the State Government was yet to provide the land for carrying on the work. But only four days back, a unanimous Resolution was passed in the Orissa Legislative Assembly against the negligence of the Railway Ministry in respect of the State of Orissa. The State Government had announced that ninety per cent of land had been allotted for Haridwar Pradeep Railway Project.

I do not know from where the Railway Ministry has got the information. But the Railway Minister has written to me that the State Government is yet to provide the land. If this is the consideration given to us, how do we think that our case has been considered carefully?

There are other two important projects of gauge conversion in Orissa which have been neglected in the 8th Five Year Plan. They are Rupsa-Bangiriposi, 89 km. and Nuapada-Gunupur *via* Paralakhemendi, 90 km. The allocation made is very meagre. That is only in lakhs and not in crores. These two projects are yet to see the light of the day. Only 6,000 km have been taken up in the last four years of the 8th Five Year Plan and till today but not these projects. I do not know what sort of attempt we shall have to make to pursue and to get this work done.

The work of electrification is being taken up in the South-Eastern railway main line linking Howarh and Waltair. This electrification work is being carried on, leaving aside the jurisdiction of the State of Orissa. On the border of Orissa, electrification work is not there from Vizianagram. There is also no electrification from West Bengal side of the border of Orissa. I do not know whether this main line would have the electrical trains run between Howrah and Chennai. I would like to draw the attention of the Railway Minister to this matter.

I would like to say that two bridges are being constructed to complete doubling Cuttack-Bhubaneswar railway link in Mahanadi and Birupa rivers. These bridges are in the pipeline and work has started. In the absence of another two bridges over the river, Kathajori and Kuakhai, the track as a whole cannot be completed and made operational. I would therefore draw the attention of the Railway Minister to this matter and request him to take note of this without these two bridges, the entire project will be simply a failure.

We have got a train linking Bhubaneswar and Mumbai. This is called Konarak Express. It terminates at Bhubaneswar and stays there for about 12 hours. Most of the passengers are from erstwhile Cuttack district. My request is to extend Konarak Express up to Paradip port linking Pradip port and Mumbai port where passengers can go *via* Cuttack to Mumbai and for the time the train halting at Bhubaneswar could be fully utilised.

The rail link between Bhubaneswar and Koraput is ready and an Express train can be introduced on the line. It may be called as Sabari Express in the name of the oldest tribal community of Orissa. It should have priority consideration of the Railway Minister.

Last but not least the frequency of the Rajdhani Express is for two days now between New Delhi and Bhubaneswar. It can be extended for another two days and the present railway route can be converted through Sambalpur Talcher by reducing 359 km and linking Western Orissa and Eastern Orissa and saving time for the commuters.

The Railways can thereby reduce the travelling time for the commuters who travel from Delhi to Bhubaneswar. It can also connect the western part of Orissa with eastern part of Orissa.

With this, I conclude.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I rise to participate in the debate on the Demands for Grants for Railways for the year 1998-99. Very many Members have pointed out so many issues. So, I straightaway come to the specifics.

Firstly, I would like to say that the Chennai Ezhumbur (Egmore)-Tiruchirapalli broad gauge conversion work is going to be completed by the end of July and traffic is going to be resumed on this line. But, at the same time, I would like to point out that this will not benefit the people for a long time because there is no facility to receive the long-distance trains at the Egmore Railway Station. The trains which have more number of coaches cannot be received on the platforms at Egmore. So, I request the hon. Minister of Railways to immediately issue instructions to take up the expansion of platforms there on a war footing.

There is a proposal to construct a fly-over bridge at Perambur. For that, the Corporation of Chennai has given land and also remitted the amount. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Sir, the hon. Minister should hear the Member who is speaking. He is speaking with somebody else. What is this? Mr. Minister, kindly hear the hon. Member who is speaking. ...*(Interruptions)* You have to hear the Member speaking. I am very sorry. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : What can I do if some Member is speaking with me? I have heard him. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : The matter has also been cleared at the level of the Southern Railway Headquarters. It is yet to be cleared by the Railway Board. Because of this delay, the cost of the project is escalating and it causes many problems to the people who are living in the highly populated area. So, I request the hon. Minister to expedite the proposal quickly.

After the completion of the Konkan Railway, the passengers who are travelling from Coimbatore, Tirupur, Erode and Salem, which are the major business centres in Tamil Nadu, are denied of having the facility of availing the trains which were earlier passing through these places. So, I would request the hon. Minister to introduce new trains and till such time, he should make alternative arrangements for the commuters to travel.

In my constituency, there is a traffic problem near Padi on Villivakkam-Red Hills High Road which requires immediate attention by the hon. Railway Minister to construct a new over-bridge there.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is contemplating to develop the Cuddalore Port as a major Port and to induce the entrepreneurs to start industries in that area. In this connection, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi has written a letter to the hon. Minister of Railways to convert the metre gauge line from Cuddalore to Salem into a broad gauge one. If it is done, it will be a boon to the industries as well as the Railways which will fetch freight and passenger traffic.

Sir, the work relating to conversion of metre-gauge into broad-gauge between Chennai-Egmore-Villupuram has already been done. Villupuram-Rameshwaram main line should be converted from metre-gauge to broad-gauge as Rameshwaram is the most important pilgrim centre and almost thousands of people from North, travel to Rameshwaram. In the first phases Tiruchirappalli-Rameshwaram line is to be taken up for gauge conversion *via* Karaikudi. Necessary allocation of funds and other formalities may please be initiated. The hon. Member representing South Chennai constituency Shri T.R. Baalu has already requested the hon. Minister of Railways to complete the sub-way work in his constituency expeditiously.

The ICF is a renowned coach building factory which is fetching huge amounts of foreign exchange. It has got a global contract. We are getting orders for building coaches from all over the Globe. I would request the hon. Railway Minister to modernise the factory and expand it to meet the global needs with regard to coach building.

Golden Rock Workshop is a renowned and a prestigious workshop as far as Southern Railway is concerned. It has got an historic background as far as railwaymen are concerned. At present, 7,000 workers are working in this Workshop. I would request the hon. Minister to see that the Workshop is converted into a wagon building workshop so that it can give protection to thousands of workers.

Finally, before I conclude, I would request the hon. Minister to bestow his best attention towards the quality of food that is being served in the railways. Food is to be hygienically packed and quality food should be served. There are a lot of complaints about the poor quality of food.

With this, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagadh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the third time, I have been elected from the Junagadh Parliamentary Constituency. First of all, I thank the hon. Minister of

[SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA]

Railways for introducing Lokshakti train from Kamavati to Mumbai recently. He also proposed to introduce a train from Mehsana to Taranga. But I am very sorry to say that in my parliamentary constituency the gauge conversion work of Rajkot–Veraval division which is 185 km long, is not progressing at the same pace as was expected. This project was inaugurated by former Minister of Railways, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. This project will not complete in time as work on it is going on at a slow speed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request Shri Nitish Kumar to allocate more funds for this project of gauge conversion as a provision of only Rs. 5 crore was made for it earlier and Rs. 5 crore were given for additional expenditure. I request the hon. Minister to make provisions for Rs. 50 crore for timely completion of the project. He has given assurance to visit the site of the project. I can say that Nitish Kumarji is busy in conversation with Shri Kalpnathji. I request him to pay attention towards my point. ...*(Interruptions)* He should come to see this project and make provision for funds required for it.

I would like to draw the attention of tho hon. Minister towards another point. There are two trains for going to Veraval from my area. These are Junagadh Express and Girnar Express from Ahmedabad. These have only one A.C. second class compartment which causes difficulty. I request you to provide one more AC second class compartment in these trains. Another train named 'Somnath Express' is also plying in this area which is in very bad condition and passengers face difficulties in travelling by it. I request you to improve its condition and provide one AC second class compartment in it. There are some lacunae and confusion in the computerised reservation system. it should be checked so that people could easily get tickets for travelling by trains. So far as the provision for reservation of tickets two months before the actual travelling is concerned, I would like to say that generally people do not chalk out their programmes so early because no one knows that he would go somewhere after two months. I would like to draw your attention towards the problem created by it. Some people get the reservation for berths in the beginning and sell the tickets after charging more money later on, which causes inconvenience to the people.

The project of constructing accommodations for railway employees in Ahmedabad was started three years ago but progress of this project is not up to the desired extent. Therefore more attention should be paid towards it. There is a railway bridge at Keshod. I requested the officials for permitting scooter and other light vehicles from the under bridge but officials have not allowed that. I would like to draw the attention of Nitishji towards the point that laying of broad gauge railway line is essential for economic development of any region. Therefore, the project of conversion of the Rajkot-Veraval line into broadgauge should be completed at the earliest.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Prof. Saifuddin Soz. Please finish your speech within two minutes.

1728 hours

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : No, Sir. I am speaking for a party. My turn comes late. I do not know why it comes so late. But I have some ideas to express.

Sir, through you, I want to say that it is a matter of great agony in my heart and mind that the Government of India never wanted to get Kashmir on the Railway map of India. We tried very much. I raised this issue with earlier Governments and Dr. Abdullah, the hon. Chief Minister of the State. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Nitishji, I would like to make some important submissions. Please listen to me or I will resume my seat. You may allow me less time to speak but please listen to my points.

[English]

I will finish very quickly.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I want to have a glass of water. That is why I was going out.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : That is coming. A glass of water then comes to you. Please be present because I want to finish very quickly. Thank you.

Sir, the Government of India never wanted to get Kashmir on the Railway map of India. It is unfortunate because I understand that this could be done but this has not been done because our point was no from the position of being narrow-minded that something should come to Kashmir. But the position we had taken was in the interest of the nation. Kashmir should not in isolation.

We should promote a kind of integration. That is natural.

I raise a question as to why no railway line has been constructed in Kashmir all these fifty years. There is agony in my heart. I raised this question in 1983 when Indiraji was the Prime Minister. She said some money should be spent and that year Rs. 5 crore was spent. But the rail could not move all these years from Jammu to Udhampur. I offer some figures to the Railway Minister of India who, I consider, can do something if he wants to. He has got that capacity. I may tell him that

in 1984 the estimate for the construction of the railway line between Jammu and Udhampur was Rs. 70 crore. Now you see the escalation. Year after year we have been told that there has been enhanced amount of money, but there is not progress. Since 1983 the train has not gone to Udhampur. We must know this. It is a matter of shame that for fifty years we did not consider it fit to take rail to Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir. Do you think Kashmir should live in isolation? Kashmir should live with other parts of this great coutnry as other live. Because of this isolation, Nitishji you understand what happened.

We have a fair weather road. Sometimes when the sky is overcast, aeroplanes also do not go. Then valley is cut off. We know there has to be a sense of urgency with the Government of India. What happened during the last two-three years is that we took up this matter very vigorously with Government of India. I want to give some figures which may not be available with the Minister. I have a grouse that the Railway bureaucracy has been against this project. I saw the Prime Minister sending the Chairman of the Railway Board to me when I was a Minister. He told him 'convince Shri Saifuddin Soz rather than him ' because he found some technical fault in the proposal. If you leave it to the bureaucracy it will never get constructed. If you take a vow that you will take the rail to Kahsmir, you can do it.

I want to give you a couple of figures. In 1995-96, for the first time, a sizeable amount was given to the construction of railway lines. It was Rs. 50 crore. In 1996-97 we raised a great hue and cry to take railways to Kashmir, from Udhampur to Srinagar and from Kazigund to Baramullah, Shri Deve Gowda and Shri I.K. Gujral understood this and in 1996-97 Rs. 20 crore were made available. In 1997-98 it rose to Rs. 75 crore. Currently there was a demand for Rs. 200 crore which has been slashed down to Rs. 75 crore. If this situation were to continue, you will not construct that railway line in twenty years time.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Would you yield?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ. : Sir, i am just concluding.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Recently on 24th June, a meeting was held in Srinagar, in which the Chief Minister of the state and Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs, Minister of Tourism, Minister of Power and Minister of Railways from the government of India side took part. The whole matter was discussed in this meeting. In context of the point raised by you, I would like to say that Railway Board is not at all against it. Just now you referred to the statement made by former Prime Minister Shri Devegowda that Kashmir Railway line would be included as a national project and apart from Railway Budget, assistance from the plan budget would be given for it. That assistance was not given. From the annual Railway budget and from our own resources Rs. 75 crore have been given again for it. Three phases of this project are—Jammu to Udhampur which is almost complete and is being executed with the funds of Railways, Udhampur to Katra, Katra to Kajigund and Kajigund to Baramula are also proposed and programme regarding this has been announced. We have proposed three options and out of that one option was adopted that is Udhampur to Katra and middle portion of valley from Kajigund to Baramula railway line is likely to be completed by 2002. The plan for Katra to Kajigund project has been proposed. Central Government would provide additional assistance for it outside the Railway budget, otherwise Railway is not in a position to complete this project. You should appreciate the efforts of the Railways in this regard and try to get some more funds for it.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Nitish Kumarji had made an impressive speech there also and now also he is trying to please us here. I would like to say that this House should act like a judge in this matter. I have full faith in what has been stated here by hon. Nitisji. I was coming to that point.

Let us say, for the total project, you spend Rs. 2,500 crore. Year after year, there will be escalation. If you provide Rs. 75 crore outside the Plan structure, I will congratulate you for that. But my point is that if this is the money that you will spend year after year, you may not be able to do it by the year 2006 because spending Rs. 100 crore annually is nothing if such a long line is to be constructed. I will not go into the details because the hon. Minister wants to have a glass of water and the hon. Speaker is also urging me to conclude!

I have more facts and I am nearly an expert on this. want that this railway line should come up. I say this keeping in mind the national interest. I do not say, 'Give us something'. I am not begging for something. This line will enhance the emotional integration. This will solve the problem of isolation for all time to come.

I congratulate Shri Nitish Kumar for giving good assurances there and for making this beautiful brief speech here. Congratulations to him but my point is, I have gone through these figures as a student of economics. I had heard the speech of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. I had heard the speeches of many Railway Ministers including Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief and Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. I want the officers of the Railway Board and others to understand this. My point is that if you spend Rs. 75 crore or Rs. 100 crore or Rs. 200 crore

[PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ]

annually, you will not construct it in less than twenty years. You have to do it on a war footing.

There is a proposal with me. I know how you can do it. The proposal is this. You constructed the Konkan Railway. You called it 'The Konkan Express Railway'. My proposal is that you should declare this as 'Kashmir Express Railway Corporation' and give a time frame. I do not mind the money. You may do a miracle with less amount of money. You will have to—and the Government will have to—rise to the occasion and declare this as 'Kashmir Express Railway Corporation' and construct the line in the same way in which you constructed the Konkan Railway. I wish you a long life as a Minister; I do not grudge that. But if you go by these figures, you will take a long time. So, unless you make it 'Kashmir Express Railway Corporation' on the same analogy as you did in the case of the Koonkan Railway, you can never do it. I hope you will rise to the occasion and announce this line as 'Kashmir Express Railway Corporation' today.

[English]

SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA (Marmagoa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not like to highlight the points raised by my hon. colleagues. I would like to restrict my speech only to the State of Goa.

I do not know if the hon. Minister is aware that in the 1990s when the proposal for the Konkan Railway was in the offing, there was also a hue and cry in the State of Goa about the alignment of the track: whether it should go through the existing track or it should go through the hinterland of the State. At that time, I happened to be a Minister in Goa and we had hard trouble in persuading the people of Goa. I am not aware if the hon. Minister has gone through the Oza Committee report.

But here I would like to highlight that many points that were promised in the Oza Committee report have not seen the light of the day up to now.

First of all, the main point is that we have got about 90 to 100 Kms. of line. Goa being a small State, all along, the fields are getting inundated because proper care has not been taken of the drainage aspect. So I would like the hon. Railway Minister to intervene and see that in between some more small bridges are constructed some more pipes are laid so that fields are not inundated.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you might be aware that in Goa the farm labour is very expensive and all the lands or the fields along the track are getting spoiled and the crops are getting spoiled every year. I would like the hon. Minister to ensure that the impediments are removed because that was the assurance given by the Oza Committee report.

Another main point is that a lot of farmers were displaced there and an assurance was given that whenever job opportunities would arise, proper care would be taken to see that those jobs would go to the children of the farmers who were displaced. We have seen that so may stations have come up and at the stations, there are so many facilities like the provision of telephone booths and jobs. I would request the hon. Minister to intervene and see that every job does not go only to the locals, but also to the children of those people whose lands have been acquired.

The next point is about the track from Londa to Goa which had been converted from metre-gauge to broad-gauge. On the one hand, our scientists have blasted nuclear bombs and on the other hand, I am sorry to say that our railway engineers have increased the ingredients when the tracks were upgrated; and today, the train that was going from Londa to Vasco had been stopped. Due to this, people from South are agitated. It falls in my constituency and a lot of people from South came and met me. They want to stop the trains going there and I would not be surprised if they do that. I would request the hon. Minister to see that either the gradient is decreased or the missing link goes out and the train services are resumed immediately. We should not forget that Goa is a window of our nation as far as tourism is concerned. After the completion of the Konkan Railway project, how many trains are going? Only one or two trains are going to Mumbai. The track is under-utilised. The other day I called on the hon. Minister and I was happy that he gave me a patient hearing. I have also spoken to the General Manager of the Konkan Railway. I was told that they have got a lot of trains which are in the offing. We are not concerned with whatever they have in the offing. We want some more trains immediately. I am demanding that Goa being a tourist place. it should be connected to every State of India.

The last point that I want to say is this. Goa is a mining State and we have got a town called Curchorem.

MR. SPEAKER : Please wind up. At 6 o'clock, the hon. Minister is to give reply.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so many Members have already spoken on the Railway Budget. The corridors of the library are littered with the bundels of the speech of the, Railway Minister. For how long will this discussion continue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : The last point which I would like to make is this. I am talking about Curchorem which is a small town and there is a place called Sanvordem in the heart of Curchorem. There is stocking of iron ore there. Goa being a mining State, iron ore comes from local and also from Karnataka. There has been a proposal from the local Government to shift that stocking. The hon. MLA of that place who is also a Minister there, has written to the hon. Minister. I am appealing to the Minister for Railways not to take it lightly because if he does not apply his mind on this matter, I am sure that rail traffic will be stopped going that side and that will be a colossal loss to the country.

While concluding, I would request the hon. Minister to take up remedial measures immediately and see that such a situation is averted.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB) : Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to express my views.

I do not have the intention to disturb the Minister for Railways but I am sorry to place on record that my district, Murshidabad in the State of West Bengal has been neglected. I am sorry to mention again that my district, Murshidabad has been totally neglected during the last 50 years of Independence.

In the judicial system, judges come and go but the judgements delivered by them stand valid. In our political system, Governments come and go but the decision of the previous Government does not stand valid. I am sorry to mention it because we demanded three things in the previous years but they have not been given.

My district falls within the jurisdiction of Lalgola-Sealdah railway section which is under the management of Estern Railway. The district headquarters has a special historical importance of its own. Murshidabad is the ex-capital of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. We demanded the most essential thing, that is, electrification from Krishna Nagar to Berhampore. The distance is only 92 kilometres. The former Railway Minister, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan gave an order for a survey and the preliminary survey was done. The survey report was also accepted by the Ministry of Railways. But unfortunately, we see that this area has been entirely neglected in the Railway Budget or in the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Railways. I appeal to the hon. Minister in this regard.

We demanded another thing. I have come to this House from Berhampore. This is a busy town and there is a level-crossing just at the gateway of this town. That level-crossing, Panchananthala is really a very busy level-crossing. Accidents occur there everyday. We get the news of accidents occurring there everyday. When Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister, it was accepted that a bridge over that level crossing would be constructed. It was heard that money had been allotted for this purpose. I do not know how this budgetary allocation has been diverted for another purpose. So, I would urge upon the hon. Railway Minister sitting here to inquire into the matter and to do the needful for the construction of a bridge over the level-crossing at the gateway of Berhampore town, that is, at Panchananthala.

Thirdly, we demanded construction of another bridge over Bhagirathi to connect Lalgude-Sealdah section.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Sir, I am the only speaker from my party and I am the victim of time constraint. In that case, how can I solve my problems?

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : My party is a small party. But then, it has to put forward its views here. ...*(Interruptions)*

I had requested for construction of a new bridge over the Bhagirathi at Nasipur because Murshidabad, that is, Lalbagh, is an historical place. That was a Capital at the time of Nawab Sirajudaula. We have also demand an express train from Capital to Capital. It is a territorial district. It has some strategic importance. On the other side of the river, Jalangi, there is Bangladesh. Every time our misguided youth suffer from many problems in that area. It has strategic importance. Still it has strategic importance. In the year 1946, the British Government thought of a new railway line from Murshidabad to Delhi, that is, to run an express train from Capital to Capital. A line was also constructed. But after the partition of the State, the importance of that line, that is, from Capital to Capital express, still holds good. It is still having some military and strategic importance. It has some other importance also. So, may I urge upon the Government to give some special importance and attention to the construction of a railway bridge over the Bhagirathi just to connect these two lines so that Lalgola-Sealdah line can be extended up to North Bengal *via* Farakka-Malda-Siliguri? After its opening, the commercial importance of this line would be found out.

We have also claimed certain fringe benefits from the Department, that is, about the safety and security measures of the passenger trains on the Lalgola-Sealdah

[SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE]

section. The passengers do not find any amenities in that section. There is no safety and security. Parhaps, the Department has taken a note of the fact that everyday information comes about robberies on those trains. The robbery and dacoity have become a common phenomenon of the Lalgola-Sealdah passenger trains. Everybody knowns it. We suffer from it. We have repeatedly told the General Manager of the Eastern Railway to please adopt some measures for safety and security of the passengers travelling by the Lalgola-Sealdah passenger trains. But no arrangement has yet been made. How can this problem be solved? Please look into this matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pramothes Mukherjee, please wind up.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Sir, I am concluding. I was talling about the tourism spot, that is, Lalbagh. It is popularly known as Murshidabad. Murshidabad is a place of tourism. Tourism can also be developed. Economic horizon can be extended up to that place if proper attention for development of this railway track is adopted.

Lastly, the Ekhlakhi-Balurghat Project is still under consideration of the Minister of Railways, Shri Nitish Kumar. A little amount has been allotted. But the machinery should be given to the Ekhlakhi-Balurghat Project on a war footing. Please also look into the other projects that are pending before the Railway Board.

Lastly, I again appeal to the Minister of Railways and to the Railway Board that the Sonarpur-Canning double line can be done very easily and Sonarpur-Canning token railway system should be abolished in the interest of speed of these trains. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL (Bettiah) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been elected from the State of Bihar, which has the honour of having given the country the Ministers of Railways from Shri Jagjivan Ram to Shri Nitish Kumar. Although we have had several Ministers of Railways from Bihar, still this state has been ignored. No Minister has ever paid any attention to the area from which I hail. Chitauni- Bagha bridge had been destroyed in 1928. When Shri George Fernandes assumed the charge of Ministry of Railways for a brief period, that bridge was got constructed. A broad-gauge line was proposed to be laid, however metre gauge line was laid instead at the time of inauguration. Shri Lalit Kumar Sinha was holding the post of General Manager at that time and he had stated on 14.6.95 that Narkatiaganj-Gorakhpur line will be converted into broad gauge line in December, 1996. It is 1998 now and it is still not clear whether the proposed work will be carried out or not. Similarly when the construction incharge, Shri Garg was contacted, he said that they are unable to get the services of a contractor willing to undertake the construction of the bridge. When we ask the Hon'ble Minister, the General Manager says that the construction has been completed. It is difficult to understand as to who is right and who is wrong. The bridge proposed to be inaugurated from December, 1996 with broad guage line has still not been opened for traffic.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : When did you have a talk about it?

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Only recently and what I am saying is true.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : You are making it up.

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : I do not wish to blame the Hon'ble Minister. The officials are guilty for this lapse because they have shown laxity in opening it for traffic. The work has not been completed even after the release of entire money.

I would also like to submit that a project for laying a UHF line upto Gorakhpur via Muzaffarpur-Narkatiaganj has been sanctioned but the funds have not been released for the same. No tender has been floated in this regard for the last two years and the work has not been started.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We have discussed it day before yesterday. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have made it clear in his presence that it is targetted to be completed by 1999. The material and the sleepers are being provided and all other arrangements are being made as well.

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Sir, it was proposed to be opened for traffic in December, 1996 and I am apprehensive as to whether it will be opened for traffic by December, 1998. I would request the Hon'ble Minster to pay attention towards the work being undertaken in Champaran as well. I have one more request that a division should be set up at Narkatiaganj so that the gauge conversion work may be started there.

Sir, I have one more request. Signalling and Telecommunication wing is working quite systematically. However, the incharge of this division holds the position of Additional Member in the Railway Board. I have a suggestion that a full-fledged post should be earmarked instead. I request Hon'ble Minister of Railways to give the status of a Member in the Railway Board to the Additional Member holding the charge of Signalling and Telecommunications.

With this, I conclude my speech.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Sir, I also hail from Bihar. With regard to all the former Ministers of Railways hailing from the State of Bihar, excluding the present Railway Minister because it is difficult to make an assessment regarding his style of functioning in view of the brief period for which he has been in office. It is being said that this and that project has been sanctioned but the position remains unclear. I am aware of the functioning of the State of Bihar. No proposal has been submitted to the Government of Bihar for acquiring the land, still it is being claimed that the project has been passed.

18.00 hrs

All this is being done forcibly. As regards the work actually carried out, Hon'ble Minister may get it enquired with regard to the broad gauge line laid from Sonepur to Hajipur as to which metal was proposed to be procured and what sort of metal has been supplied there. So long as you do not pay attention to previous lapses, it won't be of any use. So much is being said about Bihar. Hon'ble M.Ps. from outside Bihar are well aware as to how much has been allocated for Bihar in the Rail Budget. We are also well aware of it. Hon'ble Member has raised the issue of rail line, the bridge and Deegha-Patna rail line and what he has said about the missing lights in the rail coach, is very much true. Everywhere people travel in comfort of air conditioned coaches and Bihar is unnecessarily blamed that it has hogged the entire budgetary allocation. The Minister of Railways should throw some light on all these facts. Bihar has been given a very meagre amount in comparison to what the other States have got. If any Member from Bihar gets angry about the state of affairs, he is asked to assume the charge of Ministry of Railways. Thus he is offered the portfolio of Minister of Railways. Nothing else is being done for the state. Other Ministers sit behind Shri Nitish with remote control in their hands and thus prevent him from doing his work. How will he be able to work in such circumstances? You have to see to all these things. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (Mahasumand) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel that a separate session should be convened to discuss the state of affairs in Bihar.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, as per the decision taken by the Leaders in the Business Advisory Committee meeting yesterday, the House is going to work up to 8 p.m.

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was the happiest person when I came to know that Shri Nitish Kumar was made the Railway Minister. I was prepared to extend congratulations and bouquets to my friend Shri Nitish Kumar, a dynamic Minister. But I am pained to say that I was terribly disappointed as far as Tamil Nadu was concerned. We expected a new deal for Tamil Nadu but we have got only a raw deal.

Because of constraint of time, I do not want to take much time of the House. At the same time, I want to congratulate the hon. Minister and extend gratitude on behalf of the unemployed youth. Thanks to Railway Minister, they need not spend money on rail journey when they are called for an interview.

Regarding allocation of funds for the State of Tamil Nadu, our hon. Minister has already said that he has allotted funds according to the Explanatory Memorandum on the Railway Budget (page 45). There is a provision of Rs. 19,65,000 this year for Chennai Beach-Luz rapid transit system. This is a project which will go on for many years. The total estimated cost is Rs. 259.89 lakh and the allotment made is a mere Rs. 1961 lakh. For Luz-Velacherry extension of MRTS, the allotment made is just Rs. 20 lakh. For conversion of chennai-Beach-Tambaram-Chengalpet line into broad-gauge, the allotment made is a pittance of Rs. 1 lakh as against the balance of Rs. 135.61 lakh.

Again when we come to gauge conversion, our hon. Minister could answer that he had allotted Rs. 6152 lakh for Dindugal-Trichy line, that is, a distance of 98 km. This is an on-going project for many years. It is the life line from Chennai via Chengalpat, Villupuram, Trichy up to Dindugal. Now, the passengers who are coming from the southern districts have to take a roundabout route via-Karur-Erode. You have not allotted more funds for any new projects.

For example, there is a broad-gauge track up to Quilon from Trivandrum. From Virudhunagar to Madurai, there is a broad-gauge track. But, in-between Virudhunagar-Tenkasi-Quilon is a metre-gauge track. So, there is a demand for many years to have a gauge conversion from Virudhunagar to Quilon. Virudhunagar comes in my constituency. Virudhunagar-Tenkasi, Tenkasi-Quilon or Tenkasi-Tirunelveli and Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur is one project where the total estimated cost is Rs. 280 lakh. Sir, the hon. Minister is here. I hope, he would take a note of this. You have allotted this year only Rs. 10,000. It is a pittance. It is just to survey a line. Survey and everything is completed. They could say that the Planning Commission is there. If there is a will, definitely it could be done and the hon. Railway Minister would take up the matter with the Planning Commission also.

I would request the hon. Railway Minister to at least sanction a substantial amount for this particular project because linking this broad-gauge line from Virudhunagar

[SHRI VAIKO]

up to Quilon is very important. Tiruchendur is another religious place like Rameshwaram. It is very prominent place. Lakhs and lakhs of people visit the place. So, this project should be taken up.

There is a broad-gauge line from Kanyakumari to Trivandurm. But, now this particular track comes under Trivandrum Division. There was a mas agitation in those years. I led the agitation. In those years, we came here. We were told that the whole Madurai Division under meter-gauge. This broad-gauge project comes under Trivandrum Division. Now that the metre-gauge has been converted into broad-gauge, that question does not arise at all. Now, Madurai Division has also been converted into broad-gauge. Therefore, the line between Kanyakumari via Nagercoil up to Trivandurm comes under Trivandurm Division. It should be delinked from Trivandurm Division and annexed with Madurai Division.

I hope the hon. Railway Minister will allot substantial funds and I hope the grievances of the people of Tamil Nadu will be redressed. ...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : You had said, he will be the last speaker.

MR. SPEAKER : There are two or three speakers more because everybody is interested to speak on this subject

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : I also should be given a chance. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you.

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, only two minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must thank you for giving me this opportunity.

As I see from the records supplied to me, the Railways is facing a crisis in the sense that it has grown downwards. When our GDP is six to seven per cent, the growth of the Railways is only 3.5 per cent. So, it is a downward growth. Why is it so? I said that it is a crisis in the sense that there is no infrastructural development so far as the Railways are concerned, in the matter of telecommunications and in the matter of signals. The result is that accidents occur everyday.

Everyday we hear that trains are late not by minutes but by hours. In the future we will hear that the long distance trains would be late by one or two days. That is the situation. Now, the result is that the freight traffic has come down from 89 per cent to 40 per cent and the passenger traffic has come down from 80 per cent to 20 per cent. That is the picture.

While going through the Demand for Grants, I find that there are certain expenditures which I could not understand. I may point out that they have some miscellaneous workable expenditure. It has increased from Rs. 896.34 crore to Rs. 1,275.94 crore. How it has happened? The hon. Minister has not given any details about this expenditure. I do not know how many miscellaneous expenditures can be there in a Budget. There is another expenditure, called travel expenditure, of Rs. 423.6 crore. It is for air travel. I can understand the Railways having saloon on tracks, but I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they possess air saloons. Why this expenditure? We must understand that it is the hard earned money of the people which is gathered by way of freight by the Railways. These people are not expected to spend crores of rupees without any account. That is why the Railways share has come down.

As I have stated earlier, the EDP is 67 whereas the increase of the Railways is only 3.5. This is the position. Moreover, they have said so many things. But there is no sale proceeds, no accounting for the Railways. In spite of repeated recommendations by this House, the Railways could not stop touts indulging in malpractices. In the matter of ticket reservation they are still continuing. How are they going to deal with this problem? In spite of the fact that they have introduced so many systems, this problem is there.

There is another thing which I would like to point out that passenger amenities have gone down. There are difficulties with regard to wagon production. It is given on contract basis . I would like to know why not the Railways directly produce the wagons. What is the difficulty in producing them by the Railways? At the same time, the Railways have been demanding so much of money from the Planning Commission. I do not understand how the Planning Commission can find so much of money for them.

The Standing Committee on Railways have also recommended Rs. 9,300 crore and the Planning Commission has given only Rs. 4784 crore. The allocation of the Planning Commission was only this much and the Railways have demanded much more. It is for the Planning Commission to find out the methods. It is for the Government also to find out how this could be increased. But anyway, there is paucity of funds I do concede. How

could this be met by the action of the Railways? That I do not know. They must reduce the expenditure.

The Railways are spending unnecessarily for many other things which are not needed. So, there must be strict rules regarding expenditure. The expenditure should be reduced and passenger amenities should be increased. Moreover, the Railway Board has demanded Rs. 65,000 crore.

But the Planning Commission had only sanctioned an amount of Rs. 47,000 crore and odd. The question is whether the Railways would be able to meet the requirement of the people or not. The Railways are meant both for commercial and social requirements. The requirements of the society will have to be met. I do concede that there must be budgetary support. But in India, budgetary support, as it is expected, is not to the level of developed countries.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are certain difficulties with regard to the cases that are investigated by the police. Now the police is under the control of the State Government. The Railways do not have any control over the police. The Railway Protection Police is under the control of the State Government and the Railway Board has no control over them. But is it feasible to have a dual control over them? Whether you should have a separate control over the Railway Protection Police who are working in the Railways or not, the Railway Board is having no control over matters relating to investigation of robbery and dacoity committed within the railway premises. They do not have any statistics about them. So, this matter should be dealt with.

Regarding my constituency, I may put some requirements. Though I have stated about the country as a whole, I must tell you something about my constituency. In the first place, I may tell you that the development of the Trivandrum Central Railway Station is one of the urgent necessities. There was a proposal for the modernisation of the Trivandrum Central Railway Station but that proposal had been withheld and it should be taken into consideration.

Then, there is another issue, that is doubling of Trivandrum-Quilon line. As we know, if things go on like this, even within 40 years, we would not be able to finish the railway project. It is because the amount that is at the actual disposal is so less that you cannot execute all the projects within 40 years. By 40 years, the entire thing will change.

Your doubling project may take 10 to 15 years. Where will it end if things go on like this? So I would request the Railway Minister to take up the doubling of Trivandrum-Quilon line as early as possible and complete it because derailment has become the order of the day.

Then, there is another issue with regard to my constituency, Varkala. The long distance trains have no stop there. But you are advertising that Varkala is one of the most famous tourist centres in Kerala after Kovalam. The railway stations have boards also propagating the importance and the tourist attraction of Varkala. But unfortunately, long distance trains do not stop there. How can tourism develop in that city, in that municipality?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : You please take the Railway Minister to Varkala.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : So, I would request you to take immediate steps for stopping long distance trains at Varkala, failing which I will be constrained to resort to some agitation. Please do not put me to that stage at this age. There are also other stations where long distance trains do not stop there. All these matters may be taken into consideration.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, please conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : There is another proposal for connecting Trivandrum with Kottarakara through the centre of Trivandrum up to Kottayam. That line also should be taken into consideration. Recently there was a revolt because of a proposal not to stop trains at Ernakulam Junction, that is, south station. It is a developing centre. It is at the heart of the city of Cochin. So, you please see that all trains stop and touch Ernakulam Station. I would like to make one more point.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no more point. Shri Radhakrishnan, please take your seat.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Why do you not allow the Railway Protection Force police (RPF) to form their association? Why do you not allow them? You were also a believer in socialism. Now you are with the BJP. I do agree. But your past history tells me that you also believed in collective bargaining. Collectivism is one of your slogans. So, please consider the matter of allowing the RPF to have their own association. It is a fundamental right under the Constitution, but at the same time, discipline should also be maintained. It is because if they have an association, that will do good to the Railways. So, I would request you to consider that aspect also. With these words, I oppose the Railway Budget.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL (Hingoli) : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, before the presentation of this rail budget, we were quite pleased as this rail budget was going to be presented by Shri Nitish Kumar whom we have seen staging a walkout in 1996 over the matter of inadequate provision made for Bihar in the Rail Budget. Shri Ram Naik is also famous for sticking to his demands, hence, the people of Maharashtra were pleased to have Ram Naik ji as the Minister of State. No person living in Mumbai and Konkan can forget the contribution made by Shri Naik with regard to Mumbai Suburban rail service. However our hopes were dashed to the ground when the rail budget was presented.

We were quite hopeful that our neighbour, Shri Nitish Kumar, who had staged a walkout in 1996 over the matter of inadequate funds for Bihar, would keep in mind the interests of Marathwada as a gesture of being a good neighbour. I hail from such a backward area which remained engaged in the freedom struggle for an additional year compared to the rest of the country. The Indian Freedom struggle ceased in 1947 but Marathwada has to fight for one more year. This region gained freedom from the rule of Nizam in 1948. We had to fight uptil 1998 for this struggle to be considered as a part of the freedom struggle and only then the Government of India agreed to give recognition to the struggle made by us, and to consider our contribution and the sacrifices made by thousands of freedom fighters a part of the freedom struggle.

Sir, my constituency known as Nanded earlier and famous as Hingoli now serves as the gateway to Andhra Pradesh. We are your neighbour. The gateway to South-Nanded is known as Kashi of Sikhs. This place is associated with the Tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh ji, hence Sikhs from all over the world visit this place to offer prayers. The Railway Department had set up a new division here which has still not started functioning. When the Railway Department was setting up rail division far away from railway station, I kept on pointing out to the Railways being the elected representative of the area that no employee would report there for work as this division was not being set up at the right place. Sir, we are elected to this House by the people. Lakhs of people place their faith in us and in this House but when Hon'ble Minister ignores our request or is unable to accept it due to remote control effect, it should be considered to be insult of lakhs of people who elect us as their representative. The rail division set up at Nanded is not fully functional. The D.R.M. posted there belongs to North or South. Just as the people living in this country identify themselves either as Muslims or Hindus or Brahims and not as Indians. Similarly the D.R.M. posted in the Rail Division at Nanded would like to live in Bangalore, is actually living in Nanded and is physically present in Hyderabad. This is how the rail division in Nanded is functioning.

There was a loco shed at Purna where 2000 people were working. Now that loco shed has been closed down. The 2000 employees are out of job. Through you, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to re-start that loco-shed at Purna keeping in view the interests of those 2000 employees.

A train, Devgiri was introduced from Nanded to Mumbai during the tenure of Tenth Lok Sabha. this train leaves Nanded at five and arrives at Mumbai at 5.30 in the morning. However when this train leaves for Nanded from Mumbai V.T. at 9.20 p.m. the time of its arrival is never fixed. We feel as if we are touring Bihar. Hence I would make a request to Shri Nitish Kumar and Shri Ram Naik that we should be able to get back around the same time at which we leave for Mumbai for the time of its departure be re-scheduled at 8.20 instead of 9.20 so that we may reach home at 8.30 and be able to serve our area.

The timing of the Sachkhand Express from Nanded to Delhi should be properly scheduled. With regard to the maintenance, I would like to say that those of us travelling from the capital and travelling by Shatabdi Express and Pink City Express would hang our heads in shame if we ever get to see the condition of this train running in Marathwada. It seems very difficult to travel in such a train. Attention should be paid towards maintenance of the trains leaving from Mumbai and Delhi. There is only one train for Manmad-Dhaund-Pune and this train does not have power, fans or proper seats. The maintenance of this train is an example in the case. Neither the passengers nor the authorities have any clue about the way this train is run.

In the end, I would like to make one more request to Shri Nitish ji and Shri Naik ji and it is very important. I am not going to talk about introducing a new train or laying a new rail line. I would like to draw your attention towards the Purna-Akola line, the survey for which was conducted during the tenure of Tenth Lok Sabha. This survey was done with regard to the line proposed to connect the backward area with Delhi and it was to reduce the distance by three hundred kilometers but we do not know as to what transpired thereafter. If the survey was held, the Minister of Railways should have made some budgetary provision. Latur-Miraj is the only line for which you have allocated 25 crore rupees. If 25 crore rupees are released for a project costing 360 crore rupees, I do not think that even our grand children will

be able to utilise the proposed facility. I request Nitish ji to show some consideration for backward areas. The condition of Marathwada is no better than that of Bihar. I would also like to submit that a meagre provision has been made for the Nanded-Adilabad line proposed to be completed by 1999 ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri B.M. Mensinkai.

You are speaking in Kannada. Have you given a notice to the Interpreters Branch?

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI (Dharward South) : Sir, I have given ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : For Interpretation you have to give a notice to the Interpreters Branch ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI : Then, I will speak in English.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mensinkai, you can speak in English. It is better.

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, two names are written in the history of Karnataka with regard to the railway development. One is the name of Shri George Fernandes and the other is that of Shri Jaffer Sharief. The name of Shri George Fernandes is remembered for the creation of the railway line from Mangalore to Mumbai. Shri Jaffer Sharief is remembered for the conversion of the railway line from Miraj to Bangalore from metre-gauge to broad-gauge. Similarly, Shri Nitish Kumar's name also will be remembered provided he makes Hubli as the Zonal Office of the Railway because the people of Hubli have been crying for it for a long time. During the British rule, the Zonal Office was created and the building also was constructed at that time, but after we got freedom, the building was given to the Karnataka Government for a college. So, the infrastructure is there and a workshop also is there in Hubli, but that has to be developed. If the hon. Minister takes the initiative to create the Zonal Office at Hubli, I think he will be remembered for this and his name will be written in the history of Karnataka. Therefore, I request him to do that.

There are certain other important points also which I would like the hon. Minister to consider. One is the construction of over-bridges. From Pune to Bangalore, there are two places where over-bridges are required to be constructed. One is Nelogal and the other is Hanumanmatti. Over-bridges are required to be constructed at the points where National Highways are crossing.

Them from Bellary to Kumta, there is a crossroad. So, a new railway line as required to be constructed there. There is also a demand for construction of a railway line from Hubli to Karwar. From Gadag to Bijapur, only metre-gauge is there. This has to be converted into broad-gauge.

There is metre-gauge railway line from Miraj to Bijapur. The people of that area are demanding that it should be converted into broad-gauge.

There are some other points also to which I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister. These are regarding stoppage of trains and construction of platforms because the old people and ladies cannot board the trains, particularly when two trains come together. So, this also has to be done.

Whatever development took place during the British rule, the same is still continuing. After Independence, the Indian Government has not done anything in this regard. We hope that the Government, through our hon. Minister, will take necessary steps for improving the condition of the railways in Karnataka.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH (Bharatpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall finish in less than two minutes. I know the burden of the distinguished Railway Minister, so I have sent the various proposals to him in writing. But, at the moment, my request is that he should consider converting the Agra-Bandikui track, a distance of 152 Kilometers, from metre-gauge to broad-gauge. This has been approved by the Board but a very modest amount was sanctioned in the fiscal year 1997-98, which was very negligible.

Therefore, I shall be grateful to the Minister if this matter could be taken up and the conversion of metre gauge into broad-gauge undertaken for Agra to Bandikui.

Thank you Sir.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to your

*Not Recorded.

[SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY]

honour for giving me this opportunity to speak something on the Demands for Grants (Railways) for the year 1998-99.

I am extremely sorry to let you know that though I have been making a lot of representations and demands before the hon. Union Railway Minister on certain genuine demands, but till today, the hon. Union Railway Minister has not considered my genuine demands. My demands are not big things. These are very minimum say for example, stoppage of Rajdhani Express Train at Kokrajhar railway station.

[Translation]

If the Government of India can not accede to such small demands then how it would offer big packages.

[English]

So, Sir, I am trying to appeal to the Union Government and particularly the Union Railway Minister to make necessary arrangements for stopping Rajdhani Express Train at Kokrajhar railway station. Apart own this, Not even a single South and West bound train stops at Kokrajhar railway station. Because of that fact, our people have been suffering a lot. So, I would like to appeal to the Government of India and particularly Shri Nitish Kumar to make necessary arrangements for stoppage of all the South and West bound trains at Kokrajhar and for stopping North-East Express train at Bijni railway station, Kamrup Express train at Gossaigaohat railway station and to introduce a new train with the name and style of Bodoland-Arunachal Superfast Express right from Murkhongselek up to New Delhi. ...*(Interruptions)* This is a very unfortunate fact that even he is not listening to my speech.

MR. SPEAKER : He is writing.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : I would like to make an appeal to the Government of India to make 80 per cent reservation quota for the North-Eastern youths in the NF Railway services as the North-Eastern youths are always being deprived of their due share in the services. Therefore the Government of India should make special arrangements for 80 per cent reservation quota in the NF Railway services.

I would like to appeal to Shri Nitish Kumar to undertake certain works to construct fly-overs and railway over-bridges on the NF railway lines at various places, such as Kokrajhar, Saprakata, Gossaigaohat etc. There are a lot of such places. Due to lack of those over-bridges and fly-overs, a lot of accidents are taking place. Though these are small cases, yet these are very serious and genuine cases.

I would like to appeal to Shri Nitish Kumar to convert the present metre-gauge line between Rangia Junction to Murkhongselek to broad-gauge line and also the present metre-gauge line between Pakiragam railway station and Dubri. I will request to extend the running of the existing Shiphung train beyond Pakiragam up to New Alipurdwar. Only one train is running between Guwahati and Pakiragam. That train service has to be extended up to Alipurdwar.

Again, I would like to request the hon. Railway Minister to introduce a new train between Guwahati and New Jalpaiguri railway station. If the Bodoland-Arunachal super fast express train is introduced, then our people will get a lot of benefits.

Sir, I would like to appeal to the hon. Union Railway Minister to make necessary arrangements for the stoppage of Rajdhani Express at Kokhrajar without any further delay so that I get a chance to get down at Kokhrajar, after attending this Session of Parliament. A lot of passengers are demanding this facility.

Sir, I do not want to prolong my speech. With these few words, I would like to conclude with a humble request to the Government of India to maintain vigilance in the trains and take care of our security and development.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Railway Minister will reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we should also be given an opportunity to speak ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please understand that on the 4th, 5th and 8th of last month we have discussed the Railway Budget at length and 108 Members have participated in the debate. Today also 24 Members have participated in the debate. So, the Minister will now reply. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now I have allowed Shri Basu Deb Acharia : Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the Members should be allowed to speak for two minutes.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the sitting of the House has been extended upto 8.00 p.m. today *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please quote the rule first and then explain your point of order.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, let the debate be concluded at eight o'clock *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Banka) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he was not present for the whole day and now he is raising a point of order. We have been sitting here since morning *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the sitting of the House has been extended upto 8.00 p.m. today. What is the difficulty in allowing some more Members to participate in the debate?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, we have discussed the Railway Budget for three days last month. Now, we have to discuss the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture also. Please understand the position.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : What is the use of sitting here and taking part in this debate if we are not allowed to raise issues pertaining to our areas *...(Interruptions)* I have been elected from a tribal area *...(Interruptions)* Fifty years have passed after independence and a lot of development has taken place in the country, but so far we have not got any benefit of it *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, there is no point of order. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Railway Minister will reply.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : You are at ease and not at all concerned with our problems *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Railway Minister will reply.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : You are championing the cause of rich people *...(Interruptions)* We are concerned with problem of poor people. You can leave aside the problems of poor and keep on advocating big industrialists *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the Railway Minister's Speech.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I will give only one minute's time to speak.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj) : You have called the hon. Minister to make speech.

MR. SPEAKER : I will also allow you to speak. Shri Mitrasen Yadav.

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*Not recorded.

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Railways is the leader of Samata Party. Samata means removal of inequalities. For this viewpoint I would like to say that Railway department is the largest Public Sector Undertaking. It earns huge revenue and has huge assets but at the same time maximum misuse of assets is also being reported from this very department. Millions of unemployed persons can be given employment by using land and other assets of this department. There is no other alternative to this service. It is the largest undertaking which transports crores of people from one part of the country to other. Ayodhya-Faizabad is a religious and historical city. The previous Government had made an announcement to construct a bridge over the Saryu river. Foundation stone was layed for it. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the progress of the project and funds allocated for it in the budget. From Gorakhpur to Trivendrum all the religious and industrial cities of northern and southern part of the country will be connected if this bridge is constructed. The wood from Gonda, Basti and Behraich would be transported to South India and fruits and flowers would come here from there. I, therefore request you for getting this bridge constructed.

There is no train from Ayodhya for Mumbai, Surat, Ahmedabad and any other industrial or religious city of the country. You please look into the matter and provide two bogies in Pushpak train from Lucknow. The population as well as traffic of this country has increased. Our trains cross several cities. Five years ago, 19 persons were killed in an accident with a train coming from Prayag. Over bridges should be constructed at such a place.

With these amendments I conclude, and request the hon. Minister of Railways to provide railway facilities for all-round development of Ayodhya.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak. I have been elected from Jhabua-Ratlam area which is a tribal dominated region. Fifty years have passed since independence. The railway project for Dohad-Jhabua-Dhar via Indore-Maxi is kept in abeyance, whereas provision has been made for it in the budget and a survey was also conducted on this rail line. I request the hon. Minister to start work on this project. Your maternal uncle, Baleshwar Dayalji lives in Bamania. I request you for providing a stoppage to Avantika Express at Bamania. In the same way arrangements should be made for providing stoppage to Rajdhani and Mail and Express trains at Meganagar.

Sir, I was going to Bhopal on 28th of last month by train. The coach in which I was travelling had open electric wires. I got an electric shock. Such mismanagement should be removed. There are no attendants and arrangement for maintaining cleanliness. Sir, you are sympathetic towards tribals. So I request you to solve the problems of Jhabua-Ratlam railway division. The railway shed at Meganagar should be extended. Ratlam railway station is in dilapidated condition. Arrangement should be made for its cleanliness and development. Even fifty years after Independence railway facility has been not provided to poor. Mahatma Gandhi had said that independence is for poor and poorest of the poor should be able to reap its benefits. But on the contrary today a few persons are enjoying the benefits of independence. The one who toils to lay rail line is unable to travel in it. The hon. Minister has done a great favour by making provision of Rs. 5 crore for Dawot-Maxi line. Work on this project should be started.

In the end, I thank the hon. Speaker for allowing me to speak.

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI (Haridwar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will not take much time and would like to make only two points here. There are two world famous religious places in my constituency one is Kaliyar Sharif and the other is Haridwar. This region should have adequate railway facility.

In my area Ujjaiyini Express runs for three days in a week, that should be made regular because there is heavy passenger traffic. A waiting room should be constructed for passengers. The Lahori train which was plying in that area has been converted into an express train. It should be kept as a passenger train from Haridwar to Saharanpur, so that local people could make use of this facility. A DMU train runs between Delhi and Saharanpur which is halted at Shamli two times everyday and people face difficulties in travelling to Saharanpur. Therefore, this train should be made direct for Saharanpur and Delhi to facilitate the local people. Haridwar and Roorkee is adjacent to Kaliyar Sharif which is also visited by pilgrims. It has no proper place for accommodation for pilgrims especially for their stay in winter and rainy season. I request the hon. Minister to make such an arrangement for the pilgrims. With these words I thank you for allowing me to speak.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (Chimur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Railway Minister that the gangmen and khalasis in railway are exploited too much. Their living and working conditions are very poor and should be improved. The workers who do the job of distributing water in the railways during summer on temporary basis have not been regularised

even after working for so many years. They should be regularised. A few days back, technical staff of the railway staged an agitation. These employees have an organisation which has been named as "Tear and Ear". These workers staged one days' tool down strike all over the country but instead of doing justice to them, injustice was done to them. One days' break in the service of employees of S.E. Nagpur and central railway was made by the concerned DRM. Some employees were also transferred from there. I would like to draw the attention of the Railway Minister towards it. Action should be taken against both these DRM. Railway Lines from Nagpur to Umraid, Chimur and Brora should be laid down. Narrow-gauge lines of Nagpur and Nagbheer should be converted into broadgauge. It is a distance of only 105 km. an unmanned railway level crossing is there. A watchman should be provided there and railway gate should be constructed to prevent the accidents there.

I thank the hon'ble Railway Minister for announcing 12 new trains. A new train introduced between Kurla and Nagpur should be extended upto Sikandarabad. Mangla Express which runs between Delhi and Bangalore via Nagpur has been proposed to run via New Mumbai. I oppose this proposal. It should be remained as it is and a new Express train should be introduced between Delhi and Bangalore via New Mumbai ...*(Interruptions)* The organisation of SC, ST and OBC employees in the railways should be given the status of Trade Unions and the matters regarding their promotion and reservation alongwith other problems should be solved. Vacancies reserved for SC, ST and OBCs should be filled up properly and a correct policy should be adopted for their promotion. Arrangements should be made for coolies to stay at railway station. They should be given the benefit of all the facilities of railway employees. I once again request you to give the status of Trade Unions to all the SC, ST & OBCs employee Associations and all the necessary facilities should be made available to them. I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

19.00 hrs.

SHRI HIRAL LAL ROY (Chhapra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Railway Minister towards the points which I have raised at the time of Budget. The importance has not diminished even today. Hon'ble Railway Minister, Sir, you had stated that 56 thousand casual labourers would be regularised. But you must know that these casual labourers are on strike unto death for the last 4 months and they are also going to self-immolate on 8th of the month in the process of their efforts for regularisation. You should seriously look into the matter and solve the problem.

Hon'ble Railway Minister, Sir, in Chhapra, two seats were reserved for S.S. but have been converted into DRM quota. That DRM is not prepared even to listen to MPs. He takes bribe whenever any case regarding the labourers is referred to him ...*(Interruptions)* Till now you have listened to the condition of railways, now I would like to tell you the plight of Sonepur which was earlier and even today is the centre of attraction for the whole world. Baroni and other locosheds alongwith the traffic have been shifted to Samastipur and other places. I would like to request the hon'ble Railway Minister to develop diesel sheds there with the surplus money.

Railway has set up a college which was inaugurated in 1978. Due to some unknown problems and negative attitude of the Ministry, the taking over of this college could not take place. I would like to request you to clear the file regarding the college proposal for the sake of children of poor labourers of Sonepur.

41 years ago, when Shri Rajendra Singh was in this Parliament, he raised his voice to construct the bridge at Sonepur but I am sorry to say that in the year 1996 the foundation stone of the bridge was laid by Shri Devegowda. Railway Minister was present there and I had requested him to make budgetary provisions for its construction. But, I do not know the problems involving the project. People are agitating there but no attention is being paid towards it ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Railway Minister has to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAVI MALLU (Nagar Kurnool) : Sir, please allow me to say one or two sentences ...*(Interruptions)*

I want that a new line is to be laid between Macherla and Raichur *via* Nagar Kurnool. The hon. Minister has introduced concepts to take up the backward areas for laying new lines. I am very happy about that ...*(Interruptions)*

My Parliamentary constituency is a most backward area which deserves a new railway line, which is pending for a long time. During the general discussion on the Railway Budget which took place a few days back, I gave all the details regarding the new railway line. Now, I request the Minister to mention about this new line so that it can be taken up now. Thank you ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing anybody except the Railway Minister to make his speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am not going to allow anybody. Please take your seat. Mr. Minister, please continue your speech.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If hon. Members want, they can lay their speeches on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will give one minute each. Shri Ravi Prakash Verma to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Rail Budget. I would like to speak about my area. It is proposed to convert the metregauge line between Bareilly and Lucknow into broad gauge but it has not been accomplished till date. I hail from Terai region. Progress of this area depends upon the development of Railway. Earlier a survey was conducted from Farrukhabad to Tikunia but no tangible result was achieved. It is very important railway line of military importance. Please consider it. There is a bridge in my area which has out lived its life span but heavy traffic still passes through it. It needs to be replaced. There is Dudhava National Park in my area which attracts national as well as international tourists but has no facility to stay there. After alighting from the train, one finds no place to stay. Therefore, I want that a 'Yatri Niwas' should be constructed there. Heavy traffic jam remains in the Lakhimpur city which is the main Headquarter. I request you to construct a flyover there. I have written so many times to start computerised reservation in my constituency. It was under consideration also but could not be implemented till today. The condition of coaches of he train is very poor. These should be well maintained and it would be better if drinking water is made available in the trains.

Railway coolies do a lot of work in the railways. Railway lines are laid by the labourers with hard work. Some provisions should be made for their welfare and future so that their children could progress and lead a good life.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : Sir, a detailed discussion has already taken place. I congratulate the hon. Minister for presenting a good budget. I would like to draw his attention towards some points. Former Minister of Railways had taken a decision to set up divisional Headquarters of Railway in Agra. I request the hon. Minister to fulfill that promise.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : It is a controversial matter ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : A decision was taken for doubling the railway line from Yamuna bridge to Tundla in Agra. This project was included in the budget but at the last stage of previous Lok Sabha the project was cancelled. Now it is being done away with under Tundla-Jabalpur Section. I request that this project of doubling the railway line from Tundla to Yamuna bridge should be taken up again. Agra is an international tourist centre and thus all the passenger trains as well as express trains should be given stoppage there. The Government's commitment of setting up Zonal Divisional headquarters in Agra should be fulfilled and it should not be delayed under any regional or political pressure. A large number of tourists visit Agra. I therefore, request that reservation quota for tourists should be fixed from Agra.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I asked for just one minute to speak for congratulating the hon. Minister of Railways. The praiseworthy task done by him is the revival of dying industries, mostly run by dalits and people belonging to backward castes. The issue of environmental degradation has been given proper consideration. The contract of manufacturing pattals (leaf plates) has been given to tribals and dalits. The second measure taken by the hon. Minister relate to the welfare of potters, 'Kulhar' industry was dying and it was replaced by glasses made of plastics By promoting usage of 'Kulhar' these poor potters have been given employment.

The third point is that State Government have modernised the process of manufacturing 'pattals'. I request the hon. Minister to provide machines to them. Potters should be given permission for extracting soil from Government lands. I, again, thank the hon. Minister of Railways for creating an opportunity of employment and providing employment to the poor.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Minister of Railways for solving an important issue pertaining to my Parliamentary Constituency. The State Government had also given assurance in this regard but so far no measures have been taken for executing this order. Madhya Pradesh Government has categorically stated that a letter of consent worth Rs. 56 lakh for the construction of the railway crossing has been sent.

[English]

The letter of consent has already been sent to the Ministry. The hon. Minister will come to know about it. But for the last 15 years, the matter is pending in your Ministry probably.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS : Is it regarding level-crossing?

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon) : That you have already sanctioned. The letter of consent has already been sent by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. Rupees four lakhs have been deposited and a commitment of Rs. 56 lakh for opening that railway crossing has already been given.

I would request the hon. Minister to make a specific order now. The hon. Railway Minister has sent me a letter in this regard and I am thankful to him. It is written there and I quote :

> "I would like to inform you that instructions have been issued to the concerned authorities to reopen the railway crossing ..."

This letter is of dated 2nd June, 1998. For this I am thankful to the hon. Railway Minister.

So, Mr. Minister, I would remind you to kindly instruct your railway authorities to open it because the letter of consent from the Government of Madhya Pradesh has already been sent to them worth Rs. 56 lakh.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Railway Minister to reply.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Sir, I have got one more point. I will finish within half a minute.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell to hon. Minister of Railways that the Bilaspur-Cochin train should be extended up to Rameshwaram. Rameshwaram is a holy place and the people of that place are raising this demand. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (Coimbatore) : Sir, please give me one minute. I will finish within a minute *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, please sit down. Almost all the points have been covered by several hon. Members. Let the hon. Minister reply now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria, if you want to lay your speech, you can lay it.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh) : Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Railway Minister.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the general discussion on rail budget has already been held and I have replied to it in detail. Later on demands and budget proposals were sent to the Standing Committee on Railways. The Committee considered, reviewed the proposals and gave its report with recommendations on these issues. I thank the Standing Committee on Railways for it. The Committee has accepted most of these budget proposals. I congratulate the hon. Chairperson of the Committee, Kumari Mamata Banerjee and all the Members. In spite of paucity of time the Committee continuously striped and discussed all the points. They called the officers for evidence and later on a comprehensive report was presented in the House. Mainly the report has supported the policies spelt out in the budget. There are no two opinions on the issue that projects of Railways should be taken up for the development of backward areas despite the fact that these projects are not economically viable. From this viewpoint the Standing Committee has stated that it is a social responsibility and has given the recommendation that Railways should be given more budgetary support to fulfil this responsibility. The Department of Railways had presented its demand before the Planning Commission for increasing the size of the plan. The Committee has supported this demand and requested the Planning Commission for increasing the size of the Plan for Railways. In the same way Standing Committee has given its recommendations about the issue of cross subsidy. Apart from it, the committee has also expressed its concern over the issue of security. What has been stated in status paper and budget speech about the R.P.F. and G.R.P. has been considered and the committee has given suggestion that Ministry of Home Affairs and State Governments should find some solution collectively. Suggestions have been given on many such matters. Committee has criticised the department on some issues. I would like to assure the House that the Government will think over the recommendations made by the Committee and appropriate steps will be taken. The issue of miscellaneous expenditure was also debated by the Standing Committee, as has been mentioned in

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the speech of hon. Member Radhakrishnanji. The Standing Committee inquired into it and sought report about all the facts and later on gave its opinion. In context of the question raised by Radhakrishnanji, I would like to say that the item miscellaneous expenses covers these two demands. Especially in context of question regarding travelling expenses I would like to say that Railways has to perform many tasks including supervision of various operations and in such a situation travelling expenses increase. Implementation of recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission and payment of arrears to employees is also one of the reasons for increase in it. An increase of 123 per cent was anticipated but actually it increased to 116 per cent. Increase in non-essential areas was estimated to be 125 per cent, but efforts were made to control it and therefore, it remained 116 per cent. I also agree with you that extravagance should not be allowed. You might have noticed that several measures have been taken to stop extravagance. We have tried to control the expenditure on ostentations, functions and publicity. It should be praised. Every person has a temptation to make publicity of the work done by him in one region. Now this tendency has been curved to certain extent. In spite of all these facts I would like to praise that parliamentary Committees pertaining to any ministry should look into the matter of wasteful expenditure. Today we are discussing Ministry of Railways. Standing Committees have a right to point out the extravagancy. It should be brought into the notice of the concerned Ministry and the House as well. I thank the Committee for it and assure the House that we will try our best to curtail the expenditure. You might have noticed that the demand number 12 under the head 'miscellaneous expenses', has increased rapidly during the last three years. You should know that major part of this expenditure pertains to R.P.F., R.P.S.F. and G.R.P. and that is the reason why it has increased so much. I think that now you will be satisfied. Such matters should be checked to control expenditure. Railways has started implementation of schemes announced in the Budget.

All the DRMs in the Railway Board have been divided into two groups and last week instructions have been issued to them for implementation of all these schemes whether it relates to the scheme of introducing 'Kulhar' and 'pattals' or doing away with the use of plastic and polythenes. Instructions have been issued for each and every point and implementation of these schemes is also being ensured. This is not mere announcement. These steps would be taken if we really want to protect environment and provide employment to the poor. Many people use plastic as it is in fashion now a days. Plastic may be beautiful but it is not degradable and as a result of it we will collect a huge plastic waste for coming generations. Polythene is also not degradable. Now people make fun of items like 'Pattals' and 'Kulhars' and we have to tolerate that. We have taken measures for implementation of programmes announced by this Ministry and department.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the matter of security raised by the Standing Committee is concerned, I would like to say that a joint meeting of Chiefs of R.P.F. and G.R.P. in various states is likely to be convened in August this year. I have presented two points before the hon. Minister of Home Affairs. The Central Government provides assistance to every State Government for modernisation of Police forces. But State Governments do not pay any attention for modernisation of G.R.P. I requested the hon. Minister of Home Affairs for forming a separate cadre for G.R.P. to motivate them. Generally those persons are transferred to G.R.P. who incur the wrath the then State Government and thus they do not have any inspiration to work. In a way it is a punishment posting. They do not take interest in their work. So a separate cadre should be formed for them. I have written a letter to hon. Minister of Home Affairs requesting therein that Home Ministry should issue instructions to Chief Ministers of State and D.G.Ps. that certain part of the grant given for modernisation of police should be utilised for modernisation of G.R.P. also. I have also requested the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that in the next meeting of Chief Ministers and DGPs of various states, the issue of increasing incidents of crime in trains which is a cause of concern, should also form part of the agenda. We have started implementation of the suggestions given by you. The recommendations made by the Standing Committee have been discussed here as well as in Rajya Sabha and a national debate on it has been started from Mumbai which is the headquarters of Western and Central Railways. Discussion on a status paper has also been started in Mumbai and people from various sections of society took part in it. We wish that this status paper should be debated through out the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, safety of passengers during Railway journey has also become a cause of concern now a days. We have taken several steps from this view point. Whenever any accident takes place, efforts are made to find out the causes behind it and instructions are issued to check such accidents in future. Even then accidents do take place. A few days ago, three Railway Accidents Inquiry Committees have been set up for promoting safety in Railways. Most of the recommendations made by these committees have already been implemented. But now some other type of accidents are taking place. What more steps should be taken for safety of Railways, from this point of view, we want to set up a Railway Safety Review Committee. I am glad to inform the House that hon. Prime Minister has given approval for this purpose. This

Committee is being set up under the Chairmanship of the retired Judge of Supreme Court Justice Khanna. A notification to this effect will be issued soon. This Committee will consist of one M.P. from Lok Sabha and one M.P. from Rajya Sabha apart from experts in this field.

This committee will submit its Report in six months. It has also been mentioned in the terms of reference of this committee that it will review the recommendations made earlier and also suggest what next could be done on them in the changing conditions. It will make all possible recommendations in this regard. This Committee will see whether the efforts made to improve the present system are adequate or not. It will advise how these efforts could be made more effective. The Committee will also look into the matter of funds being given to Railway safety Project. It will suggest how the present railway safety project could be improved. The Committee will review how effective and useful are the present efforts in regard to the safety in Indian railway and will give its recommendations about the use of new technology and equipment. The duration of the Committee is 6 months. We have long range concern with regard to safety.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam) : What is the time limit?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The Committee has been given a time of 6 months to complete its work. It is a broad based Committee with the experts on the subjects. It will submit its report regarding the railway safety.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the House that if anything wrong happens to a passenger, generally he does not register F.I.R. due to the problems involved in it. Hence many incidents remain unreported. We have tried to improve the situation by changing the present system. Now the passenger can hand over their F.I.R. at G.R.P.F. booths situated at the main railway stations. Thereafter it will get registered in G.R.P.F. Police station. It will be the responsibility of the person present on the booth to register it in the G.R.P.F. Police Station. Now we have decided to involve the commercial staff also for this purpose. They will receive the FIR and issue the receipt in a Prescribed Proforma.

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : What will be the legal position of the FIR if it will be registered by a civilian.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : They will not register the complaint. They will only receive the FIR and issue the receipt.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Then it means that he will act simply as a carrier.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Yes, he will be a carrier for the FIR complaints. The passengers cannot get down from the moving train to register the FIR at Police Station, thus many incidents remain unreported. Therefore, these arrangement have been made. Besides, FIR can be handed over at R.P.F. booth also. A receipt will be issued there, FIR can be handed over to guard and commercial staff also.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Guard will go with the train, how he will handover the FIR to Police Station.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Do not treat every place like Bihar. Guard will handover the FIR at the station where his duty terminates. It will be registered there itself. Therefore, many incidents remain unreported. R.P.F. has also been authorised to receive the FIR and then register it with the G.R.P. In view of this, now it has been decided that commercial staff can also receive the FIR and then register it with the G.R.P. In view of this, now it has been decided that commercial staff can also receive the FIR in the running train and they will get it registered at the next place where they will get down. Thus no FIR will remain unreported. Please note that R.P.F. do not get the complete crime figure from G.R.P. Last year, I had stated that there should be coordination between these two. This issue has been included in the status paper also to create more awareness about it. If any incident occurs, it defames the railways. However, maintenance of law and order is the responsibility of State Government. Therefore, maximum coordination should be there. There are some measures which we are taking.

Some points have come out of the discussion. Mr. Pal has gone. He mentioned here two points ...*(Interruptions)* I have explained about the miscellaneous expenditure.

[English]

Radhakrishanaji, please take your seat ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

He stated that foreign investment coming in for the commercial use of railway land. The first point is that the Government still have to take decision for the commercial use of railway land. The desired decision has not yet been taken. If the Government takes the decision, only

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then the commercial exploitation of railway land can be taken up. Railway is willing that commercial exploitation should take place and several committees have also recommended it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : It is pending for the last seven years.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : What about rail property? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The present Government is only 104-105 days old but this important issue regarding the commercial use of railway land is before it. If the same is permitted, foreign investment will not be included in it. There is no such proposal. Secondly, he has stated that railway hotels are being handed over to Foreigners but it is not so. There is no proposal to handover the two hotels of railways - one at Bhubneshwar and the other at Ranchi, to foreigners. There is no proposal and there cannot we any such proposal to handover these hotels to foreigners. Therefore, this apprehension is baseless.

In last year's budget, freight charges of many commodities were raised. Parcel rates were also increased. The Parcel rates of magazines were increased by 20%. However, no increase was made in the newspapers. Notification with regard to increased rates has been issued. However, a demand has always been raised that increase in the freight charges of newspaper should not be made and increase made with regard to magazines should be rolled back. We have accepted it and decided to rollback the freight charges of magazines. Necessary amendments to this effect will be issued in a fortnight. I once again thank the Standing Committee for it. Last time when the discussion was held, 108 Members took part in it. Today also, a large number of Hon'ble members have participated in it ...*(Interruptions)* Laluji, it would have been better if you had participated once, but you participated many times ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO : I have got a doubt.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I thank all the hon'ble Members and requests the House to approve the demands for grants.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO : Sir, in one of his interviews in *the Economic Times*, dated 30th May, 1998, the hon. Minister of Railways had said :

"I could raise the fares very much immediately. But I will gradually do so."

MR. SPEAKER : No clarifications please.

SHRI K.S. RAO : Shri Nitish Kumar, please assure us that you will not raise it any more ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I would like to say something about the rights to form an association by the RPF personnel ...*(Interruptions)* You cannot bar RPF personnel to form an association under the existing Act. That Act has been distorted. One provision has been deleted.

I request the hon. Minister to tell us whether that distortion has been rectified ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I have raised this issue.

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

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Basu Deb Acharia has brought Private Member's bill which got wide spread support from every corner. We were in the opposition at that time. We had supported the bill and R.P.F. People staged a Dharna against it. As per my information, Home Minister and Finance Minister of Present Government also participated in that Dharna while Power Minister was involved in it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : They staged the dharna in the House.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We also supported you. Now you have raised this issue again. We are seriously pondering over the issue and will take an appropriate decision. It is not only your demand but most of the members sitting on the other side also support it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This demand was raised by. Shri Vajpayee also. His signatures are also there on the memorandum. You had also supported it.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I will call a meeting in this regard very soon.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : All right, do whatever your want to do, but please note that if police personnel will be permitted to form an association, they will also start going on strike ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : An appropriate decision will be taken after discussing this issue seriously in the ensuing few days. I can say this much only at this juncture.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon) : Hon'ble Railway Minister, Shri Nitish Kumarji, you did not say anything about the creation of new railway zones ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : A number of cut motions have been moved by the hon. Members to the Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1998-99.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon) : Sir, I want to raise an important issue.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Motilal Vora, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shall I put all the cut motions to the vote of the House together? Or, does any hon. Member want any particular cut motion to be put separately?

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Hon'ble Railway Minister, I did not speak. I supported you. I have given you extension of time. Why you are not speaking about the construction of proposed bridge between Deev and Pehleja connecting North and South Bihar. Please speak out your mind in this regard. I am speaking only today. Please speak something on this subject.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I will speak on it separately.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Please stand up and then speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Before I put the cut motions to the vote of the House, I would like to know whether any Member wants his cut motions to be put to vote separately.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, my cut motion numbers 283 and 284 are very important. One is regarding the failure to extend Calcutta Metro from Tollyganj to Garia and Dum Dum to Barrackpore. The other is regarding the failure to complete Calcutta Circular Railway from Princeghat to Majherhat. I want these two cut motions to be put separately.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the cut motions moved by Shri Basudeb Acharia to the vote of the House.

The cut motions were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put all the other cut motions which have been moved to the vote of the House.

The cut motions were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1998-99 to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund of India, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1999, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 16."

The motion was adopted.

19.44 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 3 BILL*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1998-99 for the purposes of Railways.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1998-99 for the purposes of Railways."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I introduce the Bill.

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* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 7-7-98.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

MR. SPEAKER : The House will take up Item No. 13 now.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I beg to move :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1998-99 for the purposes of Railways, by taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1998-99 for the purposes of Railway, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, when Railway Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar was speaking, we were expecting that he will speak about the major issue of West Bengal regarding the extension of Calcutta Metro to Garia and Barrackpore ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. The rule is very clear on this. If a particular point is already raised during the debate in the House, it cannot be raised again at this stage. This issue has already been raised.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I gave notice before 10 o'clock today and I have been allowed to speak.

[Translation]

We were hopeful that the issue of extention of Metro rail ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, I have already talked with the Minister about it and he has agreed to do something ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we were expecting that a provision will be made in the Budget for the extension of Metro rail but not a single penny has been granted by the Railway Minister for the same. As regards Standing Committee .. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

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

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I gave notice in time. Why are you not allowing me?

MR. SPEAKER : This issue has already been discussed.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I had mentioned in my notice the four points which I wanted to raise. I wanted to finish in two minutes but I am being interrupted continuously.

[Translation]

Sir, contrary to our expectations, no provision has been made in the Budget for the extension of Metro rail in Calcutta. The problem of Calcutta is of different kind.

[English]

The road space in Mumbai is 18 per cent; it is 16 per cent in Delhi; 12 per cent in Chennai; but it is only six per cent in Calcutta.

[Translation]

Since long we are making this demand. Its survey has also been completed ...*(Interruptions)* A provision of Rs. 521 crores was made in the Annual Plan ...*(Interruptions)* Estimates were also prepared but no provision has been made in the Budget. We hope that hon'ble Minister will reply in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : No, Sir. I have another point. I am not repeating what has been mentioned here ...*(Interruptions)* Nobody has mentioned about Bankura-Damodar River Valley, Shri Ram Naik. He has only provided Rs. 1000.

[Translation]

We thank him for sanctioning this line. For its restoration also, financial provision has been made in the pink book. Now that narrow-gauge rail bus has been provided, what will be its utility? We want that the amount of Rs. 3-3.5 crore which has been kept in the pink book for restoration of narrow gauge line should be spent on broad gauge conversion and its clearance should be given as early as possible.

My third point is that the recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission ...*(Interruptions)* There is an anomaly in the recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission under which injustice has been done to the Telephone operators and the Technical staff about whom you have mentioned ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I am not repeating, Mr. Ram Naik ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER Shri Acharia, you are a senior Member.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : This is not your point...*(Interruptions)* This is not his point. I have not received your notice on anomaly ...*(Interruptions)*

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

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Minister, you have not seen my today's notice.

[Translation]

I have given notice for today ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

These are my three points. I like the hon. Minister to respond to these points. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : Sir, how is he speaking when he has not given any notice ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : When he is speaking without any notice then Laluji may also be allowed to speak ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Sir, the matter regarding inauguration of railway bridge by former Prime Minister and former Railway Minister to connect North and South Bihar has been exposed. I expect from Hon'ble Railway Minister that he should give a clear-cut reply as to when they are going to construct bridge over river Ganga to connect eastern Uttar Pradesh and North-South Bihar? You should tell correctly, we would like to know this from you ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR . Sir, we are ready to respond. We have got the notice of Shri Achariaji's first and second point but I did not get any notice about the third thing which he has mentioned and hence, I will not reply to his third point. As far as first and second point regarding extention of Calcutta Metro Railway is concerned, Shri Achariaji is raising this question with great enthusiasm and is saying that its extention should be done. When the previous Government was running on his support, when he was part of that Government, what did they do ...*(Interruptions)* That Government was running on your support only. He was more powerful among the people who were in the Government. Entire remote control was in his hands. It was he who used to certify and the power of giving licence was with him, at that time what did you do regarding this matter?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : At that time also, I had spoken about this subject. If it was not done at that time then will it not be done this time also?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I have heard your point, now you listen to my point fully. Kumari Mamata Banerjee is giving support to this Government and on her request we have got completed the work of survey upto Garia instead of New Garia. During your tenure, survey was being done upto New Garia, the full benefit of which would not have been availed of by the people. This has been done on the request of Mamataji.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Survey has been conducted upto 5 km.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : But there is a big difference between these two and you know this very well. So far as I understand, subject to correction, if the area upto New Garia is covered, it will turn into an alone system. However, if the survey is held upto Garia, it will get continuity. Therefore, there is difference between these two and this has been done on the request of Mamataji ...*(Interruptions)* You please listen to me. You won't gain anything by using old tactics. Both of us have trodden the same path. You listen to my point fully. You have asked as to what work is being done for this? It was decided during your tenure and even before that the Ministry of Urban Affairs and not the Railways will look after the transport system of Metropolitan towns. In Delhi also, the Ministry of Urban Affairs is going to look after

[SHRI NITISH KUMAR]

the entire work of Metropolitan system. So far as Calcutta is concerned, there the Metro system is with Railways. If the Railway wants to complete that with its funds then according to the update survey which has been conducted recently more than Rs. 600 crores is required for this purpose. The Government of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are coming forward to share the funds. I would like to ask you as to how much amount you are ready to share?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : 30%.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Uptil today, your proposal is to share 15%. The Finance Minister of West Bengal came before the budget was presented and was saying that they would give Rs. 25 crores for this. He said that the Uttar Bang Express Train which we have introduced should be made daily train and he wanted to give money for that. I told him that there was no need to give money because the train is running twice a week and in future instead of twice a week it will run daily because for this frequency will be fixed on the basis of availability of coaches. We suggested them to invest in sub-urban system. He wrote a letter that this time they want to give Rs. 25 crores. I told him that if he wanted to know the exact amount then.

[English]

The total cost of the project will be Rs. 656.48 crores.

[Translation]

If you take 2/3rd of this amount then you have to give more than Rs. 400 crores and you are talking about giving Rs. 25 crores. Tamil Nadu is giving 2/3rd, Maharashtra is giving 50% if corporation is being set up. You should invest more money. I would like to tell this to you that Railway will try its best to do whatever it can do within its system.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Calcutta Metro is part and parcel of the Railways.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Calcutta Metro is certainly a part and parcel of railways, for this you ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The Railway projects cannot be completed by merely paying fares. Shri Acharia ji in your state your party is in power and therefore, I would request you to prepare your Government to invest more and more money in this on the pattern of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

20.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : That is only West Bengal pattern. Why Maharashtra pattern? Why Tamil Nadu pattern? That is only West Bengal pattern. You discuss with the State Governments. The State Governments invariably contribute 20 and 30 per cent ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : If you want to set-up new West Bengal pattern then you should invest either 75% or 100%

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why? Why not 25 per cent? It is because metro railway is part and parcel of Indian Railways. It is your responsibility.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : If the responsibility is that of Railways the world is well aware of the work done with the sense of responsibility during the last one and half to two years ...*(Interruptions)* The Ministry of Railways is considering the letter sent by your Finance Minister. We will give its appropriate response. You have mentioned about Bankura Damodar railway line. You should have thanked whole heartedly for this. You are talking about many thousands of rupees. In this regard, survey report is yet to come. It is expected to come in due course. Budget has been passed today and it is sanctioned in parliament. We will make efforts for taking requisite clearance. Project will be prepared after the submission of the survey report ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : By when it will come?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You are asking this from us. When you were in Government, did you ask your Government as to when it would come?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : That Government had nationalised the private line ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PDF belongs to a private company.

[Translation]

That Government nationalised that line.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Our government has done that ...*(Interruptions)* We want to take up that project for gauge-conversion. We have kept this proposal in our budget. You should have appreciated this whole heartedly.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We have appreciated this and have also given thanks. Has the money been kept for restoration? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It is not proper to take up both these works ...*(Interruptions)* When we take up the work of gauge-conversion it is not right to continue that work. Your thinking is correct. We are also thinking the same way. What is sanctioned in this case, we will take steps on that basis only.

Shri Laluji has raised this question as it suits his temperament but it is against the rules. He has once again ...*(Interruptions)* We are giving reply. Why shall we not give reply? It is the question of public interest. Due to this reason, we think it appropriate to give its reply ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Ever since you and Sompalji have joined the ruling party, both of you have become very clever.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You can also come this side. Nobody will stop you. We have no problem ...*(Interruptions)*

When general discussion was going on over the Budget then at that time Hon'ble Lalu Prasadji and certain other members raised this question. Prior to this, this question was raised during interim budget also. Today, once again this question has been raised. I would like to make its position clear once again. In Patna, the work of survey to construct bridge over river Ganga has not been completed yet. After the completion of survey, model test will be conducted because it is a very big river and Patna is a very big city. This test is conducted so that it will not result in erosion or flood during rainy season. this is technical requirement and without this, no bridge can be approved. RITES has been entrusted with its responsibility. It has been decided to conduct the model test in Rourkee. During rainy season data will be collected and on that basis model test will be conducted. This is technical requirement and if I use the words of RITES, I reviewed other works also. I reviewed the works of bridge over river Ganga in Patna and Munger. The survey work is being done speedily. Now it is being said again and again that inauguration was done for these works. I have seen the inauguration cards. In the invitation card inauguration of survey was printed and some correction was made in that by using whitener. But instead of inauguration of survey foundation stone was laid by the then Prime Minister for starting the work of this project. In that programme Hon'ble Lalu Prasadji was present on that occasion as he was the Chief Minister at that time. He should have thought at that time as to whether he was getting the inauguration done in respect of the work of this project or survey of this project. Now this Government does not want to shirk its accountability and wants to get that work done speedily. This time in Patna and Munger also.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Will the person who committed fraud, be punished or not?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Where is the question of fraud?

SHRI LALU PRASAD : You have not committed any fraud.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I have not used the world 'fraud'.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I am saying so since you have uttered my name. Hon'ble Minister of Railways, you are saying correctly. It is not an ordinary thing ...*(Interruptions)* You listen to my point. We are giving you peaceful cooperation ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister of Railways is saying correctly. We got the information that to conduct survey of this project, inauguration will be done. The people of Sonepur proved to be very clever. They said that they were being cheated. Thereafter, we contacted Minister of Railways telling him that the Prime Minister should inaugurate it. Thereupon the hon. Railway Minister asked how public would be faced during its inauguration. After this, I was told that these people changed the board overnight and instead of inauguration of survey they wrote that foundation stone would be laid by the Prime Minister for this bridge.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : It was during the election.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : No, whether it is election or some other thing, Prime Minister is Prime Minister and Minister is Minister. This is cheating with us. You should tell us as to whether you will take any action or not against the officers who were responsible for this because money was spent on behalf of the Ministry?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : As Chief Minister of Bihar, you have yourself done thousands of similar works.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is wrong. Hon'ble Minister, Sir, you are telling a wrong thing.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this remark should be consigned to cold bag. Whatever happened, he has also said everything and we also know everything. Now leave this topic here itself. We will try our best to get this work done as early as possible. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated fund of India for the services of the financial year 1998-99 for the purpose of Railways, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That schedule stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 1, The enacting formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

2010 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, July 9, 1998/Asadha 18, 1920 (Saka)